

Good News Letter

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FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S DESK

On Easter morning would you be surprised to find Jesus coming to meet you? But what if you didn't know it was Easter? What if there had never been an Easter morning before? What if it was the day after the most sorrowful day of your life, the day after that painful Sabbath when he had lain in the tomb, dead? Dead as your hopes and dreams. Dead as your joy.

Easter comes after the death of winter and after the struggle of Lent. It comes, as it did for Peter and John, after their race to the tomb. It is a sign of the way death and life stand side by side and then seem to become one just at the moment we reach the tomb and look in to see if Jesus is there or not.

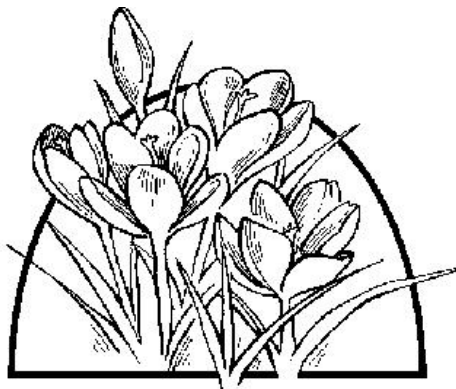
If you're wondering what Easter is, it is the stone being rolled away on the morning of a great sadness. It is despair moving over to make room for hope. It is joy crowding out our sorrow. It is a tomb transformed into a womb — life pushing its way out of death.

Our willingness to remove all the stones from the doorways of our tombs is important if we wish to find the life within us. If we are willing to become actively involved in



this stone-rolling process, our lives become filled with new life.

We will be racing to the tomb as long as we live. There may be times when we continue to look into the tombs of our hearts to



April

see if Jesus is there. Perhaps in our moments of uncertainty, we, like Mary, will remember to check with the gardener.

The race to the tomb means losing life. But it also means discovering the surprise of all surprises — life in Jesus!

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

Ellen Brown
Interim Pastor

Easter Offering

This year, our Easter offering will go to the Buckeye Mission & Ministry Offering (B.M.M.O.) This special

EASTER WEEK SERVICES

Holy Week is a busy time with several opportunities to worship. Please note below all of the events taking place at our church as well as in the broader community.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend. You are encouraged to invite family and friends to all of these services. Feel free to pick up some Easter Week postcard invitations in the Welcome Center to hand out to friends, family, neighbors, co-workers and even total strangers!

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 29 10:45 am

Sunday is Coming!

Romans 6:3-11

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 2, 7:00 pm

We, the Jury

Mark 15:1-5

Communion

Good Friday Stations of the Cross and Service

Friday, April 3

Stations of the Cross

(a walk around downtown with sharing from community clergy)

St. Mary's Church porch

11:00 a.m.

Worship Service

St. Mary's 12:00 Noon

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5

Piano Prelude

Worship Service 10:45 a.m.

How Does it End?

Mark 16:1-8

offering helps support the many ministries of the American Baptist Churches of Ohio including leadership development, student-youth ministries, congregational transformation, ministry resources and pastoral placement. Through the years our congregation has benefited from these Regional resources and currently we are receiving their support as we search for our next pastor. The 2015 theme for ABC of Ohio is "A cord of three strands is not easily broken" (Ecc.4:12). 100% of this offering goes to support the larger body of ABC Ohio that "help build healthy churches that impact the world for Christ." Prayerfully consider what you can give to this over-and-above offering.

Town Hall Meeting

Our next Town Hall Meeting will be after worship on Sunday, April 12. We will take a few minutes to look at the difference between personal and corporate worship as well as have an update from our Pastoral Search Committee.

Andrews House

Our mission emphasis for the month of April will be Andrews House, which is Delaware's multifaceted community services center. First Baptist has been and continues to be strong supporters.

