

Good News Letter

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Dear FBC family:

As most of you are aware I have begun something new this year. For most of my time at First Baptist I have been a lectionary preacher. Each year beginning in Advent I start anew on a three year journey through the scriptures. The advantage to this approach is that you go through the scriptures during that three years. Each year places stress on a different gospel as well as a variety of other readings. During Advent I realized that as I faced my fourth time through the lectionary with you I needed a change.

As some of you heard on the second Sunday in January, which was the first time I preached in 2011, playing Angry Birds on my IPAD broke a dam of resistance and presented a new way forward. The idea that playing a video game could aid in creative thought was new to me. However, I read about it in the New York Times, so how could it not be correct.

Baptists consider ourselves people of the Bible, but sometimes we just don't know much about the Bible. I decided to start with creation and preach on the big stories and themes of the scriptures. I believe the stories are the source for the themes. We are calling this experi-

ment a journey through the Bible. As is true of any journey we will not stop at every location. If I happen to miss a stop that you really wanted to visit please let me know. Sometimes it is ok to turn back to catch something important. I will try to let you know the next stop on the way each Sunday and you can help by reading ahead.



A friend once shared with me that he used to publish the title of his next week's sermon in the Sunday bulletin. One of his members told him that some of the members used to think there were three sermons in a given week. The three were what they thought he would say, what he actually said, and

what people heard. Let me know what you are hearing. My hope is that this journey will lead us into a deeper, firmer relationship with God. In an age of increasing Biblical illiteracy we need to become even more literate.

As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter we are also emphasizing some of our local mission efforts this year. While still supporting ABCUSA work around the world, we want to be more hands on in our community. I hope you will join us in this effort. First up: A stop at Andrews House for the men of the church to serve at the 2nd Friday meal on February 11. We will gather there at 5:30.

Invite someone you know to join us on the journey this year.

Your Pastor

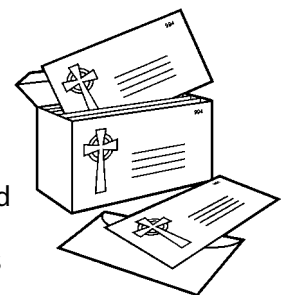
America for Christ

In March, we will begin collecting for the America for Christ offering. In preparation, the children's Sunday School classes will be working together to learn about missions and use their creativity for a project that will be shared with the congregation. The children will not be bringing home boxes for this offering, but will instead bring their loose change each Sunday to give towards the America for Christ program. Parents, please remind your children to bring their change. Also, we would welcome contributions of loose change from anyone.

— Kathy Chesser

A Message from the Financial Secretary

First, a big thank you for your faithfulness in 2010! First Baptist pledged \$99,674.00 and we gave 96% of our pledges overall. Giving in all areas totaled \$138,576.58 including memorials, credited giving to the



Deacon's Benevolence Fund and special offerings. We ended the year with healthy balances in all of our accounts and look forward to continued growth. Larry Faulk, finance committee chair, reported the details at our annual business meeting on January 26, 2011.

Second, I would like to remind everyone that any giving that is not pledged or designated goes to the general fund. If you wish to contribute to Unified Missions or Capital Improvements (listed as Special Projects on your envelopes) you must make a pledge indicating your wishes or designate them on the front of your envelope when you give. The budget for 2011 totals \$116,683.00 with \$101,683 for general fund expenses and \$15,000 for missions. Of the \$15,000 for missions: \$2400.00 is for direct missionary support for the Kelsey's, \$4600 in other designated mission support including special ABC-USA offerings, the remainder goes to unified mission supporting our regional and national staff people. We have current pledges of \$80,860 for the general fund and \$12,058 for missions in 2011. Pledges for 2011 currently total \$97,160.

Finally, our giving reflects the relationship and trust we have in God. It is my prayer that our continued giving shows not only a financial commitment to our church and its ministries but a healthy individual relationship with God. Paul admonishes us to "give with a joyful heart". May 2011 bring the joy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the peace that passes understanding for a renewed sense of Christ's presence in us and in our church.

