

Good News Letter

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When Thanksgiving Day 2014 approached about this time last year, I knew already knew that 2015 was going to be a big year. My youngest son was going to graduate from high school and later go off to college. The oldest had been living in St. Louis and working as a chemist, and he planned to quit his job to pursue graduate school. They ended up moving to Columbia, Missouri where the middle son was already in college at what we call Mizzou. I was to experience the "empty nest".

The church in Staunton, Illinois was small and to make ends meet I worked at The Home Depot and substitute taught at the local high school where I helped coach the track team. I had a hunch that in addition to the others, there would be some major changes for me personally.

There was an email advertisement for a Face-to-Face meeting in Indiana that would take place in February and believing that it was time, I signed up. It was there the first meetings took place with representatives from the First Baptist Church in Delaware. As the spring wore on further contacts were made, recorded sermons were sent, and there was a telephone interview. Things stretched along

Next Month's Newsletter

The January newsletter will be prepared one week later than our usual schedule so we don't have to work on it during Christmas week.

into the summer and it became clear that if there would be a move to Delaware, it would happen shortly after my sons got settled in Columbia. The timing was impeccable, giving the sense that everything had been worked out in advance.



December

Very often life as a Christian leaves that sense that our paths have been directed in advance. The belief in God's Providence and that God has a plan, a purpose, a will for each of us, appears to be more than mere words. After long years of wondering and waiting for what would be next, in my case, it all played out over the course of one year. And now another Thanksgiving has come around, soon to be followed by another Advent, another Christmas, and another New Year.

In addition to the affirmation that has come through all this, being greatly encouraged as I hope you

are, I mainly feel gratitude, not only for having been given a place to serve and for meaningful work, but also for having learned to trust more fully through difficult circumstances, being confident not only in God's care, but also that I had been prepared for the next phase of life's journey.

Looking forward, there is great anticipation as we share life together as family in Christ. I am convinced that FBC Delaware has also been prepared for this time together. What might God do in our midst? As I sit at my computer finishing this article, the news on television is reporting the recent terror attacks in Paris, France. The times are troubled; nonetheless, it is with gratitude and confident expectation that I wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving, a meaningful season of Advent and Christmas, and a wonderfully blessed New Year in 2016.

- Mark

The Grace Of Giving – The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

There can be no talk of grace without first speaking about God. Even when it appears to come through human "hands," Grace is always God's purview; it flows from God, and God alone is able to manifest it in human experience. The totality of God's Grace is found in the gift of Jesus Christ and his sacrificial act of love on the Cross - this is God's Grace in action, giving to us what we could never give to ourselves.

Grace turns our souls to Christ and stirs within us the fervent desire to be gracious to others. As we remember the powerful witness and care of devoted ministers and missionaries who have helped us to grow in our faith, stood by us in the face of adversity, and rejoiced with us in moments of triumph, we give thanks that they served as instruments of God's Grace in their ministry to the people of God

In the simple yet profound act of giving, our congregation has the opportunity to be blessed and to be a blessing. Through the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO), our American Baptist Church can share in an act of Grace that reminds the ministers, missionaries, and widowed spouses who served so faithfully that they are remembered with love and gratitude.

Our RMMO supplies emergency assistance in the midst of urgent need and the ability to send a "Thank You" check to those who are eligible like Tim and Kathy Chesser, Alvin and Bev Cox, Ken and Genevieve Peterson, Sophie Stephenson, Harold and Deb VanBroekhoven, and Ellen and David Brown.

During the month of December we will be focusing on the RMMO. Our goal is \$700, but I know our congregation can beat that goal if we try. Please give generously.

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
	Alvin Cox	Health issues
	Betty Porter	Recovery from oral surgery
	Christina Kilhefner	Transplant recovery
	Penny Hagaman	Health issues
	Steve Baker	Health issues
	Bora Porter (Janet's daughter)	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!

