

Good News Letter

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As I was preparing a sermon for Baptist Heritage Sunday I came across the following message on the ABCUSA web site. I pass it on to you because I hope it will be helpful in thinking about Baptist history. We have a story to tell to the nations and many faithful people in the past are a part of that story. I hope you find Dr. Van Broekhoven's letter helpful in your spiritual journey.

Your Pastor,



Why History Matters; the Ministry of Memory

This month I've mourned the loss of two special servants of God, Dr. David Shannon and Mrs. Elizabeth Haselden. Both losses have given me an opportunity to reflect on the joy of knowing more about God through such saints and through history. "We see through a glass darkly" says scripture. That truth holds not just for our knowledge of God and the nature of love, but also for our understanding of other humans, including those Baptist saints who have passed before us and whom we never knew "face to face." This spring marks the 40th anniversary of the untimely death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I did not know Martin when he was alive. Surely I should have known more than



the fragmentary images that reached me as a young teenager, when if anyone had asked, I would have been hard pressed to explain why responses to King's assassination were different than the grief following the death of President Kennedy.

What MLK Jr means to me today is the accumulation of stories heard and words read over the years SINCE that shocking day in 1968. I see King through a glass darkly, imperfectly—but still more completely NOW and in a way that is accessible to the many others who did not know him personally. My first memory of King's presence in my Vermont town was seeing him on a poster. Large black print and a photograph of King made the poster stand-out from the other hand-scrawled notices cluttering the store's bulletin board. The King poster was in fact a John Birch Society poster, depicting King sitting in a meeting, labeled in large type, "Martin Luther King At Communist Meeting."

We Baptists who own him as one of our own might grimace or laugh at this propaganda, but as a child, I found the poster eye-catching and puzzling. How could this be, I wondered, that this minister would be at a meeting with communist atheists? More than shocked, I was also puzzled, since there was no

discussion of the poster or King in my home or church.

So where did I see more accurate pictures of MLK Jr? Glimpses of King came through his printed and recorded words and through the lives and words of those who were his companions and colleagues. But like the writer to the Hebrews who wrote an extensive description and

list of the saints who have gone before us, I lack the time needed to tell about all those companions who have showed me and invited me into the beloved community, a community lacking class or racial barriers. In my life, the foremost of these companions have been Dr. Albert P. Brinson, Rev. J. C. Herrin, Dr. Dennis Norris, Rev. Bennie

Smith, Dr. James Melvin Washington, and Drs. George & Dodie Younger.

Rather than go on and on with the stories of these saints, consider King's own reply to the ministers who criticized him as an extremist, some using words similar to that heard very recently to denounce the Rev. Jeremiah Wright (who interestingly credits Dr. King as a major influence on his own ministry). Dr. King wrote to his clergy critics:

"But though I was initially disappointed at being categorized



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as an extremist, as I continued to think about the matter I gradually gained a measure of satisfaction from the label. Was not Jesus an extremist for love: 'Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.' Was not Amos an extremist for justice: 'let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.' Was not Paul an extremist for the Christian gospel: 'I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.' Was not Martin Luther an extremist: 'Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise, so help me God.' Was not John Bunyan an extremist: 'I will stay in jail until the end of my days before I make a butchery of my conscience.' And Abraham Lincoln: 'this nation cannot survive half slave and half free.' And Thomas Jefferson: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.' So the question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be. Will we be extremists for hate or love? Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice or for the extension of justice? ... Jesus Christ was an extremist for love, truth, and goodness. Perhaps the South, the nation, and the world are in dire need of creative extremists."

May we in local congregations remember to share the lives and legacies of our heroes of faith with those around us, so that the character and teachings of other Baptist saints will be able to help the next generation see more clearly the workings of God among us.

Your minister of memory,

– Dr. Deborah Van Broekhoven
American Baptist Historical Society
www.Baptisthistory.us

Elvira Smith

Elvira June Smith, 78, of Delaware, died on April 28 at Riverside Methodist Hospital. She was a member of First Baptist and had attended for many years.

Elvira was born June 10, 1929 in Garwood, N.J., to Jesse and Alpha (White) Graham. She was an acquisitions clerk for the Methesco



library and had been a Delaware resident since 1938. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, sewing, knitting, crocheting, movies and miniature golf.

