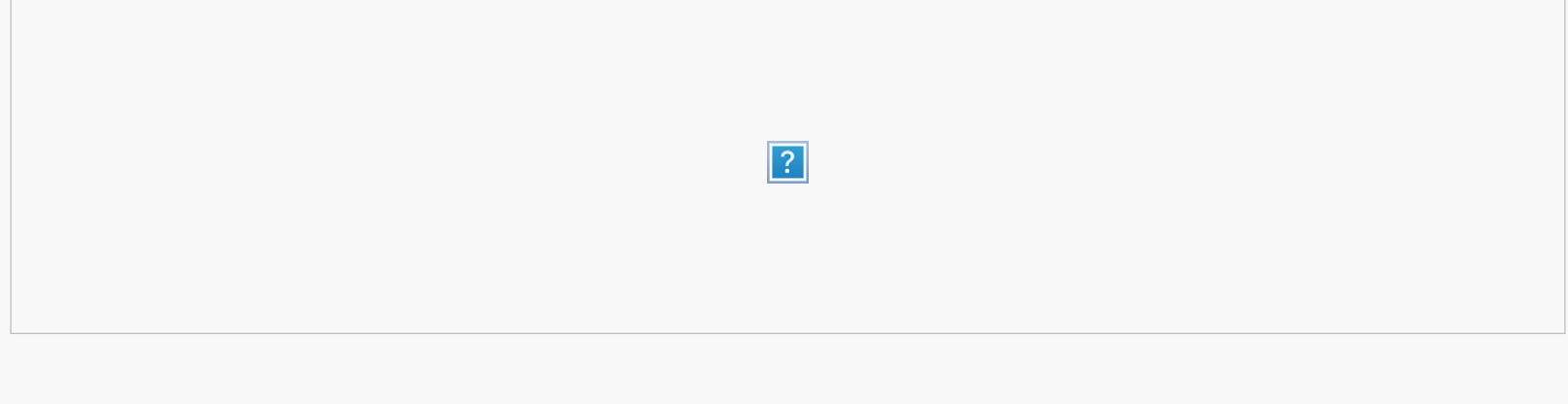


Have you "liked" us on Facebook yet? Be sure to do so in order to receive news and information on upcoming events.



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Recently, I came across a bit of a clich  which was new to me.

"Well fed sheep are well led sheep."
- Tom Nelson, *The Flourishing Pastor*

Maybe you have heard that saying before, but it was new to me. It really struck me as I read it last week. Pastors who consistently feed the flock with the nutrients of Scripture are under-shepherds who have a proper perspective in ministry.

One of the reasons I cherish the Regular Baptist fellowship is the **high priority which is placed upon the Word of God**. I have sat under the ministry of eight pastors since I received Christ many years ago. I cannot recall a time where the holy writings were not opened and explained to us as a congregation. Perhaps we take that for granted, but we really shouldn't.



A few years ago my wife and I were invited to attend a main-line denominational church service with some family members. What a disappointment that was! The national body of that organization was discussing the issue of the LGBTQ+ movement and how the church should respond. While we heard a lot of political quotes, human reasoning, emotional appeals and more, not once was the Bible opened or quoted. (You know, the Bible does have much to say on this subject!)

The prophet Ezekiel cried against the shepherds of Israel. These shepherds were both political and spiritual leaders of the land. They only took care of themselves.

"Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool: you slaughter the fattings, but you do not feed the flock."
- *Ezekiel 34:2-3*

Jesus commanded Peter to, **"Feed My sheep"** (John 21:15-17). Paul later told the Ephesian elders to, **"Take heed to all the flock"** (Acts 20:28). He warned Timothy to, **"Preach the Word"** (2 Tim. 4:2). Peter challenged the leaders of his day to, **"Shepherd** (lit. "feed") **the flock of God which is among you"** (1 Peter 5:2). Feeding the flock comes through a thorough teaching and expository preaching of the Word of God.

I want to publicly **thank the pastors of our association** for their fine detail in presenting the Scriptures accurately before those of us in the pew. Rest assured, God sees your work and will reward you appropriately!

Do you have articles for the MBM? Or do you have a comment about the MBM? Please send your email correspondence to dfriar@marbc.org.