Thanks To A Very Giving Congregation

Our church recently received a thank-you letter from Bonnie Ristau from Common Ground Free Store for our contribution to their October fundraiser and for our continued support. We also received an honor certificate from Church World Service for our donations for tools in June. In addition, I would like to personally thank our congregation for their contributions to the World Mission Offering totaling \$755.20 which was over our goal. I would also like to thank those of you who saved your coins and

brought them in for "Change for Change Sunday." We were able to give \$153.50 to Andrews House for the summer lunch program for children. The change jar is on the table in the Welcome Center. Feel free to bring your loose change and put it in the jar, and I will keep it safe until November when the time will change again.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Now let's see if we can fulfill the foster children's wish lists and meet our goal for the RMMO!

— Pam Faulk

2016 First Baptist Church Directory

It's time to update our directory for 2016. Please review your info in the 2014 directory and let Larry Faulk know about any changes, or fill out the form below and return it to him. We would like to update pictures as well. See Larry Faulk or Dave Lovell to get a new picture taken. We would like to include all members and friends of FBC.

Name	Birthday*	Anniv.*	Cell Phone	Email
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ *No year is necessary

Birthdays and Anniversaries



- Dec. 4 Erin Faulk
 5 Nathan McKendrick
 8 Phyllis Beasley
 11 Holly Kauf
 13 Geneva Evans
 15 Bud Sykes
 17 Pat Gosser
 23 Dominique DeBiasio
 25 Carol Grubbs
 26 Richard & Barbara Payne
 27 Cory Lawrence
 28 Sharon Baker
 29 Harold & Deborah Van Broekhoven
- Jan. 4 Fred DeBiasio
 6 Ken & Pam Shears
 10 Kip Smith
 12 Larry Faulk
 Matthew Cooper

Names and dates are from the latest church directory.

Volunteers

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered for Kid Connection. All the slots are filled until the new year!

The following people have Kid Connection soon:

- Nov. 22 Pat Gosser/Aidan Ferguson
 Nov. 29 Pat Gosser/Alec Ferguson
 Dec. 6 Beth Trigg/Will Fogle
 Dec. 14 Pam Shears/
 Colin Ferguson
 Dec. 20 Pam Faulk/Claire Turner
 Dec. 27 Pat Gosser/Aidan Ferguson
 Jan. 3 Lana Palmer/
 Alec Ferguson

Birthday Cake For Jesus

On Sunday, December 20, please be sure to stay after church for Fellowship Time. We will be having a special birthday cake for Jesus on that Sunday.

What To Do With Holiday Leftover Goodies

If you have left over holiday goodies, please feel free to bring them to church on January 3 to share with everyone during Fellowship Time after church.

A Letter

Many thanks to Jim Stephenson for the wonderful newsletter he sends every month. I enjoy it so much. There are still a few people I remember and who hopefully remember me.

Best wishes in Jesus' precious name.

*— Nancy Via Summers
 330 Claremont Lane, Apt 345
 Crozet, VA 22932*

*I prepare the newsletter but Pam Shears copies and mails them, we thank her for her hard work. Nancy also included a check for poinsettias in memory of her parents, Fred and Lucille Via, who were faithful members for many years. They are shown below visiting the parsonage in a 1979 photo by Rev. Stephenson.
 - Editor*



Mission/Outreach Group

The Mission/Outreach Group met on November 8 with 10 people in attendance.

The goal was surpassed for the World Mission Offering, \$755.20

PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

10 Years Ago

Dec 2005 Newsletter

Shirley Parker had knee replacement surgery and is expected to be hospitalized for a month.

15 Years Ago

Dec 2000 Newsletter

Betty Porter witnessed the landing of the space shuttle in California.

The church received \$40,000 from the Sarah Gwen Jones estate. She was a member of the church in the 1960s and was the daughter of Mary Ellen Jones who attended earlier.

20 Years Ago

Dec 1995 Newsletter

Will and Carol Fogle were poisoned last month during the night by carbon monoxide. Carol spent two days in the hospital, Will is in a coma.

An open house was held at the parsonage at 632 Congress Court to celebrate paying off the mortgage.

40 Years Ago

Dec 1975 Newsletter

Charles and Claudia Eliot thanked the church for the flowers on their 50th wedding anniversary.

