

Good News Letter

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Dear FBC family:

At the end of last month Harold Van Broekhoven represented us as a delegate to the Biennial of the ABCUSA. He has written a short and long version of his experience there. I am presenting the short version in my column space this month. If you would like to see the long version or if you have any questions please see me.

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2009 Biennial of American Baptist Churches in U.S.A.

Pasadena, California
June 26-28, 2009

As your delegate to the 2009 Biennial, I don't think you need to hear much about all my schmoozing with old friends from around the country, or my visits in off-hours to the beautiful gardens of the Huntington Library and the Los Angeles Arboretum, or my enjoyment of warm, sunny Southern California days with cool breezes in the shade or cool nights, or of some really scrumptious Southern California meals. It might be more relevant to hear of inspiring (if sometimes awfully – too? – long) worship services in the beautiful old auditorium of the Pasadena Convention Center, or of my enthusiasm for a denomination which, at the Biennials at least, reveals itself to be the most ethnically, culturally, racially diverse church in America – a genuine cross-section of modern American life and a witness to the possibility of a Church which can bring disparate folks together in worship and fellowship.

As your delegate I feel responsible

to report on the particular tasks to which delegates are obligated – that is, voting on denominational matters. Usually this involves voting for "Statements of Concern" and, this year, it involved voting on a plan for restructuring the governance of the denomination – the first since 1979 and a rather radical redefinition of the way the denomination is to be run at the national level.



August

Perhaps not too much need be said about the two Statements of Concern that were brought to the floor entitled "Building Neighborhoods of Grace in a Culture of Fear" and "Poverty Amidst Prosperity: A Call to Recommitment to Economic Justice." These statements reflect the generally socially or politically progressive identity of the traditional American Baptist Churches. I suppose they establish official denominational positions, although they are generally couched in such vague terms that they do not much commit anyone to anything specific. They were voted through with little dissent and not much

discussion, perhaps because overshadowed by the much bigger and vastly more serious issue – that of the proposed changes in the Bylaws of the denomination. This Biennial may go down in our Baptist history as a critical moment for the denomination.

After about an hour of discussion, plus a small workshop attended by about 75 of us delegates, the delegates voted for the proposed Bylaw changes by a vote 377 to 217. Since the change in Bylaws required a 2/3 majority vote, the proposal failed and the denomination as currently structured must hope that it survives for another two years until a new, or revised, or much better explained change to the Bylaws is recommended for the Puerto Rico Biennial in 2011.

In many ways, I suppose changes in the organizational Bylaws of ABC-USA may not much affect life in a local congregation. Our history of congregational autonomy means we often don't think too much about the national denomination. But ABC-USA has had a very important witness in America for over two centuries and our part in the greater Church is important. This Biennial could either be the beginning of the end or the beginning of a new phase in our corporate life. I pray that even in this post-denominational age, ABC-USA emerges from this crisis. If anyone is interested in my somewhat longer description of the vote on the changes to the Bylaws, you might contact me or Pastor Chesser.

– Harold Van Broekhoven

All-Church Retreat at Camp Christian August 29–30

Our all-church retreat is just around the corner. The committee has planned activities for young and old alike around our theme of "GROWING PERSONS" for the weekend of August 29 to 30 at Camp Christian.

If you did not receive your information packet, please see Kathy Chesser. Registration forms are due to Kathy Chesser by August 9.

Please remember that there will be no worship service held at the church on August 30. Instead, the service will be at Camp Christian at 11:00 a.m. Won't you join us there?

– Pam Faulk

Attention Sunday School Teachers

There will be a meeting for all Sunday school teachers on Saturday, August 22, at 10:00 a.m. at the church. Curriculum will be distributed at that time. Please do not forget to put away things from your classroom from last year, as some teachers may be changing rooms. Substitute teachers need not attend the meeting if they do not wish to.

– Pam Faulk

Praise Jam 4

Our wonderful church and its talented youth will be representing us this year at Praise Jam 4.

This is the 4th year that Common Ground Free Store Ministries has held this joyful fundraiser!

The event is held at Mingo Park (or at the Gazette Building at the fairgrounds in case of rain) on Saturday, August 15, and begins

at 11:30, culminating at 5:30. Picnic-style food will be available all day. Eight versatile bands will be performing (something for ALL age groups!) and an uplifting puppet show will keep the spirit moving.

Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for 12 and under. Children's activities will be provided by the various booths.