Please forward this newsletter along to your friends by clicking "Forward to Friend" below.

(If you got this as a result of a friend forwarding this newsletter to you, and you'd like to be added to our list for future newsletters, please send your request to me, Darrell Friar, at dfriar@marbc.org.)

JUSTUS SCHOFIELD ORDINATION

Justus Schofield was formally ordained to gospel ministry by Grace Baptist Church of Austin, Minnesota on January 21. A council met the previous day to exam his calling, doctrine and practices. Twenty men representing fifteen churches were present.



Justus, and his wife Kayla, shared their salvation, baptism, and call into the ministry. One of Justus' primary counselors and mentors, **Pastor Shane Belding** (Victory Baptist Church, Fort Frances, ON,) served as moderator. **Pastor Jason Pankonin** (Cedarville Baptist Church, Cedarville, IL.) served as secretary.

The council walked through Justus' doctrinal statement and with a loving and constructive demeanor asked good questions to determine Justus' ability with the handling of the Scriptures.

Grace Baptist Church hosted lunch for the guests and had a time of **admonishment and advice** to Justus regarding pastoral ministry. Three men from Grace Baptist (**Dustin Dornink, Jordan Johnson, and Devin Larsen**) shared about Justus's character and service he has demonstrated while being a member of the church for three years and Associate Pastor for two years.



As the council dissolved, they unanimously recommended that Justus be ordained and commended him on his love for the Word. The council also recommended that Justus continue his education further through seminary and to shore up his knowledge of the Scriptures through systematic theology.

Justus, and his wife Kayla, as well as Grace Baptist Church, would like to **thank all of those who participated on the council** and sacrificed their time to be there and for their wise advice for Justus's ordination. Justus would like to also thank you specifically for the long-term investment so many of you have made into his life to grow him into his calling from God.

The following day Grace Baptist Church unanimously ordained Justus for the pastoral ministry. His father, **Pastor John Schofield** (Calvary Baptist Church, Granada) gave the charge to the pastor. His mentors, **Pastor Shane Belding** and **Pastor Daniel Mielke** (host pastor) gave the charges to the church. May God continue to work through Grace Baptist Church and other local churches to disciple and grow men for pastoral ministry.

- Submitted by Justus Schofield

HOPE OVERFLOWING LADIES' MEETING

Exciting news awaits! **Calvary Baptist Church of Rochester** will be hosting an exceptional weekend conference for women called **Hope Overflowing**. The date is February 23-24.

This event is bound to be a blessing not only to the ladies attending but also to your entire congregation. Renowned Biblical counselor, writer, lecturer, and content provider, **Venessa Ellen** (pictured), will be sharing her wisdom and insights during this inspiring gathering. She serves alongside her husband, Nicolas, who pastors at Community of Faith Bible Church in Houston, Texas. Venessa's work has even been featured on the popular broadcast "Revive Our Hearts" with Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth. Additionally, she serves as an adjunct professor at Central Seminary in Plymouth, MN.



You can register at this [LINK](#) where you will also find more information about the event.

FUNTASTIC YOUTH RALLY

All teens should be excited for the annual Funtastic youth rally in Brainerd. The date this year is March 22-23. The speaker is **Dr. Dennis Wilkening** from Faith Baptist Bible College in Ankeny, IA.



Funtastic offers teens the opportunity to engage in many thrilling games, great food, wonderful friendships and penetrating Bible teaching. You will not want to miss this event!

More information on the cost, when to arrive, what to bring, etc. can be found at the [WEBSITE HERE](#).

BASS LAKE CAMPING NEWS

Register Now! Yes, our [WEBSITE](#) is open and taking **summer camp registrations**. Registrations before May 1 enable you to claim the Early Bird Bonus and save on the cost of camp. Plus, a new feature of the website is a tab dedicated to letting campers and parents know what to bring to camp and what to leave home.



Camp Corporation Meeting: You are invited to join us on **Saturday, March 16** for our annual corporation meeting. We will be discussing plans for the upcoming camping season and share how you can have a part in this ministry. We will be meeting at the **Golden Corral in Maple Grove**. (You will be responsible for your own meal.) Meeting time begins at 12:30 p.m.