They were founded in 1993, and the founders envisioned the facility as "...a place for hospitality, healing, and education and to advocate for individuals and families in the community. It is a safe place of acceptance, where people meet, learn, find solutions, overcome differences and achieve wholeness." Andrews House is the home of six small social service agencies. They also provide office space for a church and house two small service-oriented businesses. When this many helping agencies are in close proximity, referrals are easier, costs can be shared, programs can be cross-promoted, and peer support is more likely to occur.

They also support eight programs separate from those of its resident partners including free meals, free legal advice, and a medical clinic. With

their resident partners and largely volunteer-based programs, they are able to live out their mission of "People Strengthening People."

Mel Corroto, Executive Director of Andrews House will be in worship on **Sunday, April 12** to bring a Mission Moment and to share more with us. We have been asked to help in two ways in the coming weeks. On April 10, we will supply dessert for the Second Friday meal. The congregation is asked to donate money to cover the cost. Mary Lou Lovell is handling this. We've also been asked to serve and clean up the meal on May 8. Larry Faulk will be the coordinator for this and you'll hear more about this in the coming weeks.

Lenten Bible Study

For the last 5 weeks, we have gathered at our Tuesday night Bible Study to look at Jesus' Final Week. Please join us at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for the last three studies.

March 24: Trial: Part 2

March 31: Crucifixion & Burial

April 7: The Resurrection

Bring Your Change To Church

Thank you to all who brought their change on March 8. At this date we have \$86.93 to donate to the summer lunch program for children right here in Delaware. Since we are going to be doing this again in November, there will be a change jar in the Welcome Center from now on. Feel free to bring your loose change on any Sunday and drop it in the jar. I will take it home and keep it safe until November when we will take this offering again.

– Pam Faulk

Gifts Received And Given

Recently, our church received a gift of \$2,696.61 from Jean Wickum's estate. At the January business meeting, we voted to give \$1000

of this to our neighbors, the Women's City Club, to help with their needs. Jean was a long-time member and supporter of the Women's City Club and would have whole-heartedly approved of this gift.

Attention All Women

Were you aware that our church has formed a Women's Fellowship? Many of us turned out for the first get-together in February. We gather the second Saturday of every month. Currently, we are meeting at the Main Street Grill at Buehler's at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast. Let's have a good turnout on April 11 for the next one.

Your Prayers Needed

Your prayers are needed during this crucial time in the life of First Baptist Delaware.

On Saturday, April 25th, we are planning to have a "Prayer Vigil" in the sanctuary from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Individual volunteers are needed to each sign up for a half-hour (or more) block of time to come to the sanctuary and be in prayer for our fellowship and especially for the search committee as they continue their efforts to secure our next pastor. Resource materials will be available during the vigil to aid us in our prayers.

A sign up sheet is available in the Gathering Place for your commitment to participate during the vigil.

Additionally, "Building Safety Hosts" are needed to provide access and safety in two-hour blocks. Please see me to sign up to help in this area.

– Larry Faulk
Deacon and Search Committee
Chair

Alvin Cox to Speak

Reverend Brown will be on vacation April 19 -25. Reverend Alvin Cox will be the guest pastor.

Youth Group

The youth have been able to meet in February and March for fellowship and learning! During these months, we have made two blankets, one for a family in need in the association and one to donate to the Common Ground Free Store in Delaware. We also learned about the America For Christ offering and found out that the people in this organization do some really cool outreach ministries. Of course, we had snacks and games too! Looking forward to another great month!

– Debbie Fogle

Search Committee Update

The pastoral search committee recently participated in the annual "Face to Face" event in Indiana. We were able to interview 10 potential candidates. Since then, we have been "following up" on some of the pastors to further explore if any could be a good fit with our congregation. Your continued prayers are welcome throughout this process.

– Larry Faulk
Search Committee Chair



Mission and Outreach Team News

The Mission and Outreach team met on Sunday, March 8 at 2:30 P.M.

The team explored ways to show God's love through reaching out to others globally and locally.