45 Years Ago

Dec 1970 Newsletter

75 dinners were served in the Fellowship Hall for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner, organized by Evelyn Lee and Marge Smale.

Sunday School teachers include Carol Grubbs, Colleen Askins, Sophia Stephenson, Jean and Wick Wickum, Marge Smale, and Jim Van Brimmer.

Over the goal again! Thank you all for your generous gifts!

Two meals for members of Stepping Up Classes held at William St. Church were provided on Oct. 14th and Nov. 2nd. Thank you to Jennifer Turner, Genevieve Peterson, Pat Gosser, Lana Palmer, Jean Ekelberry, Sherry Chambers, Pam Faulk and Mary Lou Lovell for their willingness to cook, serve, and give donations so that we can make these meals happen. All of the people are very appreciative and we hear so many "thank you's".

In September, one of our missions was donating to People In Need. WOW! 109 items were donated and delivered.

In October, we focused on helping victims of Human Trafficking by donating to the Salvation Army Guest House and items for beginning on their own. Many items were given: sets of dishes, a set of silverware, towels, laundry detergent, soaps, shampoo, and a frying pan.

Eleven people represented First Baptist Church by walking in the CROP WALK which began at Ohio Wesleyan University on Sunday, Oct. 11th. Those sponsoring the walkers were so generous and \$450.00 was raised by First Baptist to be given for hunger.

On November 1st we set our clocks back one hour and could sleep a

little longer. Two exciting things happened on that day. Dr. Mark Allison was Installed as Pastor at First Baptist Church and we raised \$153.50 by bringing our change and giving it in the Change for Change offering. The money will be given for the Woodward Elementary School Summer Lunch program in which many of First Baptist Church members helped with last summer.

Flyers inviting the community to join us for worship were created by Larry Faulk. The flyers were placed in the bags of items purchased at the Family Promise Rummage Sale at First Baptist on Oct. 7th. Thanks to everyone who helped with the sale or shopped.

Visitor bags are being made by Pam Faulk and given as guests enter our welcome center.

Linda White is reading with students at Conger and enjoying sharing her own books that she has written with them. There is always a need for volunteers to read with students. If you are interested, call Conger School and talk with Joshua Page, Principal.

Panera Pick up continues on Thurs. evenings at 8:45. If you would like to help pick up unsold goods, wrap baked goods, or deliver them to Andrews House on Friday morning, please let Pat Gosser know. 317-979-0116

Our Mission Focus for November is providing gifts for children in foster care. Larry Faulk has the list of "wishes". Gift cards may be donated as well.

Ideas were discussed to help guests at our church; such as signs for elevator access, rest rooms, etc.

Our Thanksgiving offering will be donated to Andrews House.

Our December Mission Focus will be the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering.

- Mary Lou Lovell

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Sing for Your Supper

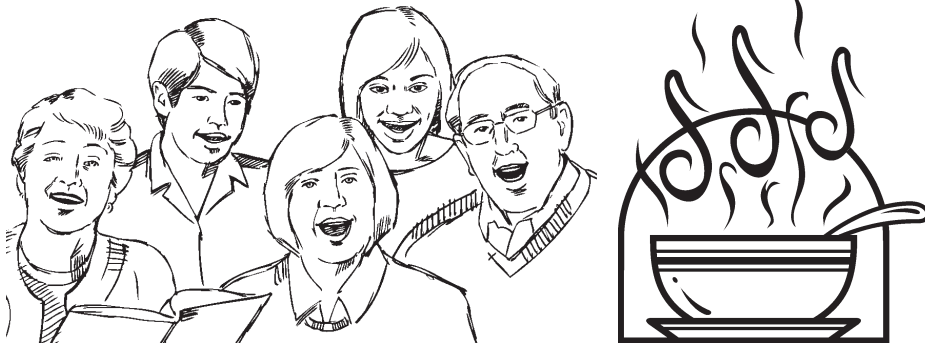
Bring your singing voices and appetite to "Sing for Your Supper" on December 6 at 4 p.m. at First Baptist Church.

