

Good News Letter

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Dear FBC family:

As 2008 draws to a close we have much to celebrate. God has sent new people to be a part of our fellowship. We were excited to add Matt Yoder to our church as our new youth pastor. Sunday school attendance remains high as befits our commitment to Christian Education. In spite of the turbulence of our nation's economy we had the best financial year in our 155 year history. Our pledges toward next year's budget are the highest ever. We remain good stewards of the assets entrusted to us.

We have also had to say some goodbyes this year. In May Kirsten Pfund and Steve Yang graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University. We enjoyed having Steve as a part of our church family for his whole four years at OWU. Steve is now attending medical school in Maryland. Kirsten served as our youth pastor for her junior and senior years at OWU. Kirsten is now working for Catholic Charities in Chicago.

In December we said goodbye to two of our senior saints. Willa Corder, age 98, died on December 4. "Aunt" Alice Osborne died on December 21. These two saints will be missed by our congregation. Both leave behind testimonies of great faithfulness.

God is still building His kingdom and calling willing servants to serve Him. Earlier this year we were happy to welcome Robert and Kathy Russell into our fellowship. Robert graduated from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio in May. Robert has felt called to seek ordination as an American Baptist.

Several steps of that journey have already been completed. We look forward to meeting with the state commission on ordination in January 2009. We are blessed to have Robert and Kathy as a part of our family as they seek to discern the future direction of their ministry.



JANUARY

It was my privilege to be able to offer a course on Baptist History and Polity for Robert Russell, Wil Verhoff, and Tonya Evans. This is a course that is offered only occasionally at Methesco and all three of these students needed the course to prepare for ordination. Wil has also been a part of our congregation these past few months. We will soon bid him goodbye as he moves to Kentucky after the first of the new year.

As I enter into my eighth year as your pastor I continue to give thanks for having found a home here. A colleague recently commented on the joy I seem to find in ministry. You are instrumental in that joy. On behalf of my family I want to thank you for the incredible generosity you demonstrated

in our Christmas gift this year. Thank you.

Invite a friend to church. Our community is too valuable not to share.

Your Pastor,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim".

Prayer Group Coming Soon!

During a recent conversation with Robert and Kathy Russell, Robert explained that he had been feeling strongly led to start a prayer, study and share group at First Baptist. Robert noted that leading such a group would be one way he could give back to his church family, whom he and his wife have come to love. Robert met with Pastor Tim and received his support, but it was suggested that a clear vision of purpose for the group should first be developed. Subsequent discussions led to the following:

1. The group will focus on prayer...sharing joys and concerns, sharing answered prayers and (for those who might wish to...) sharing the ways God has been seen at work in our individual lives. Jesus Christ's healing ministry of today will also be an important focus of our prayer time. When one reads II Corinthians 1: 3-7, we learn that God gives us comfort in our trials in order to make us ministers of healing to others in their trials... Such trials may include discouragement, conflict, mistreatment, the stress

of trauma or illness, loss, loneliness, failure, inferiority, doubt and fear. WE ARE CALLED TO BE WOUNDED HEALERS.

2. Educational and discussion topics could include different forms of prayer, Gifts of the Spirit, dreams and visions and others based on participants' suggestions.
3. The group will be known as "FRIENDS LISTENING FOR GOD."

An organizational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 18 from 3:00 to 4:00 PM at the church. All are welcome to attend, and we look forward to seeing you there!

– Submitted by Lana Palmer

Retreat Planning

It is time to plan our 2009 church retreat. There will be a meeting at Pam Faulk's house on Thursday, January 22 at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in serving on this fun committee, please attend the meeting or see Pam Faulk.



Volunteers Needed for Fellowship Time

Volunteers are needed to prepare refreshments for Fellowship Time, which is held after church on the first Sunday of each month. There's a sign-up sheet in the assembly room. Please see me if you have any questions.

Thanks,

– Vic Fogle
Fellowship Time Coordinator
Board of Deacons

Willa Jane (Smith) Corder

Willa Jane (Smith) Corder, formerly of Morgantown, W.Va., died December 4, 2008 in Sarah Moore and Health Care Center, surrounded by family.

She was born June 21, 1910 in Morgantown, W.Va. She was the first child of U. Calvin and May (Halderman) Smith. She worked briefly for the C.& P. Telephone Co., before marrying her sweetheart, Nathan Gerald Corder on Nov. 17, 1928. Nathan died in August 2000.



They had three children, James David, who died at two and a half; Jane Anne (Jimmie R.) Moore of Delaware; and George Calvin (Catherine Alekna) of Star City, W.Va. Willa is also survived by her only sister, Harriett (Smith) Johnson of Rolla, Mo.; two granddaughters, Melissa Jane (Phillip) Mercer and Jennifer Anne (Randy) Turner; and five great-grandchildren, Calvin Turner, Ben Turner, Michael Mercer, Jane Mercer and Claire Turner.

