

Good News Letter

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Advent refers to the moment before something happens, the time right before the kickoff at a football game or the first pitch in a baseball game. It is the moment after the lights go down but before the curtain comes up. It is a time of expectation when everyone stops what they are doing in order to pay close attention to whatever is about to happen. Once the game begins or the music starts, there can be a sense of ease; spectators can be distracted by other things, but with Advent comes full attention.

In the Christian faith we observe Advent as the time just before the celebration of Christ's birth. It serves not only as a way to celebrate the meaning of Christmas in its season, but also to prepare our hearts to see God's presence in the world, in our lives, to point to Christ's return at the end of the age.

Advent is hopeful because, by God's mercy, we are led to apprehend the presence of God in the birth of a child rather than the advances of a conqueror with an army or a judge on a judgment seat or in some other way. We are encouraged to nurture faith, love, compassion, peace, and joy. The birth of Jesus focuses our attention of God's mercy and love, which is given to us through the Incarnation, Forgiveness, and Resurrection.

Though every season of the year is a time to repent, to seek to grow faith and love; it is especially

December



at Advent that we can stop what we are doing to pay close attention to these things. I found the following prayer, attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, to be helpful even though I am sure it is not an Advent prayer, but it applies to this season because of its unselfishness and humility. Perhaps some of you may also find it helpful:

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is dark, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.”

I pray that all of you will have a holy and blessed season of Advent and a wonderful Christmas.

Blessings
-Mark

From Our Pastoral Intern

It is a blessing to be able to say that we have made it to the last month of another year. 2017 has been full of highs and lows both within our personal and church lives. We have celebrated, cried, laughed, and experienced the full spectrum of emotions. We have also experienced worship and fellowship in new ways as well, ways that we anticipate will lead us forward into the uncharted waters of 2018.

During the month of December, the youth will be very active inside and outside of the church. On the morning of December 9th, the youth will be participating in the PIN Packing Day at the county fairgrounds. On December 17th, the youth will participate in their final ecumenical visit of the calendar year when we will worship with the congregation of St. Peter's Episcopal Church during their 10:30 AM worship service. At 6:30 PM that evening, the youth will gather and discuss their experience. On the evening of December 21st, the youth will gather for their annual Christmas party at Pastor Mark's house.

Blessings and Peace,
-David L. Harris, Jr.

**Andrews House
Christmas Cupboard &
Silent Auction**

Saturday, Dec. 2nd
39 West William St.
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Calling All Bakers

Andrews House needs baked goods for their Christmas Cupboard. If you like to bake, this is an opportunity for you to share your special Christmas items for the fund raiser. For this event LOTS OF COOKIES are needed, as well as decorated cakes, buckeyes, small loaves of bread, jam and jellies.

If you would like to bake a batch or 2 of your favorite Christmas treats, bring them to Andrews House any time between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. on Friday, December 1st. For more information you can go to andrewshouse.org. If you want to bake and need someone to take the items to Andrews House on Friday, contact Mary Lou Lovell 740-369-6041.

Not A Baker?

You can attend the Christmas Cupboard and Silent Auction on Saturday, Dec. 3rd from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Lights of Love

Lights of Love is a way of expressing your appreciation for those you love and cherish while providing hope and help to those less fortunate in our community. For a \$10 donation, you can light a light on the tree at Andrews House during First Friday, downtown, on Friday, Dec. 2nd from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Soup and Sing

Our third annual SOUP AND SING will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16th at 4 p.m. We will gather in the sanctuary to sing Christmas Carols and then enjoy your favorite homemade soups and have fellowship time.

Check the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place to make sure you get the chance to make a crockpot of your favorite soup. As we did last year, we will donate any leftover soup to the Warming Center at Zion UCC.

We are inviting the congregations of Second Baptist, Zion UCC, and Central Community Baptist Church to join us. Bring family and friends to share in the Christmas season!

People In Need

Nonperishable food items will be collected in the box in the Welcome Center. The items will be taken to People In Need. On Saturday, Dec. 9th, items will be packed in bags at the Delaware County Fair Grounds Coliseum for those in need. All are invited to join the Youth Group to pack. Packing begins at 9 a.m..

