

# Good News Letter

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Dear FBC family:

*"For the love of Christ  
urges us on..."*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-15

We are called by God to a life of holistic stewardship—to fully serve, sacrifice, and surrender to the One who has given our lives new and eternal meaning. And yet that relationship becomes profoundly multifaceted in its real-world application as we live for Christ in order to make a difference in our communities and respond to many needs "with willing hands."

You can help make a difference! Service in Christ's name is both an opportunity and a challenge. For 176 years National Ministries, ABCUSA has assisted American Baptist congregations as they have confronted and responded to the spiritual and physical needs resident in many communities like ours.

Our church's contribution to the America for Christ Offering goes to support Christ-centered ministries that are transforming lives across the United States and Puerto Rico. Our giving directly impacts local activities, projects and ministries such as:

- Evangelism and Church Planting
- Camps and Leadership Development Conferences

- Community Development and Refugee Resettlement
- Scholarships for Education and Volunteers in Mission

I believe God is calling us to support local missions in



America and Puerto Rico and to join with our sisters and brothers as together we serve, sacrifice, and surrender. Our goal is to contribute \$600.00 to the AFC Offering. Please join this wonderful opportunity to reach America for Christ. We will be receiving the America for Christ Offering from March 29 through April 26.

Your Pastor,

## Ordination Date Set: Everyone Is Invited!

Robert Russell's ordination service will be held at First Baptist Church of Delaware on Sunday afternoon, May 3, at 4:00 P.M. This important event in becoming officially recognized as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been made possible in many ways by Rev. Tim Chesser and our church family here at First Baptist. We sincerely hope that all of you will join us to celebrate this joyous occasion. Please come if you can!

— Robert and Kathy Russell

## LENTEN SERVICES

**Palm Sunday** (April 5)  
Sunday School at 9:15; Morning Worship at 10:45 (last day to order Easter lilies)

**Maundy Thursday** (April 9)  
A candlelight communion service will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm. Please enter and leave in silence.

**Good Friday** (April 10)  
A community service will be held at noon at St. Mary Catholic Church.

**Easter Sunday** (April 12)  
Sunday School at 9:15; Morning Worship at 10:45



## Lenten Series Explores Apology

It's not too late to join the Lenten book study on *The Five Languages of Apology* by Gary Chapman and Jennifer Thomas. Purchasing and reading the book are not necessary in order to attend this series, which is led by Rev. Tim Chesser. So far the group has discussed expressing regret, accepting responsibility, and making restitution. Upcoming topics will include genuinely repenting and requesting forgiveness. This study began in March and will continue in April. Meetings are at 6:30 P.M. on Sunday evenings at the church.

– *Kathy Russell*  
*Adult/Leadership Education*

## Orders to be Taken for Easter Lilies

Easter lilies can be ordered to decorate our church on Easter Sunday.

They can be given in memory or honor of someone, and you can take them home after our Easter service.



The price is \$7.50 each. Please place your orders with either me or Melissa Mercer by Palm Sunday (April 5).

– *Jim Stephenson*

## Report on Bacone College

As many of you know, Jimmie and I just returned from a mission work trip to Bacone College in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Bacone is a four-year liberal arts college affiliated with our American Baptist Churches. It was founded in the mid-1800s primarily with an educational mission with American Indians. It now serves students from all regions, nations, and walks of life.

A few years ago enrollment was down to the point that the school had to close some of its dormitories. Such was the case with Poloke Hall – a beautiful, 90-year old Victorian building. Unwise leadership at the time allowed the doors to simply be closed and locked...no heat, no A/C, no water – nothing. Consequently the paint had peeled, water had penetrated some walls, and there was a lot of mold and disintegration of plaster. In short – it was a mess.

There were 17 of us from the Marion Association and it was simply amazing to see us scatter to jobs that fit our abilities. The first order of business was to check out the windows and repair them so that further leakage wouldn't undo the repairs we were prepared to make.

As the week progressed, walls were scraped, holes puttied or spackled, a wall was built to divide a large room into two smaller rooms – thus necessitating the addition of a new doorway. Jimmie assumed the title of Paint Foreman – directing those of us who were wielding our brushes and rollers. At week's end we had completed nearly half of the rooms, walls had been repaired and the windows were repaired and caulked.

There were 5 of us ladies on the trip and we took some time to help out at the Murrow Indian Children's Home that is on the grounds of Bacone College. Murrow is another recipient of help from The American Baptist Churches. They house children from disadvantaged Indian homes; most of them have problems and are counseled and cared for. They operate on a shoestring so all contributions are welcome. We counted and sorted Betty Crocker coupons that are being saved to "buy" a van for the Home.

We also counted, folded, and packaged note cards with designs painted by Joan Brown, the administrator there. Two of our gals made three pairs of curtains for the residential cottages. We also shopped at WalMart for cleaning and laundry supplies for them.

It was great to spend a week with others from our association and to get to know them a little better. We also felt we had made a small difference in the world – by helping get the dorm ready for new students this fall. We are called on to use our talents for the Lord, and when an opportunity falls into our laps, we would be remiss if we ignored it.

– *Jane Moore*

## Note of Thanks

Bertha and I are very grateful for the many cards and kind expressions of concern and prayer for us during our illness. They really help, and we appreciate them very much. You are a wonderful church family!

– *Jim and Bertha Van Brimmer*

## Walk-A-Thon

April 26 will be the Walk-A-Thon which will end America for Christ donations. Bring your family, lawn chairs and plan an afternoon of exercise, conversation and a nice time. Meet by the tennis courts at 2:00. If you want to find sponsors I will provide envelopes. Just let me know.