Sincerely,

– Randy Turner
Financial Secretary

News from PIN

Did you know that every month PIN provides its clients with one taxable item in addition to food? We have decided to participate

in this program by emphasizing the special product. For February PIN will be distributing LIQUID DISH DETERGENT. Please help by bringing some and putting it in the PIN box in the narthex. Together we continue to make a difference in our community.

– The Mission Group

Thank You

Dear Friends,

We would like to thank the minister, the deacons, and the congregation of First Baptist Church for the very special party in our honor during the November Fellowship Time. Wherever God may lead us in the future, the hand crafted picture featuring scenes of this church, the engraved brass door knocker, and the purple Christmas ornament are unique, beautiful gifts that will remind us of our many good times and good friends at First Baptist Church of Delaware.

From the very beginning people welcomed us warmly and invited us to become part of their lives and to join in the life of this church. We have learned, grown, and been blessed by so many of you through Robert's ordination process, the Baptist history and polity class, Friends Listening for God, the Board of Christian Education, Young at Heart, American Baptist Women, the Good News Letter, the retreats, Marion Baptist Association meetings, church business meetings, worship services, Sunday School classes, and other church activities. Helping to create the Prayer Room and sharing the concept of labyrinths during Sunday School were special times, too. Kathy would like to express her appreciation to the ladies of First Baptist Church for all the pretty clothes that remind her of her friends every time she wears them. We both especially want to thank Pastor Tim Chesser for all the mentoring and pastoral care he has given.

Thank you all so much for your love, encouragement, cards, phone calls,

prayers, and support through the years. Times spent in conversation and fellowship have been a true joy for us. It has been an honor and a privilege to be part of and to serve such a wonderful church family. We sincerely hope you will keep in touch after we finish moving to West Virginia. Pastor Chesser has our new contact information. We pray that God will continue to richly bless First Baptist Church!

With love and gratitude,

– Rev. Robert & Kathy Russell

Retreat News

It is time to start planning this year's church retreat. If you have an interest in being on this committee, please meet at the Faulks' house at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 1. Last year we had 10 people on this fun committee who contributed lots of good ideas, which resulted in one of the best retreats we have had. It would be nice to have that much interest again. We are always looking for fresh ideas. Please consider joining our planning committee. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED!



– Pam Faulk

Do One Thing

1. Make a list of ways God has blessed you lately. Thank Him.
2. Read your Bible more.
3. Turn off more lights and appliances.
4. Supply birthday bags for needy kids.
5. Smile at your crankiest neighbor or co-worker
6. Pray for the people who keep our community clean and safe.
7. Sit in a different place for worship.

- 8. Smash your trash.
- 9. Collect pennies for the Penny Project to fight HIV/AIDS in Africa.
- 10. Become involved in Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity

If you have ever wanted to know more about Habitat, now is your chance! I have been approached by several people about how they can get involved. As a result, I'd like to invite all to join us on February 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall for a Habitat orientation. This is a brief (no more than an hour) overview of Habitat International and the Delaware County Habitat. Partici-



pants will have the opportunity to fill out waiver forms and learn about the many opportunities that are available to get involved. Attending the session and filling out a waiver are not commitments to participate in any Habitat events, but will allow you to complete all of the necessary steps if you choose to participate any time in the future.

Feel free to bring friends, neighbors, co-workers and anyone else that may be interested. If there is enough interest, we will schedule a future date for those not able to make this date/time. Coffee, juice and cookies will be provided. If you have any questions, call 740-363-9950 ext. 222 or email lbowman@habitatdelawareco.org.

– Liz Bowman, Volunteer Coordinator, Delaware Co. Habitat for Humanity
 Kathy Chesser, Missions Coordinator, First Baptist Church

Tom Weakland

Former member Tom Weakland, 60, died on January 23 from a heart attack. Tom worked as a training

PRAYER LIST

This list is prepared by the Deacons.