Volunteers For December

Kid Connection

Dec 3- Beth Trigg / Gabe Fogle
Dec 10- Pam Faulk /
Aidan Ferguson
Dec 17-Adult volunteer needed /
Hannah Nace
Dec 24- Candy Lee / Will Fogle
Dec 31- Adult volunteer needed /
Colin Ferguson

Fellowship Time

Dec 3- Lovells
Dec 10- Please sign up
Dec 17- Please sign up
Dec 24- Please sign up
Dec 31- Please sign up

Panera Pick-Up

There are no volunteers yet for this month. Please sign up.

There are new sign-up sheets out for the winter quarter and there are many blank spaces. There is also a sign-up sheet for rides for David Harris. We thank you all for volunteering your time and energies to these important parts of our church life. We welcome more sign-ups!

Thank you all for volunteering

Prayer List

This list is prepared by the Deacons.
Please send changes to Larry Faulk (lfaulk01@aol.com).

Name

Tim Chesser
Alvin Cox
Dr. Ernest Jones
Richard Lovell
Ken Peterson
Ben Geary
Kilhefner Family

Reason for Prayer

Heart Surgery Recovery
Health Issues
Health Issues
Health Issues
Health Issues
Pending Surgery
Brother's Health Issue

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

Personals

• Genevieve Peterson celebrated her 90th birthday. You can see pictures on the bulletin board in the Gathering Place.

• Ken Peterson was recently featured in a story about veterans in the Willowbrook magazine.

• Thanks to all the youth who planned such a fun Halloween party this year.

• David Harris recently presented his paper on music and social movements in Toronto, Canada.

• Beth and Archie Trigg took a trip to Ireland in October.

• Linda White gave a demonstration on making paper books at the Arts Castle.

• Randy Turner appeared in the Arena Faire production of HAIRSPRAY last month.

• Linda White's mother celebrated her 100th birthday in November. Congratulations to Mrs. Seckman!

• Will Fogle was on the Hayes Honor Roll for the first term. Congratulations Will!

• Pam and Larry Faulk took a cruise through the Panama Canal in November.

• Randy Turner was elected to the Buckeye Valley Schools Board of Education in November.

• Deb Guebert thanks all who supported her in her run for the Delaware Schools Board of Education.

• Randy Turner helped with the recent Dempsey production of PETER PAN JR.

• Please be in prayer for Ben Geary. He will be having surgery in December.

• Jeff Faulk and his family visited during Thanksgiving week.

• Pastor Mark's sons visited for Thanksgiving.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



December

- 4 Erin Faulk
Jim Snyder
- 8 Phyllis Beasley
- 11 Hannah Nace
- 12 Samuel Allison
- 13 Geneva Evans
- 17 Pat Gosser
- 25 Carol Grubbs
- 27 Cory Lawrence
Jim & Jane Snyder
- 28 Sharon Baker
- 29 Harold & Deb
VanBroekhoven

Please report any errors.

Christmas Offering

The Christmas offerings in the special envelopes will go to Andrews House this year.

Brothers All

ALL men, young and older-come and sing!

We are preparing a song for the Christmas Eve Service.

Rehearsals scheduled:
 November 26 6:30 p.m.
 Dec. 3 6:30 p.m.
 Dec. 10 6:30 p.m.
 Dec. 17 6:30 p.m.

Holiday Wish Program

FBC is again sponsoring gifts through the Holiday Wish Program of Jobs and Family Services. This year we are sponsoring 3 children; Windi (6 months), Chase (age 7), and Edward (age 16). Wish lists can be found on the bulletin board in the sanctuary.

Please consider helping to fulfill a wish or two. Gifts do not need to be wrapped, just labeled as to which child. We will need to have all gifts at the church by Sunday, December 10.

Thank you for your contributions.
-Larry Faulk

Ladies Christmas Luncheon

On Saturday, December 9 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. the ladies will have a special Christmas luncheon in the Fellowship Hall at church. We will be serving sandwiches, and we ask that you bring the salads and desserts.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place. Please sign up if you will be attending and the number of guests you will have. If you can bring a salad and/or dessert, please sign up for that also. We will also be having a white elephant gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift if you want to participate.

Please join us for food, games, gift exchange, and lots of wonderful fellowship! Hopefully, you will enjoy it so much, it will be our first annual Ladies Christmas Luncheon.

-Candy Lee

RMMO

As we prepare for the 2017 Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO), please take a moment to reflect on our theme for this year, "Generous Congregations."