She is survived by one son, Robert "Bob" (Ann) Smith of Delaware; two grandchildren, Zack and Ginna Smith; and two sisters, Florence Faulk of Columbus and Dorothy I. (Stanley) Schczykelski of Florida.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Willis; and one sister, Millie Hasty.

The funeral service was held at Rodman Neeper Funeral Home with Rev. Tim Chesser officiating, followed by burial in Greenmound Cemetery in Kilbourne.

June 15 Will Be Tools for Hope Sunday

We will celebrate Tools for Hope Sunday on Father's Day to support Church World Service. Your contribution can be used to honor the important men in your life and help Church World Service provide needed services and resources to those displaced in places like Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, to name a few. The suggested donation is \$5 per tool and forms will be provided to identify the men you wish to honor through your donation. Let's celebrate Father's Day with a generous

offering to Church World Service! The following is adapted from an African prayer:

We bring what we have;
Seeds for planting,
Tools for hoeing.
Bless them, O Lord!

Bless our garden, O Lord,
with rain and sunshine,
that we might enjoy a rich harvest
to feed our children.

Bless us, O Lord,
our willing hands,
our strong backs,
as we plant our future.

Bless us, O Lord!

May we continue to be a blessing
and answer to prayer for those
who are served by Church World
Service.

– Randy Turner
Financial Secretary

Welcome To Our New Members

We welcome **Bob and Kathy Russell**, who come to us from churches in West Virginia. The Russells are currently at Methesco.

We also welcome **Shannon Kennedy**, who was baptized here on May 18. Shannon and her husband, Roger, and son, Roger, Jr. live in Ashley. Shannon is the daughter of Bud and Becky Sykes.

Weekend Getaway Opportunity

Are you anxious for a weekend getaway but afraid it will cost too much, especially with the gas prices so high? Well, here is an opportunity you cannot pass up. Come to the church retreat October 3-5 at Camp Christian. The cost is very reasonable. (It is even free for first timers!) Camp Christian is very close to Delaware, so it will not take an expensive tank of gas to get there. It will be a weekend full of fun, relaxation, and fellowship.

– Pam Faulk

Attention Sunday School Teachers

Do not forget to RSVP for the appreciation breakfast on June 7. Call Pam at 3620-8637 whether you are coming OR NOT! I will be in and out, so please leave a message.

– Pam Faulk

Birthdays & Anniversaries

June 2 Jerry & Lana Palmer
 4 Patricia Foor
 Dwight Davidson
 7 Steve Yang
 8 Pam Faulk
 Carol Serviss
 10 David & Mary Lou Lovell
 Aidan Ferguson
 11 Randy & Jennifer Turner
 16 Bud & Becky Sykes
 17 Matthew & Marci Cooper
 19 Wyatt Cramer
 21 Willa Corder
 22 June Grubbs
 24 Beth Trigg
 27 Dwight & Kari Davidson
 Jenna Inscho
 28 Jami Riedmiller
 Hannah Grubbs
 30 Jimmie & Jane Moore

Please report any errors or omissions to Jim Stephenson.

Mission Report

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have.”
 – Hebrews 13:16a

This is the theme scripture for this year’s One Great Hour of Sharing offering. We will be accepting this offering during July, but I wanted to share a few thoughts with you before then.

Did you know? Nearly 200 years ago, Ann and Adoniram Judson arrived in the country of Burma. The Judsons and other early missionaries introduced Jesus Christ to the Burmese, Karen, Chin and many other ethnic groups of Burma. Today, hundreds of thousands of Karen, Chin and others have fled Burma and are living as refugees in Thai-

Prayer List		
This list is prepared by the deacons. If you have any additions or corrections, please contact your deacon or Randy Turner.		
Church Contact	Name	Reason for Prayer
Erin Faulk	Kathy Sharp	Cancer treatments
Evelyn Lee	Mary Tilson Bertha VanBrimmer Dewey Fittro Florence Faulk	at Willowbrook Health Issues Delaware Court
Phil Mercer	Jerry Mercer Judy Mercer	Health Issues Health Issues
Jane Moore	George Corder Cathie Corder Olivia Langwasser	Health Issues (Heart, Diabetes) Continued recovery Young girl with leukemia
Barb Reed	Regan Riedmiller Richard Reed	Health Issues
Randy Turner	Taylor Nelson Sara Paullin Casto <i>(Sally Casto’s daughter-in-law)</i>	3-year-old with cancer Cancer
Jean Wickum	Jim Grant Martha Green Fran Cook	Arbors Heart Problems
Marci Cooper	Marc Parulekar	Cancer treatments
Angie Burton	Lillie Temple	Hospitalized for numbness
Carol Grubbs	Haycox Family	Children’s health issues
H. Van Broekhoven	Deborah Van Broekhoven	ABC USA Historical Society