– Carol Serviss  
Mission Coordinator



## Fellowship Hall Redecoration Planning

At a recent meeting of Parish Council, a committee was named to oversee redecoration of the Fellowship Hall. We will be meeting soon to put our ideas together and will present a report at the Business Meeting in April.

If you have suggestions please let us know. Committee is: Jane Moore, Chairman; Melissa Mercer, Jennifer Turner, Lana Palmer, Liz Bowman, and Jane Mercer.

– Jane Moore

## Trustees Notes

• The major project of restoring the north wall in the "Blue Room" (the old basement) has been completed. A thank you to Jimmie Moore for taking on this project and to Jerry Palmer for helping.

• The cost of the plumbing repairs last month in the mens room was \$285.00.

• The Gable Elevator Company paid another visit for the annual safety inspection.

• Four new coffee makers were donated to the church—two for the kitchen counter and two for the coffee table in the fellowship hall. The old ones which still work will go to the Free Store.

– Peter White  
Reporting for the Trustees

## ABC/Ohio 2009 Church Leadership Conference

The theme of this year's conference is "Discipleship: The Joyful Journey." The location is Sawmill Baptist Church, 10635 Sawmill Road, Powell, Ohio 43065—just three miles south of I-270.

The conference will begin on Friday, April 24, from 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. with sessions for clergy and their spouses on "Caring for the Soul: A Pastor's Retreat." **Both lay leaders and clergy can benefit by attending on Saturday, April 25**, from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. The focus on Saturday will be "Abide in Christ: The Spiritual Life of a Leader."

A conference leader will be Dr. Stephen Macchia, who founded Leadership Transformations, Inc. He also developed the nationally known Healthy Church Initiative. Dr. Macchia teaches at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and he has written three books. His book *Becoming a Healthy Disciple* is the basis for Saturday's program.

A special time of prayer and fellowship for ministry spouses will be held on Saturday after lunch. Clergy spouses who plan to participate in this breakout session should RSVP to Linda

Swain. This conference counts at continuing education for people with ABPS profiles.

The cost for **Friday only** is \$45 for clergy only **or** \$50 total for both clergy and spouse. The cost for **Saturday only** is \$40. The price for those who come on both **Friday and Saturday** is \$70 for clergy only **or** \$75 for both clergy and spouse. All of the above prices include lunches and snacks.

**Registration forms** (available in the church office) **and fees must be received by April 13** to guarantee lunch reservations. **Registrations received after April 13 will cost an additional \$5.**

**Child care** is available for infants through grade 6 if a **pre-registration form** for the children is submitted with a \$10 fee per child (\$20 maximum per family) by **April 17.**

For more information, contact Rev. Tim Chesser or me.

– Kathy Russell  
Adult/Leadership Education

## Green Lake Events in May

*This schedule supersedes the one printed in last month's newsletter.*

### May

16.....Welcome to the Family

18.....CECL Class 6 Begins

22-25 ...Green Lake Singles Retreat

24-29 ...Elderhostel: Golf the Courses of Lawsonia

## Young at Heart

Old Man Winter has been kinder these last two months to the Young at Heart Group, and we met on Feb. 14 and March 13.

We had, as usual, good food and good fellowship. Tim Chesser read us an article from an old, old newspaper; the title was "Kilroy." Lots of us older folks remember the little graffiti cartoon of a guy peeking over a fence with the caption "Kilroy was here". He was seen all over the U.S.A., and also seen abroad with the service men in WW II.



He appeared everywhere—on walls, on packages, on torpedoes, on all sorts of objects. It made us laugh when what we mostly wanted to do was cry.

– Jean Wickum, Convenor  
Young at Heart

## Second Friday Dinners

At our last planning session, I volunteered First Baptist to serve as Mixers and Greeters at the next dinners on April 10, May 8, and June 12. If you are over 14 years of age and would like to volunteer, please let me know. We need to be there by 5:30 P.M. and will be finished by 7:15 P.M. This is an excellent opportunity to work with other community volunteers to serve a meal to those attending and see Andrews House in action.

– Evelyn B. Lee  
362-9107

## Prayer List

*Please give any additions or corrections to a deacon.*

Church Contact	Name	Reason for Prayer
Erin Faulk	Kathy Sharp	Cancer treatments
Evelyn Lee	Mary Tilson	at Willowbrook
	Bertha VanBrimmer	Health Issues
	Florence Faulk	Delaware Court
Jane Moore	George Corder	Health Issues (Heart, Diabetes)
	Cathie Corder	Continued recovery
	Olivia Langwasser	Young girl with leukemia
Barb Reed	Regan Riedmiller	
Jean Wickum	Martha Green	
	Fran Cook	Heart Problems
Carol Grubbs	Haycox Family	Children's health issues
–	Jim VanBrimmer	Health Issues
–	Pam Debiasio	Health Issues
–	Steve Baker's brother Richard Baker	Stroke and possible heart attack

## Personals

- Ben Turner and Ray Serviss were baptized on March 1
- We extend our sympathy to Julie Wilson and her family on the death of her mother on February 23.
- Congratulations to Ken and Genevieve Peterson on their nomination for the Jefferson Award (sponsored by WBNS-TV) for their volunteer work with community organizations.
- Calvin Turner was featured in the Delaware ThisWeek newspaper on March 22 for his success as a pole vaulter for Hayes High School.

- Congratulations to Dominique Debiasio who was awarded a full scholarship at the Capital University Conservatory of Music

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- April 10 Jane Mercer  
Connor Trigg  
13 Daphne Inscho  
15 Ray Serviss  
20 Fred & Pam DeBiasio  
Tammy Ferguson  
21 Jimmie Moore  
27 Colin Ferguson  
29 Deborah Fogle  
Benjamin Trigg

*Please report any errors or omissions to Jim Stephenson.*