

# Good News Letter

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Dear FBC Family:

As I was clearing my desk I came across a mailing from the American Baptist Home Mission Societies. Enclosed was a thank you certificate for our generous donation to the America for Christ Offering. Also enclosed was a listing of every church in the American Baptist family that had contributed to the offering. I was surprised to find out that only 123 of the 292 churches in our region had participated in this offering. Since ABCOHIO is one of the major beneficiaries of this offering it should not surprise us that the region has had to reduce staff.

As I looked over the list of contributing congregations I noted that there were 39 First Baptist Churches listed. They ranged from Akron to Wilmington, almost a diagonal line across Ohio. That got me to wondering what kind of experience you might have if you visited all 39 of those First Baptist Churches. One of our members, whose home church was FBC Fredericktown, told me our church was a lot like the one she grew up in. I doubt if that would be true of every visitor we might have from those 39 First Baptist Churches.

All that pondering of First Baptist Churches reminded me that we have to be constantly evaluating

what it means to be the church today. We recently made a change in our Sunday School opening that emphasized our horizontal relationship with one another. I have enjoyed having that extra quarter hour to interact with people, especially since doughnuts are involved.

Lately I have been thinking about how we do worship at FBC. That gets us to thinking vertically, drawing our attention toward God. I think worship will always be a balancing act between the horizontal and vertical. We are people coming together to worship God with our individual gifts.

Although the efforts of the choir, worship leader, and pastor tend to set the tone for worship, those are not the areas of my main concern. How do you participate in worship and how can we help you be more actively involved? I have begun to raise some of these issues with the deacons and hope you will feel free to share your thoughts with me.

As we enter into November let us continue to thank God for our church. 157 years of existence have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses. May they cheer us on as we try to figure out how to charge into the next century and a half.

Invite a friend to church, we have got something good to share.

Your Pastor,



## Phil Mercer Becomes Member

The fellowship would like to welcome Phil Mercer as our newest member. Phil joined our church at our annual retreat on October 9th.

## Russells Recognition

During fellowship time November 7, we will recognize Robert and Kathy Russell for their service to FBC. Robert and Kathy are moving to West Virginia.

## Retreat News

If you missed the church retreat this year, you missed a very good weekend. The weather was great, and we all had a good time.

We especially enjoyed the first ever performance of the First Baptist Church Men's Precision Drill Team. One of the activities that we did was taking digital photos to illustrate Bible passages. With the help of Larry Faulk and Ken Peterson, we

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then produced those photos and mounted them, making them into placemats. These place mats were given to the church to be used in the fellowship hall whenever a group wishes to use them. Those people who took pictures home can still make place mats and leave them at church. They can be found stored with the tablecloths in the closet in the fellowship hall.

I want to give a very big thank you to the retreat committee, Tim and Kathy Chesser, Ken and Genevieve Peterson, Robert and Kathy Russell, Larry and Erin Faulk, and Vic Fogle. It was GREAT!!

– Pam Faulk

### Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings:

The Thanksgiving offering will be dedicated to PIN and the Christmas offering will be dedicated to Andrews House.

– Larry Faulk

### Thank You

We received the following note from ABC missionaries.

Dear First Baptist,

We want to thank you especially for doubling your contribution to our mission work! You are now among our "anchor churches"--a relatively small # who contribute a large % of our ministry need.

Jim is in Rome today talking with leaders of the Baptists & Waldensians and Methodists about partnering to do immigrant pastor training together. We're also starting a 9 month project with a church that is 50% immigrant/50% Italian, aiding them in worship once a month and with Debbie developing a women's ministry there. Jim is returning to Vietnam to teach for a week in mid-November. He really enjoys the passion of the Vietnamese pastors for learning practical teaching & preaching preparation helps. (Maybe he enjoys

getting chauffeured around on a scooter, too!)

Blessings for a beautiful fall in your neck of Ohio!

– The Kelseys, Debbie, Jim, Luke & Ben

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Dear Church Family:

Thank you so much for your thoughts, prayers, cards, and gifts while I was on bed rest and upon Livy's arrival! We are truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful family! We will see you soon!

Love,

– Ed, Angie, Livy, and Griffin Burton

### FBC to Sponsor Four Children

FBC will sponsor Christmas Gifts for 4 children through the local Jobs and Family Services. A poster outlining the children's wish lists is available to sign up for particular items. Gifts and contributions will be accepted through November.

