

# Good News Letter

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According to the Google dictionary, "providence," refers to the protective care of God and the timely preparation for future eventualities. It is the idea that God has ordered our lives for our benefit. I remember a particular experience that I have considered to be providential.

It takes a little explaining. When I lived and served in Illinois, I was befriended and helped and in a way mentored by a retired pastor named Gary Nelsen. In the Great Rivers Region (GRR), unlike the ABC/OH, there are no local associations. Instead there are five "areas." Each area has about 50 churches and is served by an area minister. The church in Staunton where I served was in Area 5, which consisted of all the churches in the State of Missouri and in Illinois the churches in the St. Louis metro-east.

Around the year 2000, the Area 5 minister retired, and before a new area minister was called, the decision was made to move some of the churches in the metro-east into areas in Illinois because of the burden of covering all of Missouri, clearly the geographically largest area in the region. Our church was moved into Area 2, which is the area around Springfield, Illinois, to our north.

Area 2 was the only area that had a part-time position entitled, "pastor to pastors." The position was filled by Gary Nelsen, who called me and took me out to



lunch only a few months after our church had been reassigned. That is how we met. Down through the years he helped me through difficult times and even after his position was eliminated, he prayed for me and continued to provide support, even after I came here to Ohio.

This decision was not political, but administrative, done for practical reasons. I am sure that when the GRR board met to make this decision, they did not think about the relationships that would result. When I told the church that we were being assigned to Area 2, I did it only as FYI, just to keep them informed, and that is the way they took it.

When Gary first called, I did not even realize why he was calling, nor did I realize the connection between the administrative decision and his outreach to me. Most of the time little organizational decisions are not that meaningful.

The reason I met the person who helped me most was a very mundane and practical

administrative decision that created a connection I have always considered providential. That is the way God sometimes works among us.

As we move from summer to fall, get ready to resume Sunday School, participate in the Crop Walk, host ABC missionaries Emerson and Ivy Wu in October, and continue in other ministries that are a part of our life together, let us remember that God works in mysterious ways, that sometimes even the least important happenings work to a larger purpose.

Blessings  
-Mark

## Philip A. Lee

Philip A. Lee, 67, of Delaware and formerly of Barberton, went home to be with the Lord on Saturday evening, July 22, 2017 at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus.



He was born November 18, 1949 in Barberton, Ohio to the late Andrew and Christine (Carter) Lee and graduated from Barberton High School. He later proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

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Philip lived most of his life in Barberton until recently moving to Delaware. He was a member of the Norton Community Church of the Nazarene and was currently attending the First Baptist Church in Delaware. He was an avid fisherman and loved taking care of his boys.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife of 37 years, Candace (Howe); sons, Timothy Lee of Barberton and Brennan Howe of Delaware; sisters and brothers-in-law, Pat and Raleigh Gosser, Bob and Trudy Laslo, Bim and Maureen Howe, Tom and Patty Scott, Barb Howe, Vickie Howe and Mark Milhoan; 15 nieces and nephews and numerous great nieces and nephews also survive.

In addition to his parents, Philip was preceded in death by his mother and father-in-law Jean and Floyd Scott, brothers-in-law Glenn and James Howe and his sister-in-law Evelyn Milhoan.

## **Mission/Outreach News**

The second annual Family Festival held July 15th was a success. Thanks to all who came to help with lawn games. We had a variety of activities: ladder ball, bean bag toss, bubbles, side walk chalk, Noah's Arc jig saw puzzle, coloring of stain class windows on paper, origami, checkers, and frisbees. There was something for all ages and it was great to see many people stop by and find something they wanted to try! The weather was sunny and warm. We are looking forward to next year's Family Festival.

## **Conger School Supplies**

During the month of July we collected school supplies for those needing them at Conger Elementary School. The box included pencils, erasers, folders, notebooks, crayons, and glue sticks. Money was donated for ear phones as well. Games for indoor recess were also given. Thank you so much for getting the students at Conger off to a good start this school year!

## **August Undy Sundays**

It's back! August is the month that we donate all sizes of new underwear and they are given to Common Ground to give to those in need. Children's underwear is really appreciated. Let's fill a box or 2 !

## **Panera Pick Up Continues!**

The sign up sheet is in the gathering room. Please sign up to pick up the unsold items Thurs. evening at 8:50 from Panera, bag them, and deliver them on Friday morning to Andrews House.

If you have not participated in this yet, ask someone who is on the sign-up sheet how easy it is. Be a part of this to help provide food to those in need in our community.

## **Next Missions/Outreach Meeting**

Summer is winding down and we are thinking about plans for September. We would like ideas and to have you join us for our next meeting, August 20th at 1:30 at the church.

*-Mary Lou Lovell*

## **Volunteers For August**

### **Fellowship Time**

Aug 6- Gosser  
Aug 13- Open (Please sign up)  
Aug 20- Lee  
Aug 27- Open (Please sign up)

### **Panera Pick-Up**

Aug 3- Gosser  
Aug 10- Open (Please sign up)  
Aug 27- Open (Please sign up)  
Aug 24- Faulk  
Aug 31- Nace

### **Thank you all for volunteering**

Please notice that there are two openings left for Fellowship Time. Beverages and paper products are provided. You only need to provide a simple snack item.