A memorial service and burial were in Morgantown, W.Va, with Dr. Truett Rogers and the Rev. Al Cooper officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sarah Moore Home Service Board, 26 N. Union St., Delaware, OH 43015, or First Baptist Church of Morgantown, High Street, Morgantown, WV 26505.

Community Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

There will be a community service honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., on Sunday, January 18 at 3:00 p.m. at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 55 W. Lincoln Ave.



The celebration will continue on Monday, January 19, with the 16th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day breakfast celebration at 8 a.m. in the Benes Rooms of Ohio Wesleyan's Hamilton-Williams Campus Center. The Rev. Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore III of Methodist Theological School will serve as keynote speaker. Individual breakfast tickets are \$20, with eight-person table sponsorships available for \$160. For reservations, contact Scott at (740) 368-3386. Reservations are requested by January 5, but tickets also will be available at the door.

Mission Moment

While the final figures aren't yet posted, this year's Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering has been a great success. That success is due to your kindness, generosity, and remembrance of those who have served our Lord so faithfully for many years. Snow flakes on the wall kept track of our giving, with each flake denoting \$10. We've been praying for a "blizzard", so keep the dollars coming...we'll extend the offering opportunities for two weeks into January. Total to date is \$856.75.

I'm pleased to be turning over the reigns of the Mission Coordinator to Carol Serviss at the beginning of the year. Carol is eager to get started with her plans for promotional activities. Let's all continue to generously support missions here at home.

– Jane Moore
Mission Coordinator

Alice L. Osborne

Alice L. Osborne, 100, of Delaware and formerly of Live Oak, Florida, passed away on December 16, 2008 in Willow Brook Christian Village, Delaware.

She was affectionately known as "Aunt Alice" at First Baptist.

Alice was born July 15, 1908 in Wiscasset, Maine to the late Arthur and Bessie (Sanford) Lake.

After high school she attended the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago with a goal of becoming a missionary.

After she completed her training, her sister, who was gravely ill, asked her to come home and help with her children. After her sister's death, Alice, with the help of their father, raised the five children as her own.

When Jean, the youngest child, went to college, Alice resumed her own education. She attended and graduated from Gordon College. Following her marriage to David Osborne, she was ordained a missionary in the Advent Christian Church. She served in Japan for 17 years.

Following her retirement, she and her husband lived in Florida. In the past 10 years, she had been living with her "daughter," Jean Osborne, traveling regularly between her home in Florida and the family campground in Maine.

"Aunt" Alice spent her life in service to God and others. In spite of some horrendous health concerns, she continued to praise and worship God all her days. With humility and praise, "Aunt Alice" would comfort us today with the knowledge that her life is in God's hands. She will be dearly missed



by her Delaware faith community. She was a missionary wherever she lived.

She is survived by one daughter, Jean S. Osborne of Delaware; one grandson, Gregory (Shari) Osborne, M.D. of Ada, Mich.; and eight great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, David Osborne Sr.; three sons, Eleon Shuman Jr., Philip Shuman and Lyell Shuman; one daughter, Mary Shuman; one grandson, Gary Osborne; four brothers; and two sisters.

A memorial service of remembrance was held at First Baptist during morning worship on December 21, with the Rev. Tim Chesser, pastor, officiating.

Donations may be made in her memory to First Baptist.

Trustees Notes

- Three pianos were tuned by Richard Dacks. The cost was \$258.
- Bud Sykes replaced four broken floor tiles in the back hall near the women's restroom.
- The old parsonage's rear chimney had to be cleaned out. This turned into a three-hour job, with your reporter working with Don Patrick. The cleanout hole had been cemented shut and had to be hammered and chiseled out. After the job was complete, a new metal plug was installed for future cleaning.

— Peter White
Reporting for the Trustees

Personals

- Congratulations to Roger and Shannon Kennedy on the birth of Molly Grace, who was born on November 20. Her maternal grandparents are Bud and Becky Sykes.
- Congratulations to Jeff and Lorrie Faulk on the birth of Jane Cath-

erine, who was born on December 28. Her paternal grandparents are Pam and Larry Faulk.

- Congratulations to Laurie Mowery, who graduated from Ohio Dominican College.
- Kathy Russell had hernia surgery.
- Jean Osborne had back surgery.
- Jarrod and Nichelle Trigg and their children visited First Baptist during the holidays

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- Jan. 4 Cynthia Biggar
Fred DeBiasio
Shirley Parker
5 Evelyn Lee
10 Kip Smith
12 Larry Faulk
Matthew Cooper
Thad Inscho
Braden Inscho
13 Evan and Carrie Trigg
16 Jane Moore
18 Matthew Lovell
20 Jennifer Turner
21 Tim Fogle
22 Michael Mercer
23 Nick Porter
26 Sophia Stephenson
27 Steve Baker
28 Sarah Davidson
30 Calvin Turner

Please report any errors or omissions to Jim Stephenson