land and neighboring countries. The United States has begun accepting Karen refugees from the camps in Thailand and Chin from Malaysia for permanent resettlement and eventual U.S. citizenship. Because of their historic connection with American Baptists, many have been seeking our churches, strengthening us with their faith and energy. The needs of newly arrived refugees are vast. One Great Hour of Sharing enables us to share resources with churches across the United States who have opened their doors and hearts to these newly arrived refugees.

Did you know? This offering began more than fifty-five years ago in response to the devastation of World War II. In March 1949, a national broadcast on a Saturday evening asked Americans to give generously the next morning in their churches. A remarkable assembly of national leaders and celebrities gave their efforts to the broadcast, and more than 75,000 churches responded the next day.

Did you know? Today One Great Hour of Sharing serves people in over 80 countries around the world.

Sponsored by nine Christian U.S. denominations and Church World Service, One Great Hour of Sharing makes sure that we can respond to needs as soon as they happen, and that tens of thousands of people receive support for ongoing relief, rehabilitation, and development.

We'll be marking our progress on the pull-down door in the sanctuary. And in case you're wondering about the America For Christ offering, final figures showed we received \$1,000.10. Praise God for His leading

– Jane Moore
Mission Coordinator

Trustees Report

- The Gable Elevator Company did the annual safety check on Monday, May 19.
- The work with the storm sewers has been quite an experience as more and more bad sections of clay tile were discovered. At this point, everything we are responsible for has been repaired. The cost by Amanda Plumbing is \$6,651.25.

The city's storm sewer line to the corner of Central Ave. is still plugged up, and we are waiting for the city to take action.

All remaining funds in the McTaggart memorials were transferred to the general fund to help out with the cost of the project. This amount was \$1,607.11.

We have received several anonymous donations and several

continued on back of calendar

Church Directory Update

Please update your copy of the 2008 Church Directory with this correction:

Emily Inscho's phone number is 740-816-9145.

Blanket Sunday Thank You!!

We raised \$340 on Mother's Day for Church World Service Blanket Sunday. Thank you First Baptist! The dedications are listed below.

We will celebrate Tools for Hope on Father's Day and I pray we will once again respond to the great need.

– Randy Turner, Financial Secretary

From Sharon Baker and Barb Reed in memory of Katherine Clapper
From Emily and Sarah Bowman in honor of Liz Bowman
From The Bowmans in honor of Ann Brown
From Sarah Bowman in honor of Linda White
From Jim and Ann Brown in honor of Liz Bowman and Kristina Davis, and in memory of Ruth Brown
Kathy Chesser in memory of Jessie Street
From Sam Chesser in honor of Kathy Chesser
From Tim Chesser in honor of Hazel Chesser
From Jeanne Ekelberry in memory of Ethel Trogdon
From Geneva Evans in memory of Ernestine Frost
From Erin and Larry Faulk in honor of Pam Faulk
From Larry and Pam Faulk in honor of Florence Faulk, Evoleno Cole, Laurie Faulk, Erin Faulk, Jean Wickum, Pat Rose and Jodi Mustard
From Vic, Debbie, Will and Gabe Fogle and in honor of Barbara and Kip Smith, Debbie Fogle, Mary Lou Lovell, Carol Serviss, and in memory of Ida Morby
From Bob and Pat Foor in memory of Mildred Foor and Marjorie Shively
From Spencer and Sydney Kauf in honor of Holly Kauf
From Lisa Lawrence in honor of Marge Matthews
From Rick and Marcia Lee in honor of Evelyn Lee and in memory of Richard Lee
From Evelyn Lee in honor of Barb Lee, Linda Lee and Marcia Lee
From Dave and Mary Lou Lovell in honor of Deborah Fogle, and in memory of: Margaret Morby,