We had 2 discussion groups that focused on 3 areas:

- Special Mission Offerings and Missionaries

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	Chad Myford	Condolences on the death of his grandmother
	Carol Serviss	Surgery recovery
	Alvin & Bev Cox's Granddaughter	Chemotherapy for Hodgkins
	Don Elliott	Health issues
	Ken Frische	Surgery recovery
	Christina Kilhefner	Transplant recovery
	Penny Hagaman	Health issues
	Steve Baker	Health issues
	Bora Porter (Janet's daughter)	A patient at Childrens' Hospital
	Betty Porter	Health issues
The Faulks	Mary Anderson	Health Issues

Remember daily all the men and women in the military — those stationed in the USA and those deployed throughout the world. GOD BLESS AMERICA!

- Visitors to our church
- Outreach in our community

The team would like to continue to serve for Second Fridays Meal at Andrew's House and provide desserts. Larry is in contact with Liz Bowman to coordinate the meal activities. We will be serving for the meal on May 8th. Mary Lou will be collecting money and purchasing desserts for the April 10th meal. If you would like to help with the Andrews House meals please let Larry or Mary Lou know.

The team would like to have a table at a Delaware First Friday Event.

The team brainstormed other ways to connect with the community to find ways we can be in service to others.

Currently we have 8 people on the team and would love to have more ideas.

Our next meeting will be April 19 at 2:00 P.M. Come join us!

Meals for "Getting Ahead" Class Participants

Bonnie Ristau has contacted us about supporting the "Getting Ahead" classes.

One way we can help is to prepare a meal for the participants, serve, and clean up.

The Outreach Team met on Sunday and chose two dates: April 20th and May 20th.

Food is to be brought to William St. Church by 4:30. Servers are to be there at 4:30 and are to stay to clean up until about 6:15.

If you would like to know more about the program, provide food or serve, please let Mary Lou Lovell know.

Personals

- Carol Serviss fell and hurt her back recently.
- Our condolences to Chad Myford on the death of his grandmother.
- Beth Trigg was recently pictured on the front page of the Delaware Gazette along with a story about Family Promise.

- Claire Turner had the lead female role in the Hayes production of the musical FOOTLOOSE.
- The OWLS ("Older, Wiser, Learning Still") had their first get-together. They went out to eat at Buehler's and then went to see Claire in the musical.
- Congratulations to Colin Ferguson and Claire Turner for being named to the Hayes High School Honor Roll and congratulations to Alec Ferguson and Jane Mercer for being named to the Merit Roll.
- Sue Hanson, from HELPLINE, will give a "Mission Moment" on April 26. Our mission focus for May will be HELPLINE.
- Pastor Alvin Cox will be delivering our Sunday message on April 19 when Pastor Ellen is away.

– Pam Faulk, Personals Editor

5 Years Ago

April 2010 Newsletter

Jim Van Brimmer, 86, died after a 2-year battle with cancer.

Jerry Palmer and Jimmie Moore hung new wall cabinets in the kitchen.

15 Years Ago

April 2000 Newsletter

A reception was held for Cynthia Bland and Ray Biggar to celebrate their upcoming marriage and Cynthia's license to preach.

45 Years Ago

April 1970 Newsletter

Work on a new roof for the Educational Building began. The work was done by Lathrop Brothers, a firm in which member Gene Lathrop was a partner. Total cost was to be under \$5,000. Contributions could be given to Richard Lee or John Richards.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



- April 10 Jane Mercer
Connor Trigg
- 15 Ray Serviss
Tyler Wayne Fogle
- 20 Tammy Ferguson
- 27 Colin Ferguson
- 29 Deborah Fogle
Benjamin Trigg

Please report any errors or omissions to Jim Stephenson.

April Sermon Titles and Scripture

April 5 — Easter
How Does it End?
Mark 16:1-8

April 12
The Easter Chicken
Matthew 23:37-39

April 19
Guest Preacher Rev. Alvin Cox
Pastor Ellen on vacation

April 26
Whatever Happens
Philippians 4:11b-13

Christ
the
Lord is
RISEN
Today