Helping those in need is one of the major themes of the Bible and of Jesus's ministry. The prophet Isaiah reminds us, "But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity." Generosity is central to our faith. As Christians, we are called to serve and care for others, and RMMO aligns with the collective spirit of love that inspires us all to honor the devotion of ministers and their families for their service to the church.

Since RMMO began in 1977, it has helped provide much needed thank you checks to retired ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses and families- those who have dedicated their lives to God's service. In 2016 RMMO raised \$1,059,444, and more than 3,443 checks were distributed to recipients and their families.

Members of our own church family who will receive a thank you check this year are Sophia Stephenson, Ken and Genevieve Peterson, Alvin and Bev Cox, Harold and Deb VanBroekhoven, Tim and Kathy Chesser, and Ellen and Dave Brown, thanks to your generosity. I urge you to share God's abundance and do all you can to support this worthy cause during the month of December. Our goal is \$700.

-Pam Faulk

Delaware Community Chorus

"Caroling Around the World," this year's Delaware Community Chorus's concert, is aimed to please all who attend, featuring music from around the world.

The concerts will take place on December 17 at 3:00 and 5:00 at Asbury United Methodist Church, 55 West Lincoln Street. Tickets are \$10 from chorus members, at the door, and online at <http://www.delawarechorus.org>.

These programs often sell out early, so advance ticket purchase is recommended. We hope you will be able to join us for an afternoon of song!

Thank You Notes

Thanks to all of you who brought in change for our CHANGE FOR CHANGE offering. Your coins added up to \$219 which will go to the Delaware Summer Lunch program for children.

-Pam Faulk

What a special celebration we had for my birthday! A beautiful tree was planted in the lawn near Ken's 90th birthday tree. Family members came for the dedication ceremony prepared by our neighbor Bill McCartney. Meaningful gifts, cards, phone calls, modern technology messages: each added to the joy of this event. Thank you for being an important part of my life!

-Genevieve Peterson

I can't tell you how surprised I was to receive the lovely Prayer Shawl. Just to say thank you doesn't seem enough, but I do thank you very much. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and concern for me.

-Carol Serviss

Third Annual Soup & Sing

Sunday, Dec. 16th
4 p.m.



Your love has strengthened us these past several months as we have dealt with Alvin's cancer. Your prayers, calls, cards, visits, genuine concern and caring has encouraged us, especially during difficult days. Thank you and keep being faithful to His calling. Our love in Christ

-Alvin and Bev Cox

What a lovely place of worship you have- the stained glass windows caught our eye right away. This was a first- time visit for some of us. Thank you for your friendly, helpful people who had to help us navigate your space. The carry-in lunch was so beautifully presented and tasted even better. Thank you for the extra time you all had to take to be host to Rev. Emerson and Ivy Wu and Sarah McCurdy. We are a mission-minded church and we were happy to share the words they had to present. God was surely present that day and all were blessed. Thank you for sharing with us.

-Joyce Waggsmon,

Missions Treasurer and Central Community Baptist Church



(continued on back of calendar)

Dear Friends at First Baptist,

Thanks so much for your faithful gifts each month. These funds go directly to helping those in need of emergency help, especially when other agencies are closed- medicine, a night's lodging until a shelter bed can be located, or a bus ticket to a doctor's appointment or job interview. Your kind generosity is making a tremendous difference- again a heartfelt thanks.

With warm regards,
-Sue Hanson,
Director of Helpline

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$450 to People in Need, Inc. of Delaware County (PIN). Your gift will help us continue our mission of providing emergency assistance to families and individuals throughout Delaware County during their time of need. Delaware County is one of the fastest growing counties in Ohio... At the same time, we have seen an increase in the need for basic human services. In 2007 PIN provided emergency assistance to 9,081 residents.

During fiscal year 2017, we served more than 21,400 and the need continues to rise. Your gift allows us to continue providing emergency assistance with rent, utilities, prescriptions, medical appliances, eyeglasses, and dental treatment. We can also provide school shoes and supplies, food and sundries to the residents of Delaware County who are in need of assistance.

On behalf of all of us at PIN, thank you again for your gift. We value the trust you have placed in us as stewards of your support. Serving those in need,
-Randy Bournique,
Associate Director PIN

Editors Note:

FBC gives gives to both HelpLine and PIN as part of our monthly missions through the benevolence fund.