– Larry Faulk

### Make A Difference

Did you do a special activity for MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY? Just because that day has passed, does not mean you should stop trying to make a difference. Here is a list of some ideas in no particular order.

1. Pray for all doctors and health care workers.
2. Help clean up after an activity at church.
3. Encourage children to look after the planet.
4. Give things your family doesn't need to a homeless shelter.
5. Say "Please" and "Thank you" more often.
6. Place your finger lightly on a globe and spin it. Pray for the

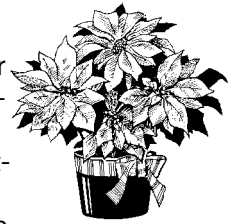
people in the country where it stops.

7. Donate old sheets and fabric pieces to the church sewing group.
8. Donate old cellphones.
9. Do something for our veterans.
10. Vote responsibly in every election.

– Pam Faulk

### Poinsettias

You're invited to order poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary during Advent. They can be given in memory or honor of a friend or relative, and you can take your poinsettias home after our Christmas Eve service.



The cost is to be announced (probably around \$9). Please place your orders with Jim Stephenson or Melissa Mercer by Sunday, Nov. 21.

### Common Ground Free Store

In September we had 651 shopping visits to the Common Ground Free Store, with 19 of those by first-time visitors. We have 1,372 people in our store's database, with the average family size being 3.6 people. Our store gave away 5,993 articles of clothing, 470 accessories, 610 shoes, 119 socks, 460 household items, 698 toys, 328 books, 5 baby items, and 132 coats.

With winter approaching, we could use your kind monetary donations. We are not funded by United Way. We depend upon individuals to keep our local mission alive.

To help raise money, Pam Shears and I are selling "Heavenly Dips" dessert, veggie and olive oil dips as a fund-raiser for the store. They come in packets of 3 for \$12.95. some of the flavors are: pumpkin, white chocolate raspberry, spinach artichoke and bruschetta. They'll be

delivered before Thanksgiving.

We also have available for \$20 each Traditional pine wreaths and pine Victorian swags.

Every penny aids in helping keep the store open and aiding our brothers and sisters.

Thanks,

– Beth Trigg

### Andrews House Kitchen Cupboard

I trust that December 4 is well marked on your calendar as you plan to contribute to the Andrews House fundraiser.

Please remember we need lots of cookies for the cookie sale, as well as other kitchen treats for the bake sale table.

We'd like your goodies to be there on December 3 and we welcome you there on December 4th to participate in this annual event. Your support is appreciated.

– Evelyn Lee  
362-9107

### Piecemakers

Piecemakers Quilt Guild will host a "Make and Share" day on Saturday, Nov. 13 from 9 am to 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Donna Imel, a member of the Guild and a representative of SHARE will show us how to make sleeping bags for the homeless.

We will use donated comforters, blankets, mattress covers, fleece throws, bedspreads and fabrics, denim and corduroy.

Come and help us for the day or for an hour or two. Leave donations in the Fellowship Hall or call me at 363-1432.

– Jeanne Ekelberry

## 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
	Bill & Karen Hedges, Nichelle & Jarrod Trigg, Jack & Ben	Condolences on the death of Vera Hedges
	Martha Rhodes (daughter of the Petersons)	Heart problems
	Harry Rittenhouse	Recovering from sugery and complications
	Sophia Stephenson	Health Issues
	Dave Lovell's brother, Richard	Recovering from emergency surgery
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
Lana Palmer	Wayne's wife, Harper	Cancer Surgery
Robert Russell	His mother in West Virginia	Dementia
Beth Trigg	Christopher Frentsos	Car accident & health problems

### ABW

Eight ladies joined together for our October luncheon at Buehlers for good fellowship and food. We treated Kathy Russell to lunch as we know she will soon be leaving our group, and will be missed.

Our Love Gift Offering for October was \$29.92.

We welcome anyone to join us on November 18 for that gathering.

– Evelyn Lee

### Recycling Continues

Thanks for your great response to saving nylon hose and fabric and stuffing for pillows for cancer patients. The Delaware ladies making these like to have 10–12 pillows per month for the James

Cancer Hospital. Soft fabrics are also welcome for those neck pillows, all sanitized before being given to the patients. I will gladly pass them onto the workers.