The Song and Supper event will be a Sing-Along of your favorite Christmas Carols, accompanied by the organ and piano.

After singing, join us for soup in the Fellowship Hall. Please invite your relatives and friends to fill the sanctuary with music for the Christmas season.

We will make sweet music and if you will bring one dozen cookies to share we will have sweet treats for dessert.

Could you offer a ride to those who do not drive at night? Let me know if you can provide a ride for someone (Mary Lou Lovell, 740-369-6041).



Please fill out this form and give it to Dr. Allison, Mary Lou Lovell, or put it in the offering plate by Nov. 29th.

My favorite Christmas carol: _____

My name: _____

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Upcoming Opportunities for December

Holiday Clearing House

Dec. 5th 9:00-a.m.12:00 p.m.

Delaware County Fairgrounds (236 Pennsylvania Ave.) Needs are new toys, new outside winter clothing, food, toiletries, and monetary gifts. Join Deb Fogle and youth in packing food donated to PIN to be given to families in need in the community. Ask Deb for more information.

City/County Food Drive

Sat. Dec. 5, 9-2

Holiday Clearing House

Monday, Dec. 7th to Friday, Dec. 11th 9-4:30.

Nonperishable food donations may be dropped off.

Distribution Day for Families

Sunday, Dec. 13th 8:30-5:30

Calling All Bakers!

Andrews House Christmas Cupboard is Saturday, Dec. 5th, 9-3p.m. If you like to bake, cookies are needed to sell at the Christmas Cupboard. Bake lots of your favorite kind and take them to Andrews House on Friday, Dec. 4th from 9 am to 9pm. Shoppers select from the variety of cookies, place them in a box, and buy the box for \$12.00. Great for holiday entertaining!

Lights of Love

Andrews House also is having a Lights of Love program at 6p.m. on Dec. 4th. You can honor someone with a light on the tree for a \$10 donation.

Upcoming Missions

Our January focus for missions will be Family Promise. Needed items for the Family Promise House are: 1) Liquid laundry soap, 2) Liquid dish soap, 3) Toilet tissue, 4) Paper towels, 5) Large bottles of shampoo.

Could you add one of these items to your shopping list and bring it to church on a Sunday in January?

– *Mary Lou Lovell*

Minutes from Meetings

Copies of the latest minutes of any Parish Council or Quarterly Business Meeting can always be made available to you upon request. If you are unable to attend — but wish to have a copy — please call Lana Palmer at 740-369-6098. She will be happy to assist you. Thank you.

Holiday Wish Lists Deadline is Sunday, Nov 29th.

Thanks to all who have donated gifts for those on the Holiday Wish Lists. Gifts are due Sunday, November 29th. If you would like to contribute, but have not been able to purchase one of the wish list items, you may contribute cash to Dr. Allison or myself by the 29th and we will go shopping for you.

– *Larry Faulk*

Fellowship Time Signup

A new signup sheet for Fellowship time after worship is available in the Gathering Place. Please consider signing up for a simple treat after worship during December, January, or February. Juice, coffee, and hot water for tea or cocoa are provided.

– *Larry Faulk*

Youth Group

Christmas Clearing House - The group will meet on Dec. 12th, 9 a.m. to noon. The Youth Group will be helping with the Christmas Clearing House Packing Day. Please meet at the Coliseum at the Delaware County Fairgrounds at 8:45 a.m. to get ready for the day. It may be very busy with people that day, so please look for our group members and be patient as we wait to get the morning started.

Christmas Party - To be announced.

January - The Youth Group will be meeting on January 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the church.

Personals

- Christina Kilhefner was hospitalized last month for pneumonia but is now home and has been back to church. She would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards.
- Aidan Ferguson was part of the barbershop quartet in Dempsey's recent production of "The Music Man, Jr."
- Ken Peterson recently had cataract surgery.
- Tim, Kathy, Sam, and Spencer Chesser visited our worship service on November 15. Sam, Lindley, and Spencer had been visiting Tim and Kathy.
- Elijah Showalter will be dedicated in our church on November 29.