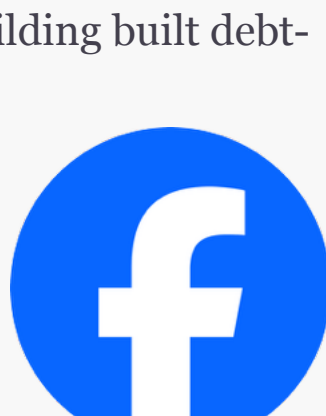


Workers Needed! A great opportunity awaits you to **serve the Lord** with so many others at Bass Lake. We are in need of some all-summer paid positions (Counselors, Staff Supervisor, Teen Staff) as well as weekly volunteers (cooks, maintenance, grounds, nurses, etc.). Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Building Update: The latest fundraising letter to our churches and friends included **The Director's Challenge!** A recent gift was given in memory and honor of several who have had an impact on the camping ministry including **Pastor Carl Brown, former Director Paul (Edwina) Lobb and current Director Darrell (Cindy) Friar**. Has a previous pioneer of the camping ministry made an impact upon your life? Why not honor them with a tribute gift to show your love and appreciation for them? To date **\$410k has been raised** for our new Boy's Quad building. We need another \$150k to begin the building process and \$290k to have the building built debt-free.



Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#). The public page allows you to share your feedback and thoughts of the camping ministry. Here you will find pictures of building progress, our needs, deadline alerts and other useful information.



MARBC CALENDAR & REP SCHEDULE

January
28: Hermantown, Faith Baptist
30-Feb. 2: Ankeny, IA., FBBC Refresh Conference

February
4: Faribault, First Baptist
6: Mankato, Pastor's Fellowship (SC MN.)
13: Faribault, Pastor's Fellowship (SE MN.)
14-15: Ankeny, IA., Faith Baptist Bible College
23-24: Rochester, Hope Overflowing Ladies' Rally
25: Sauk Centre, Faith Baptist
27-28: Watertown, WI., Maranatha Baptist University

March
3: Cambridge, Calvary Baptist
5: Mankato, Pastor's Fellowship (SC MN.)
8-9: NF Men's Retreat
10: Mankato, Grace Baptist
12: TBA, Pastor's Fellowship (SE MN.)
16: Maple Grove, Camp Corporation Meeting (Golden Corral)
19: Rochester, Rochester Chinese Christian
22-23: Brainerd, Funtastic Youth Rally
24: Hibbing, First Baptist

You can request a date for Brother Friar to come visit your church and provide an encouraging report on the association and preaching from the Word.

MARBC FINANCES (1/20/24)

General Fund: **(584,200)**
Burdan Bearers: \$6,798.60
Northern Fellowship: \$596.38
Church Planting: \$35,154.20

Yes, we are showing a negative balance in our general fund. Bills are being paid using reserve funds set aside for emergency use, but we need to get this account back to a healthy balance. **Your gifts to the MARBC general fund are needed and greatly appreciated.**

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Send us your news and pictures! Please note that there is no deadline to send us your news. Once you have some news, send it our way and we will include it in the next newsletter.

Pray for our churches in need of a senior pastor.
Bemidji, Faith Baptist Hibbing, First Baptist Montevideo, Cornerstone Baptist Winnebago, Berean Baptist

Is your church interested in joining with an independent Baptist fellowship that works together so that each church's ministry is strengthened and expanded? The MARBC is a growing association of autonomous Baptist churches that is having an impact in our state. We would love to have you join with us.

2024 CAMP DATES

Mar. 16: Camp Corporation Meeting
May 1: Early Bird Registrations Due
May 17-18: Work Weekend
May 27: Memorial Day Rally

June 10-13: Staff Training
June 13-15: Rental Group
June 17-22: Rental Group
June 24-29: Family Camp

July 5-7: Counselor Training
July 8-13: Junior Camp
July 15-20: Jr. High Camp
July 22-27: Sr. High Camp
July 29-31: Primary Camp

Aug. 1-3: Young Adults Rally
Aug. 15-16: Breathe ~ A Ladies' Retreat

Sept. 6-7: Men's Retreat



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Rev. Jon Eads, Church Planting & Revitalization
Rev. Ben Simons, Burden Bearers
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