Matt Yoder will be leading our youth, so why not come out and support our church and Common Ground?

Please see me for tickets.

Thanks,

– Beth Trigg

The Painting of Christ in the Baptistry

Have you ever wondered where the painting in the baptistry came from? It was a gift to the church from Ernestine Frost, an active member, much loved by those who knew her.

On the day it was first put in place, she told us about inheriting some money, and as she sat happily deciding how she would spend it, she was suddenly struck with guilt, for she had not thought at all to spend it on something for Jesus.

The painting was a new portrayal of the Savior and people liked that it reached out to all.

For many years now it has been there, welcoming us to worship. And for many of us "old ones," reminding us of a valued colleague gone home.

– Jean Wickum

Second Friday Update

Second Friday dinners continue to be well-attended. In July we served nearly 50 guests at Andrews House and over 50 dinners were taken out.

First Baptist will again be Mixers and Greeters on August 14th and

September 11th. Please let me know if you can help on either of those dates.

September will be our turn to furnish dessert, which will be peach pie. If you can furnish an 8" pie to Andrews House by 5:00 P.M., please let me know. Please contact me if you'd like to donate \$9 so that I may purchase pies.

Many of Andrews House Church Partners now have their own free community dinner and no longer take their turns on Second Friday. Thus those remaining churches need to take more responsibilities.

Thanks for your continued support of this important Andrews House program.

– Evelyn Lee
362-9107

Family Camp at Camp Kirkwood on Labor Day Weekend

(IMPORTANT NOTE: This is NOT our all-church retreat. Our all-church retreat is at Camp Christian, and is discussed in a separate article on this page. –Editor)

Family Camp 2009 will take place at Camp Kirkwood in Wilmington, Ohio on **September 4–6**. Do something **extra-special** this **Labor Day weekend** and come to Camp Kirkwood for great recreation and valuable information on strengthening families and building healthy marriages. Attend for one day only as time permits, or stay for the whole weekend. Either way, it promises to be lots of fun for everyone with **activities and programs for all ages!** Individuals and families are all welcome as part of **God's family.**

Guest speakers for the weekend will be **Michael and Amy Smalley**. Yes, they are related to the well-known author, Gary Smalley! They have much to offer from the **Smalley Marriage**

and Family Center:
www.smalleymarriagecenter.com.

The beauty of **God's creation will surround you** as you play, relax, learn, worship, meet new friends, and deepen family relationships. Camp fires, crafts, swimming, canoeing, volleyball, hiking, board games, ping pong, food, and other fun await you.

Don't delay — contact Camp Kirkwood today!

Kirkwood Camp and Conference Center

5719 S.R. 73 West
Wilmington, OH 45177
Phone: (937) 382-3535
Fax: (937) 382-4502
Web: www.campkirkwood.net
Email: campkirkwood@verizon.net

– Kathy Russell
Adult/Leadership Education

Trustees Notes

- The gas company installed a new gas meter at the parsonage.
- Our renters will be leaving the old parsonage. The trustees will be looking for new renters.
- On Monday, July 13, the state elevator inspector came to the church. We passed, but the license must be displayed.
- The children's toilet in the nursery started leaking. Since this is a miniature toilet with a wall-hung tank, it was labor-intensive to disassemble and rebuild with a new wax seal and other fittings. This work by Don Patrick cost \$275.94.

– Peter White
Reporting for the Trustees

Letters of Thanks

(Letters are condensed)

From Common Ground Free Store

On behalf of the entire Common Ground Free Store (CGFS), I want to thank you for your recent donation totaling \$279.00. Your donation is a glorious display of

your Christ-like commitment to serving your community, and your willingness to work with others in Christian unity!

Through your efforts, and those of many other Delaware area churches, CGFS has already helped over 2,600 families in the Delaware community get household items and clothing they need without charge.

May God bless you for your generosity!

– Susan Kraus, Treasurer
Common Ground Free Store

p.s. We now have a newsletter which we're hoping to publish each quarter. For an email copy, contact Bonnie Ristau at bonniefs@columbus.rr.com, or phone the store at 369-FREE.

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From Andrews House in June

You are a most generous congregation! We were thrilled to receive First Baptist's \$200 in support of Andrews House programs and services. In these challenging times for philanthropy, members of your church continue to give and give more. We do not take your contributions lightly and will put your church's treasure to the best possible uses.

We thank all members of First Baptist for being partners with Andrews House as we live out our vision of "People Strengthening People."