– Evelyn Lee

### Second Friday

October 8 found us starting our 15th year of Second Friday dinners with a good dinner and a birthday cake. First Baptist will again serve as greeters and mixers in November. Let me know if you can help on the 12th. After that, we will take a break during the wintry weather as other churches serve our guests. Thanks to all who have helped in the past.

– Evelyn Lee  
362-9107

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



Nov. 5	Victor Fogle Kathy Russell
12	Jackson Trigg
15	Harold Van Broekhoven
17	Jim and Ann Brown Emily Inscho
19	Steve Ferguson
20	Randy Turner Molly Grace Kennedy
22	Peter White

Please report any errors or omissions to Jim Stephenson.

## Young at Heart

Young at Heart met on Thursday, October 14th at noon. As usual we had good company and good food and even had some laughs at the piece Pastor Tim read to us about how little children take too literally some of the expressions that grown-ups use.

We had a letter from Della June Dove, a former member of our church, who still keeps in touch from her present home in Kansas. We send a card to her every month to let her know she is remembered, and we really enjoy her replies.

I am still sorting out goodies I had saved to share with YAH — here's one from Martin Luther:

"I have one preacher that I love better than any other on Earth. It is my little tame robin which preaches to me daily.

"I put his crumbs on the window sill. He hops on the sill and takes as much as he needs. From there he always flies to a little tree close by, lifts up his voice to God, sings his song of praise and gratitude, tucks his head under his wing and goes to sleep leaving tomorrow to look after itself.

"He is the best preacher I have on Earth!"

— Jean Wickum, Convenor

## Trustees Notes

- A thank you goes to Jerry Palmer for both supplying and planting all the small bushes along the north side walk at the rear of the church.
- All seven furnaces were checked for winter and the filters were changed. The cost by Don Patrick was \$248.56.
- A major leak showed up during late summer and fall in the northeast corner of the rear of the sanctuary. Some plaster was ruined. We've had trouble with leaks there for many years, and three different roofers have been unable to locate the leak's source. At press time, "Luther" of local company Roofwise Roofing is sure that he found and fixed the leak, but we won't repair the plaster until his leak repair is tested by the next big rain.
- The honey from the exterminated bees nest was washed off the wall beside the clock, but it ran down again, although in lesser amounts. It may stop during the winter.

— Peter White  
Reporting for the Trustees

## Personals

- Angie Burton and her new daughter, Olivia Macyn Burton, attended church on October 24. Angie expressed her thanks to everyone for their prayers and cards.
- Bill Hedges's mother Vera Hedges died on October 17 at Grady. She was 93. Our sympathy goes out to Bill and Karen and Nichelle and Jarrod and their families.
- Penny Hagaman came through her surgery with no complications and is on the mend. She thanks everyone for their cards and prayers.
- Sophia Stephenson went to the Grady Emergency Room after experiencing weakness and very high blood pressure. She's doing better now after changing her medication.

- On November 12–13, Dempsey School is presenting THE SOUND OF MUSIC. Jane Mercer is part of the stage crew, and Claire Turner will play one of the VonTrapp children.

- The Delaware Hayes Marching Band received a ONE rating at their last contest. This qualifies them to compete at the State Band Contest that is coming up. Michael Mercer is a member of the Hayes marching band.

- Dave and Mary Lou Lovell visited their son Matt in Minnesota.

- Tim and Kathy Chesser celebrated their 40th anniversary and Kathy's birthday with a trip to New York City.

- The Reverend Gunnar Cerda preached in Tim's absence on October 3.

- Jerry and Lana Palmer took a trip to New York State, and in a separate trip they went to Williamsburg VA.

- Emily Bowman recently received an honor in math.

- Ray and Carol Serviss had family visiting from Iowa.

- Jim Stephenson traveled to Indianapolis to see Ted and Jeannie Stephenson.

- Jane and Jimmie Moore traveled to North Carolina to attend an Elderhostel.

- Gary Evans and his wife Malene from California visited Geneva Evans and attended his class reunion.

- Kip and Barbara Smith have returned from a trip to Hawaii.

— Pam Faulk, Personals' Editor