

Good News Letter

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2016 has been a surprising year. The Chicago Cubs won the World Series. After 108 years of futility, hope was finally realized and the waiting stopped and the curses were broken; the folks in Chicago will not have to say, "wait until next year." There is something that tests character about hoping against the odds. In the time of Jesus people were awaiting a messiah that seemed like would never come. For the Christians, Jesus of Nazareth is the fulfillment of that hope. Even so, the coming of the Christ was not a final consummation of the age. We are left waiting for Christ's return and it has been the better part of 2,000 years. That is a long time to wait.

I have never been very good at predicting the future, especially when it comes to Christ's return but I am confident that we are meant to wait hopefully, expectantly. It is, however, not just Christ's return that we await. We also wait for the transformation of society, for social justice, for economic and political systems that work better than the ones we have, for personal renewal. For decades in America religious observance has been declining. We see it every Sunday with our half-empty sanctuary. We await a renewal to reverse that trend.

Meanwhile people are turning to science and medicine for hopeful answers as well as for economic and political solutions. Who knows, maybe there are some whose hopefulness comes alive because of an athletic accomplishment like the Cubs winning the World Series? These expressions of hope should

not be underestimated. At their best they serve as illustrations of Gospel hope.

At Christmas, we celebrate that Gospel hope. We light Advent candles each week and decorate our



December

homes and the church. We give to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO). We collect gifts for children in foster care. On December 10th, some will help with the Christmas Clearinghouse for PIN. On December 11 we will have the 2nd annual Sing and Soup service, the youth will be having their Christmas party on December 17th. There are the four Sundays of Advent to meet for worship and on Christmas Eve we will meet for a candlelight service. And this year, Christmas is on a Sunday and we will worship together on that morning.

Notice how in these traditions we express our faith by giving to help others; and by spending time in the

company of family and friends and church family. In doing these things, we acknowledge that while we wait, the greatest gift we have been given is each other. The value of all these opportunities is the relationships we nurture and the friendships we make, which are the results of our faith and the source of our hope. Each one's presence is important. And we don't have to wait to be together. I look forward to seeing all of you. Have a wonderful and grace-filled Christmas! Who knows what the surprises will be in 2017?

– Mark

From Our Pastoral Intern

December is finally here. The final month of a memorable and unforgettable 2016. It is mind blowing to think that I have been in worship and fellowship with you for nearly half of this calendar year, and as we exit the Thanksgiving season and navigate into and through Advent, I am reminded that this season is also a season of new beginnings. Advent is when the church begins the year anew, as we draw closer to Christmas and the birth of Christ. Advent is also the time in which we continue shifting our minds and hearts towards those who are less fortunate than we are. Continuing with recent tradition, we will be helping with the PIN Family Food Packing Day on December 10th. As I receive confirmation of our scheduled time, I will be sure to announce. Towards the middle of the month, the youth will also be having their annual Christmas party on December 17th from 7 to 9 PM at Dr. Allison's house. I look forward

to celebrating this final month of 2016 with you, as we prepare for the birth of Christ in worship and fellowship together.

Blessings and Peace,

– David

RMMO

Our mission focus for December is the **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering**. The theme is “Faith Through Gratitude.”

Since the 1930’s American Baptist congregations have contributed to a special offering to provide financial support to retired ministers and missionaries and their widowed spouses. Our church’s offering makes it possible to provide emergency assistance in times of crisis and to send a “thank you” check to those who are eligible.

Over the years recipients have used these funds to pay for home repairs, medical and dental expenses, and relocation expenses. Members and past members of our congregation who receive this check each year are Sophia Stephenson, Tim and Kathy Chesser, Ken and Genevieve Peterson, Alvin and Bev Cox, Dave and Ellen Brown, and Harold and Deb VanBroekhoven.

The national goal is \$1.1 million. Our church’s goal is only \$700. Please consider prayerfully how you may help us meet that goal.

– Pam Faulk

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
	Dr. Ernest Jones	Health issues
	Alvin Cox	Health issues
	Christina Kilhefner	Transplant recovery
	Penny Hagaman	Health issues
	Steve Baker	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!

Volunteers For December

Kid Connection

- Dec. 4 Pam Faulk/
Colin Ferguson
Dec. 11 Deb Nace/Will Fogle
Dec. 18 Pat Gosser/Bowen Nace
Dec. 25 Pam Shears/
Aidan Ferguson

Fellowship Time

- Dec. 4 Palmers
Dec. 11 Shears
Dec. 18 Gossers
Dec. 25 No Fellowship Time

Transportation for David Harris

- Dec. 4 Palmers
Dec. 11 Mark Allison
Dec. 18 Gossers
Dec. 25 none needed

Panera Pick-up

- Dec. 1 Gossers
Dec. 8 Faulks
Dec. 15 Youth Group
Dec. 22 Gossers
Dec. 29 Lovells

Thank you all for your commitment.