## **OGHS**

Thank you so much for your contributions to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Our current total is \$475. I am sorry that we did not meet our goal of \$700.

*-Pam Faulk*

## **Thank You Notes**

We received the following thank you notes recently. These can be found on the bulletin board in the Gathering Place also.

We appreciate all of the love and support you have given us- especially during the last month when Ken's mobility has been so challenged. He is taking physical therapy to help him gain strength to move about in a Rollator walker. Thanks for your prayers and willingness to help in a variety of ways. We miss being able to be with you in worship.

Ken and Genevieve Peterson

## America for Christ 2017

Thank you for your generosity! Since 1824, American Baptist Home Mission Societies has been faithful to God's call. We continue the marvelous and significant legacy of proclaiming the Gospel, empowering congregations, ministering to people's needs and advocating for justice. God is faithful! Because of your financial support to the America for Christ Offering 2017, churches and leaders are connecting with people and demonstrating the compassion of Christ in their local communities. Every day, real change is happening, and the promises of God are being fulfilled. Together, we are making life changing impact one person at a time.

Thank you for your recent gift of \$563 to Church World Service. Your support to our programs is greatly appreciated. Your generous gift is helping those around the world.

With peace,  
Heather Willson, CWS

(There are two certificates on the bulletin board which went with this note. They are for contributions for Blanket Sunday and Tools of Hope).

## Personals

- Jeanne Ekelberry recently visited her family in West Virginia for a reunion.

- Dave and MaryLou Lovell attended a family reunion in Atlanta.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



### August

- 3 Ray & Carol Serviss
- 4 Gabe Fogle
- 5 Bruce & Liz Bowman  
Carrie Trigg
- 7 Jennifer Cramer
- 8 Kate Cooper  
Ryan Cooper  
Jean Syler
- 11 Steve & Tammy Ferguson
- 17 Andrew Smith
- 18 Larry & Pam Faulk
- 20 Brennan Howe
- 21 Ken & Genevieve Peterson
- 23 Bev Cox
- 24 Ken Shears
- 25 Raleigh Gosser
- 27 Penny Hagaman  
Linda White
- 30 Archie Trigg

*Please report any errors.*

- Deborah Guebert took a trip to Philadelphia last month to visit her parents.

- Pat Gosser expressed her thanks to all who delivered meals to their house while Phil Lee was hospitalized.

- Jane Moore Snyder is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

- Dan and Sherry Chambers recently traveled to Lakeside, Ohio, and attended a concert there.

- The Palmers wish to thank everyone for their prayers for their granddaughter Morgan and their son Steve.



## Common Ground Free Store Fundraiser

Since 2006, Common Ground Free Store has been serving Delaware and surrounding communities by providing free meals, clothing, and life supplies to families and individuals who need them. They are having a fundraiser:

### Fashions and Fixin's Fundraiser

Friday, August 25, 2017  
6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

The Homestead of Radnor  
2866 State Route 203,  
Radnor, Ohio

Early Bird tickets \$35.00 each  
or \$65.00 per couple  
Tickets purchased after August  
10th are \$40. each or \$75.00  
per couple.

For more information and to  
purchase tickets, visit the  
website

[www.commongroundfreestore.org](http://www.commongroundfreestore.org)  
or [bristau7@gmail.com](mailto:bristau7@gmail.com)

## Directory Update

Jerry & Lana Palmer  
have a new email address:

[mrbear15@wowway.com](mailto:mrbear15@wowway.com)

## Prayer List

This list is prepared by the Deacons.

Please send changes to Larry Faulk ([lfaulk01@aol.com](mailto:lfaulk01@aol.com)).

Name	Reason for Prayer
Lee & Gosser families	Condolences for the death of Phil Lee
Chad Kilhefner & family	Chad's mothers health
Alvin Cox	Health Issues
Dr. Ernest Jones	Health Issues
Richard Lovell	Health Issues
Ken Peterson	Health Issues
Ray Serviss	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!

## Nomination Time

Please begin thinking about opportunities to serve next year as an officer or board member for First Baptist Church. The nominating committee will soon meet to develop a slate of officers for 2018. Boards and committees should let Randy Turner know who their representative to the nominating committee is.

## You Are Invited to a ballgame

The Men's Fellowship would like to invite all of the First Baptist family and friends to join in attending a Columbus Clippers baseball game on Friday, August 18th. The Clippers take on The Pawtucket Red Sox at 7:15 pm.

We plan to purchase a block of tickets so that we can sit together to enjoy fellowship and the game. There is a signup sheet in the gathering place for your commitment. Please signup by August 6 so that we can order a block of tickets.



## Financial Report

Copies of the Second Quarter 2017 Financial Report are available in the Welcome Center. Your generous offerings and FBC's conservative expenditures have enabled us to complete the first half of the year spending only \$1,835 more than we received in the general fund.

Our outreach ministries continue on target with our goals. Midway through the year, we have contributed almost half of what we expect to contribute when the year is completed. The only special offering still below our goal is the One Great Hour of Sharing.

While we have spent over \$40,000 renovating the North wall, we still have reasonable balances in our memorials and capital improvement funds. Thank you for your contributions of nearly \$4,500 for the first half of the year to these funds.

For more detail on income and expenses, pickup a copy of the financial report or contact me.

*-Larry Faulk, treasurer*