Jennie Lovell, and Ida Morby
From Phil and Melissa Mercer in honor of Kathy Sowell and Jennifer Turner
From Jim and Jane Moore in honor of Willa Corder, and in memory of Edith Moore
From Melissa Neill in memory of Jane Reed
From Lana and Jerry Palmer in honor of Bernice Turney, and in memory of Mary Helen Palmer
From Ken and Genevieve Peterson in honor of Martha (Peterson) Rhodes, Dorothy Peterson, and in memory of Jessie Peterson, and Beatrice Amanda MacNeill
From Betty Porter in honor of Janet Porter, Jennifer Cramer, and in memory of Martha Jane Guy and Blanche Berger
From Katie, Jamie and Regan Riedmiller in honor of Chris Riedmiller
From Jim Stephenson in honor of Sophia Stephenson
From Sophia Stephenson in memory of Klementine Blazewicz
From Calvin, Ben and Claire Turner in honor of Jennifer Turner
From Randy and Jennifer Turner in honor of Jane Moore and Tonabell Turner
From Bertha and Jim Van Brimmer in memory of their mothers
From Linda and Peter White in honor of Margaret Seckman in memory of Carolyn Schneeberger
Jean Wickum in honor of Pam Faulk in memory of Marcia Chapman and Rose Moffett

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members have tithed 10% of their federal tax rebate. We are so grateful for their donations to meet this large expense.

At press time we are arranging for the concrete work to be done, which will be another expense.

All three downspouts on the front of the church led to this one line, so it had to be fixed.

– Peter White
Reporting for the Trustees

Pies Needed for Second Fridays Dinners

First Baptist furnishes dessert once a year, and once again it is our turn. We will be furnishing large lemon meringue pies for the Second Friday dinner on July 11. These pies cost about \$8.00 apiece. You can drop them off at Andrews House that day by 5:00 p.m., or I will be glad to order and pick them up if you wish to contribute the money.

As I said recently, fewer churches are helping with Second Fridays as they are providing a community meal in their own churches.

We will provide mixers and greeters for June, July, August and September. If you would like to take a turn, please let me know. It requires about two hours of your evening.

Thanks for your continued support. In May we had 57 diners — an all-time high!

– Evelyn Lee
362-9107

Arts in the Park

GALLANT WOOD PRESERVE
2151 BUTTERMILK RD.
SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 1:00–6:00

Come to beautiful Gallant Wood Preserve on Sunday, June 1 to enjoy the outdoors and see many local artists, including the Delaware Piecemakers Quilt Guild. We will have quilted items for sale, including baby quilts and purses. A portion of our proceeds will be donated to People In Need.

Gallant Wood Preserve is located at 2151 Buttermilk Road. (Take Troy Road north for about for 3 miles, then turn left on Buttermilk and go west for about 1 mile.)

– Jeanne Ekelberry

Ten Things that Made Jesus a Bit of a Radical

1. He told religious leaders that they were wrong.
2. He kept company with notorious money-launderers.
3. He revived dead people.
4. He turned water into Chardonnay.
5. He lived rough.
6. He treated women as equals.
7. One of his best friends was a hooker.
8. He was tortured to death for speaking the truth.
9. He forgave the people who killed him.
10. He rose from the dead.

– From the Christian Enquiry Agency; submitted by Beth Trigg

Personals

- Nichelle and Jarrod Trigg are the proud parents of Benjamin Carter Trigg. Benjamin was born on April 29, was 21 inches, and weighed 9 lb. 4 oz. He will be dedicated here on July 6.
- Betty Porter attended her 55th high school reunion in Marysville.
- Janet Lathrop attended her granddaughter's high school graduation in Florida.
- Calvin Turner won the OCC pole vault championship.
- Congratulations to our graduates: Bob Russell graduated from Methesco with a Master of Divinity. Kirsten Pfund graduated from OWU and plans to return to Chicago for a career in finance. Steve Yang graduated from OWU will be going to medical school.

VACATION PERSONALS:

As we enter the summer, just a reminder that I generally don't list vacation trips anymore unless they are submitted, since I don't want to list some and miss others. If you'd like your vacation mentioned, please submit a brief description and I'll be glad to include it. – Editor