– Donald G. Chenoweth
Executive Director
Andrews House

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From Andrews House in July

Once again we have been deeply moved by the generosity of First Baptist Church. We just received \$250 from First Baptist's 2009 designated missions offering with permission to use it for any Andrews House project. The fact that your gift is unrestricted is greatly appreciated. ... We are

grateful for your generosity.

– Donald Chenoweth
Executive Director

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From People in Need in June

The Board of Directors and staff of People in Need (PIN) thank you for your generous donation of \$300. The Emergency Services Assistance programs have been chosen to receive this gift.

– Kevin Crowley
Executive Director

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From People in Need in July

I would like to thank you for your investment in The Campaign for Possibilities. We are grateful for your partnership as we work to make a difference in the lives of Delaware County residents who are in need of emergency assistance. Funds received will help PIN move into a new, larger facility with adequate parking, private conference rooms, and a loading area which will allow us to accept and distribute more emergency food.

– Dorothy Spain
Development Coordinator

Personals

- Tim and Lisa Fogle's premature baby, Tyler, was released from Riverside Hospital.
- Jean Syler had cataract surgery.
- Melissa Mercer had LASIK eye surgery.
- Jimmy & Jane Moore attended Jimmie's class reunion in Morgantown, West Virginia.
- Tim and Kathy Chesser attended a reunion in Atlanta for his classmates that turned 60 this year.
- Ken and Genevieve Peterson attended the wedding of their granddaughter in Michigan.
- Flo Faulk's family had a family reunion at Alum Creek

• Jarrod and Nichelle Trigg and family have moved from New Jersey to Cincinnati.

• Jean Ekelberry's son, Charles, has returned to Florida after spending 5 weeks here while Jeanne recuperated from surgery.

• Julie Wilson has moved to Alabama.

VACATION PERSONALS: Just a reminder that I generally don't list vacation trips anymore, unless they were to attend a special event, or unless they were submitted. If you'd like your trip mentioned, please feel free to submit a brief description and I'll be glad to include it. – Editor

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- Aug. 3 Ray & Carol Serviss
- 4 Gabriel Fogle
- 5 Bruce & Elizabeth Bowman
- Carrie Trigg
- 7 Jennifer Cramer
- 8 Jim Van Brimmer
- Jean Syler
- 11 Steve & Tammy Ferguson
- 17 George & Chris Riedmiller
- 18 Pam & Larry Faulk
- 20 Spencer Kauf
- 21 Jim Stephenson
- Ken and Genevieve Peterson
- 24 Florence Faulk
- Ken Shears
- 27 Linda White
- Penny Hagaman
- 28 Pam DeBiasio
- 30 Katie Riedmiller
- Archie Trigg

Please report any errors or omissions to Jim Stephenson.

The newsletter continues on the back of the calendar.

Prayer List

Please give any additions or corrections to a deacon.

Church Contact	Name	Reason for Prayer
Jane Moore	George Corder	Health issues
	Cathie Corder	Continued recovery
	Olivia Langwasser	Leukemia
The Deacons	Pam DeBiasio	Health issues
	Jim VanBrimmer	Health issues
	Julie Wilson	Has moved to Alabama; seeks employment and cares for her father
Jeanne Ekelberry	Her step-son John	Recovering from surgery for colon cancer
Matt & Marci Cooper	John & Shea Cummings and Family	Death of 4-month-old daughter, Sydney
Jean Wickum	Martha Green	Heart problems
	Fran Cook	
	Mary & Steve Sealey	Health issues
The Bakers	Victoria Baker	Health issues
	Heath Baker	Auto accident injuries
The Chessers	Toosie Eggers	Health issues & auto accident injuries
Evelyn Lee	Mary Tilson	at Willowbrook
	Bertha VanBrimmer	Health issues
	Florence Faulk	at Delaware Court
Barb Reed	Regan Riedmiller	
Erin Faulk	Kathy Sharp	Cancer treatments
Beth Trigg	Connie Coy	Brain cancer
Carol Grubbs	Haycox Family	Children's health
Anna & Jim Brown	Lin Tien Lai in Taiwan	Injuries due to fall from roof
Lisa & Tim Fogle	Tyler Wayne Fogle	Baby Tyler in home from the hospital; continued prayer for his good health

Church Directory Update

Please update your copy of the 2009 Church Directory with the info below.

Jarrod and Nichelle Trigg

Their new phone number was listed incorrectly in last month's newsletter. The correct number is:
(513) 834-8225