Prayer requests will be removed after 2 months unless "renewed".
 Please send changes to Larry Faulk (Lfaulk01@aol.com)

Church Contact	Name	Reason for Prayer
The Deacons	Pam Debiasio	Health Issues
	Jean Osborne's sister-in-law, Ruthie	Health Issues
	Weakland Family	Condolences on the death of Tom Weakland
	Harry Rittenhouse	Recovering from surgery and complications
	Sophia Stephenson	Health Issues
Jean Wickum	Nancy Snook	Health Issues
Evelyn Lee	Fran Cook	Heart Problems
	Bertha VanBrimmer	Health Issues
Barb Reed	Florence Faulk	At Delaware Court
	Regan Riedmiller	Health Issues
Robert Russell	His mother in West Virginia	Dementia
Beth Trigg	Christopher Frentsos	Car accident & health problems

coordinator at the Delaware County Bank and also worked part time at Meijers.

His survivors include his wife, Shannon, and five children. His daughter Jenna is married to Melissa Neill's son Thad.

We offer our condolences to Jenna and Thad Inscho and their family, and to the Weakland family.

Andrews House Update

The 2010 Kitchen Cupboard income was the best ever and will be used for all Andrews House programs. Thanks for the part many of you played in making the day a success.

Our ABM will be helping at the February 11 Second Friday Dinner. They will be servers, mixers and greeters and the clean-up crew, and so will need many volunteers. Tim Chesser is organizing the crew and we know they will find it a rewarding experience.

The Second Friday Dinner in April will find First Baptist again serving as mixers and greeters as better weather returns. If you will like to help in another area than mixers and greeters, please let me know and I will volunteer you. We're always looking for three gals or guys to cook and Barb McKendry will guide you.

We will no longer be including the Angel Food Ministries order forms with your newsletter. However, you will find them available on the table in the vestibule. The February forms may be late due to bad weather in Atlanta delaying knowledge of what will be available. The Petersons and I have good Angel Food reports. Remember to think of others as you browse the order form.

– Evelyn Lee, 362-9107

Editor's Note: You can also place Angel Food orders at the Andrews House website <www.andrewshouse.org>.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- Feb. 1 Melissa Neill
- 2 Elizabeth Bowman
- 6 Janet Inscho
- 13 Lana Palmer
- 15 Deborah Van Broekhoven
- 24 Emilie Trigg
- 26 Shannon Kennedy

Please report any errors or omissions to Jim Stephenson.

Church Directory Update

Jennifer Cramer has a new address:

2595 County Road 224
Ashley, OH 43003

Remember Our Needs

- Stuffing and nylons for cancer patient pillows; fleece and flannel fabrics, ribbon – Evelyn Lee
- Sheets, blankets, mattress pads for sleeping bags for the homeless – Jeanne Ekelberry
- Medicine bottles and bath caps – Barb Reed
- Used greeting cards – Genevieve Peterson
- Clothing and household items for Common Ground Free Store – Beth Trigg
- Sheets for bandages and fabric for lap robes – Sewing Group
- Our PIN Basket

Trustees Notes

• At press time, plaster repairs were well under way in the northeast corner of the sanctuary, where we previously had a roof leak. Jake Ball's crew is doing the work.

• The fire extinguishers were checked and serviced by B&J of Marion.

• The city fire department conducted an inspection. Several things will have to be attended to, like plugs and extension cords.

– Peter White
Reporting for the Trustees

Personals

• Jane and Jimmie Moore traveled to Morgantown, West Virginia.

• Sam and Lindley Chesser spent the holidays in Florida

• Congratulations to Sophia Stephenson, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday

• Larry, Pam, and Erin Faulk spent the holidays in Warren with Jeff and his family where they celebrated Cullen's and Jane's birthdays. Toward the end of that week Jeff and his family came to Delaware for New Years. Last week the Faulks returned to Warren to celebrate Brigid's birthday.

• The Leonards from Pennsylvania visited our church on January 16. Susie Leonard is Bertha Van Brimmer's daughter.

– Pam Faulk
Personals Editor

Sweetheart Dinner

to benefit Common Ground Free Store



Saturday Feb 12th at Andrews House

Two seatings: 6:00 PM and 7:30 PM

\$39.95 per couple

(If you can't go, perhaps you would provide a ticket for one of our needy couples?)

~ MENU ~

Italian Chicken

Served on a Bed of Marinara Spaghetti

Zesty Green Beans

Strawberry-Almond Green Salad with Raspberry Vinagrette

Roll and Butter

Beverage

Decadent Fudge Brownie



Silent Auction

Raffle Package with overnight stay at Welcome Home Inn in Powell