Special Christmas Envelopes

The offering in the special Christmas envelopes will go to Andrews House.

Attention Ladies of the Church

Attendance has picked up at our monthly women’s fellowship breakfast. We are going to try a new restaurant this month that might be easier to get to for most of us. On December 10 the women will be eating breakfast at 9:00 at The Jug which is located in the Westfield Plaza at Rt. 37 and Houk Rd. at the other end from the Kroger store. We invite all ladies of the church to join us for breakfast and fellowship.

Christmas on a Sunday

Since Christmas is on a Sunday this year, there will be no Sunday school classes on Christmas morning, nor will there be Fellowship Time after the church service. There WILL still be a worship service at 10:45.

Change For Change

Way to go First Baptist! On November 6 our congregation donated their loose change to be given to the Summer Lunch Program for children right here in Delaware. We collected a total of \$193.70!!!!. Please continue to hold onto your loose change for the next time we change our clocks forward in the spring. If

Birthdays and Anniversaries



- Dec. 4 Erin Faulk
- 4 Jim Snyder
- 5 Nathan McKendrick
- 8 Phyllis Beasley
- 11 Hannah Nace
- 12 Samuel Allison
- 13 Geneva Evans
- 17 Pat Gosser
- 25 Carol Grubbs
- 27 Cory Lawrence
- 27 Jane Moore & Jim Snyder
- 28 Sharon Baker
- 29 Harold & Deborah Van Broekhoven

Please report any errors.

you do not wish to store your change, you can bring it to church and drop it in the container in the Welcome Center, and I will keep it for you until spring.

Pam Faulk

New Cabinet

You may have noticed a new cabinet in the Gathering Place. This cabinet came from Jean Wickum's house and was donated by the Faulks. It is being used to store things needed for Fellowship Time.

Church Directory Update

Please make the following changes in your copy of the 2016 church directory.

Jean Syler

Willow Brook at Delaware Run

100 Delaware Crossing West
Assisted Living #148
Delaware, OH 43015

World Mission Offering

A big "thank you" goes out to our congregation for your generous support of the World Mission Offering in October. With your help we were able to reach our goal of \$700. Way to go First Baptist!!!

- Pam Faulk

Personals

- Jean Syler has recently moved to Willowbrook. Her new address is below.
- Claire Turner took first place in a recent equestrian event.
- On October 30, Ellen and Dave Brown attended morning worship with us.
- Ken Shears has expressed his appreciation to everyone who sent him mail on his recent Honor Flight. He is thankful for being able to participate in the Honor Flight for 100 Purple Heart recipients.
- A big thank you to David Harris, Debbie Fogle, and the Youth Group for a fun Halloween Party,
- Dave and Mary Lou Lovell vacationed for a week in Florida.
- Randy Turner recently performed in Arena Faire's production of "The Caine Mutiny."
- Aidan Ferguson recently performed in Dempsey's production of "The Lion King Jr."
- A big thank you to Debbie Fogle, Mary Lou Lovell, and Erin Faulk for a fun Pink Piggy Party!
- In November our congregation sent out 10 "care packages" to our college students.

Thank You

We recently received the following thank you note from Bonnie Ristau on behalf of

PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

15 Years Ago

Dec 2001 Newsletter

John Linn, 83, a lifelong resident of Delaware and a member of First Baptist, died in November. A veteran of World War II, he worked as a drafting engineer.

35 Years Ago

Dec. 1981 Newsletter

Now I lay me down to sleep,
The minister'a begun to speak.
If he should end before I wake,
Then nudge me quick, for
Heaven's sake!



Common Ground.

To our friends at First Baptist, We would like to thank you for your recent donation to Common Ground's fundraiser. With your support, the Free Store surpassed its goal for the event and continues to serve the Delaware community- making a difference in the lives of many. Thank you so much for your continuing partnership.

Mission/Outreach News

We welcome Candy Lee to our Mission/Outreach Team.

The youth hosted the Halloween party on Oct. 30th. What fun everyone had bobbing for apples, wrapping up Gabe and Brennan in toilet paper as mummies, eating donuts off a swinging string, and a scavenger hunt.

Many creative and delicious snacks were enjoyed. Thanks to David and the youth group for your planning to make it a success!

On Oct. 30th at 2 p.m. Dr. Allison led a worship service at Willow Brook. Will Fogle played violin and Mary Lou Lovell accompanied the hymns on the keyboard.

9 members from our church attended.

A Pink Piggy Party was held on Nov. 12th. Thanks to Erin Faulk and Deb Fogle for planning and leading it. Thanks to Deb for making the dessert. Thanks to Pam Faulk for providing prizes. All who attended had fun!

Eight pies were provided for Andrews House meal on Nov. 11th. Thanks to all who gave money for the pies.

Several members of the congregation attended the community pre-election night service at William St. Church. Dr. Allison was on the planning committee and participated in the candlelight service. Beautiful music and very inspiring to unify our community.

Our Thanksgiving offering was given to the " People In Need " organization. This will benefit them as the Holiday Clearing House is in December.

Delaware Community Coalition hosted an event at the Delaware City Vineyard Church which included a Gospel concert, cook out, and watching the OSU vs. Nebraska game.

Our congregation is invited to attend the events that bring our city together in fellowship.

Panera pick up continues each Thursday. If you have not had a opportunity to be part of this ministry, talk with Pat Gosser. It only requires a short amount of time on Thurs. night beginning at 8:45 (picking up unsold items) and wrapping the pastries and breads. The items are delivered on Fri. morning at 8:45 a.m. to Andrews House to be distributed in the community. If you would like to help with any part of this, talk with Pat Gosser. Thanks to all for their commitment to this ministry.

We are now collecting items for youth(4 in one family) (information provided by Jobs and Family Services) for Christmas. The wish list is in the sanctuary. Items purchased are to be brought to the church unwrapped by Dec. 4th. Let's help to make this a special Christmas for them.

In December we collect the Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering.

Andrews House Christmas Cupboard is Sat., Dec. 3rd from 9 a.m. -2 p.m.

If you enjoy baking, Christmas cookies are needed for their cookie sale. Many dozens of cookies are needed. If you want to donate homemade cookies, you may deliver them to Andrews House on Dec. 12th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

If you attend the Christmas Cupboard event there will be an auction and you may buy a box and fill it with as many cookies as will fit in the box. Great for having a variety

for entertaining!

On Friday, Dec. 2nd at 7 p.m. there will be a tree lighting at Andrews House. You can make a donation to have a light lit on the tree, with the donation going to Andrews House.

Holiday Clearing House 2016 will be at the Delaware County Fair Grounds. If you would like to pack food for a family, the packing time will be

Sat., Dec. 10th from 9 a.m. -12:00 noon. See David Harris for details. There will be a group going from First Baptist.

January Mission Focus will be donating items to " Family Promise ".

Mark your calendar for the next Mission/Outreach Meeting on January 22nd at 2 p.m. We will be planning for 2017. Come join us and bring your ideas!

We are planning the Second Annual "Songs and Soup" Event. We will gather in our beautiful sanctuary for singing of carols and Christmas songs followed by a bowl of delicious homemade soup in the fellowship hall. There is a sign up sheet in the gathering room for you to list the kind of soup that you would like to provide. Last year we had a wonderful variety of kinds of soup; so delicious!

Invite family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy the season with us.

Let Mary Lou Lovell know if you would like a ride (740-369-6041).

- Mary Lou Lovell

Second Annual Songs and Soup December 11, 2016

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Foster Children Holiday Wishes

If you haven't contributed to the JFS Foster Children's wish lists, you have until Sunday, Dec 4th to do so. We encourage you to donate items to make their Christmas a joyous occasion. Toys, clothes, and gift cards (Walmart, Target, Meijer) or money to buy gifts are welcomed.

Thanks for Pies

Thanks to those who donated money for the pumpkin pies for the recent Andrews House 2nd Friday meal. They were appreciated. Thanks,

- Larry Faulk

Pictures Still Needed

If you haven't gotten your picture taken for the 2017 church directory yet, there is still an opportunity to do so. Please see me any Sunday in December and I will arrange to take your picture. We would like to have all updated photos for the directory. Thanks,

- Larry Faulk

Delaware Musicians

Here are the Delaware Musicians upcoming Holiday Concert Dates:

- Dec 5th Dempsey Choir Concert 6:30 pm
- Dec 6th Hayes Orchestra Concert 7 pm
- Dec 7th Dempsey Orchestra Concert 7 pm
- Dec 14th Hayes Choir Concert 7pm

**all concerts are at Hayes Performing Arts Center

Please come and support our student members at their concerts. The music is amazing and will add to your Christmas spirit!!

- Debbie Lovell

Youth

The Youth will be participating the **FAMILY FOOD PACKING DAY** on Saturday, December 10th from 9am-noon for PIN. We are going to meet at 8:45 am to get in line early to help pack the food. Anyone who is interested in helping out, come join us!

- Debbie Lovell



Christmas Eve
SERVICE