

Good News Letter

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As I write, it is the middle of January and a bitterly cold winter. Epiphany came on January 6, and we are now in what is called the Time After Epiphany until Valentine's Day, when Lent begins on February 14. The tradition at FBC Delaware is to have a Bible study as a part of our Lenten observance. This year the study will begin on February 18, at 6:30 pm and run for five Sundays until March 18.

The topic is the Gospel of Mark. Widely believed to be the earliest gospel, it is also the shortest of the four. It has no birth narratives and less teaching material than the other three, and an interesting question about the ending, which has led some to believe there were no resurrection appearances in the gospel when first written.

Just learning about the Gospel of Mark is an interesting study, but our study will also focus on theological themes that distinguish Mark from the others. In addition to these theological concerns is the way the gospel involves the reader by inviting each to put ourselves in the story.

"The stories of Jesus are familiar to most of us; we could easily think that we are finished gleaning any new wisdom from them. The good news is that this living story, with its living characters, is never finished with us. Just when we think we have heard it all before, we find a passage that challenges us.

February

We turn a page and hear our own voice mingled with those of the disciples around the table who ask Jesus, 'It is me?' We read about the woman anointing Jesus with oil and wonder what extravagant gifts we give because we love God. Each time we encounter this Gospel, Christ confronts us with the opportunity to find a path forever new to us, and follow him on it" (from the accompanying study guide). Anyone wanting to have a study guide, only needs to let me know. The cost is \$4.

Our study will begin with an introduction on February 18. Then the next four Sundays will focus on the various sets of characters found in the gospel story; would-be disciples, religious authorities, surprising saints, and Jesus himself. I look forward to the chance to learn something new and to see something in the gospel story that I have never seen before.

I should mention that part of the reason I have chosen the Smyth and Helwys study guide is because it is written by a seminary colleague of mine, and the commentary that was written to accompany the guide was authored by one of my seminary professors. Preparing for this study is almost like a reunion.

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

Blessings,
-Mark

From Our Pastoral Intern

Can you believe that the first month of 2018 has already gone by? I cannot believe it either. As there are still some Christmas trees and holiday lights which still stand, the feeling of the holiday season is quickly transitioning from Advent and toward Lent. This Lenten season is of course unique, as we begin on Valentine's Day and, in a couple of weeks, will celebrate the Risen Christ on April 1st. But as we once again prepare to think about what our Lenten devotionals and promises will be for this year, let us truly make ourselves more open to the love that we will begin the season with, and the love that will mark the season's end.

During the month of February, the youth will continue their ecumenical church visit by returning to Zion UCC to celebrate in the Lenten season. The youth will also partake in a Lenten study which will focus on some of the lesser known women figures within the Biblical texts.

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

**Birthdays
and
Anniversaries**



February

- 2 Elizabeth Bowman
- Cynthia Tizzano
- 4 Candy Lee
- 13 Lana Palmer
- 15 Deborah VanBroekhoven
- 24 Emilie Showalter

Please report any errors.

Volunteers For February

Kid Connection

- Feb 4 Beth Trigg /
 Will Fogle
- Feb 11 Deb Fogle /
 Colin Ferguson
- Feb 18 Candy Lee /
 Bowen Nace
- Feb 25 Pam Faulk /
 Gabe Folge

Fellowship Time

- Feb 4 Lovells
- Feb 11 Faulks
- Feb 18 Jeanne Ekelberry
- Feb 25 Candy Lee

Panera Pick-Up

- Feb 1 Scott Nace
- Feb 8 Jeanne Ekelberry
- Feb 15 Fogles
- Feb 22 Faulks

Rides for David Harris

- Feb 4 Lovells
- Feb 11 Open -please volunteer
- Feb 18 Open -please volunteer
- Feb 25 Open -please volunteer

**Thank you all for volunteering.
There are new sign-up sheets
in the Gathering Place.**

Save Your Change

Please remember that Daylight Saving Time will be here before we know it, and that means another Change for Change offering. Please, please, please, hold onto all your loose change for that offering. If you do not wish to keep it, you can bring it to church and put it in the jar in the Welcome Center and I will hold onto it for you.

-Pam Faulk

Mission / Outreach News

In January our focus was to provide soup for those in the Place of Warmth at Zion UCC Church.

We also collected items for Family Promise; laundry soap, dish soap, toilet paper, paper towels and shampoo. Thanks to all who filled the box! \$100.00 will be sent to Family Promise.

Some of our congregation attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. service at 3 p.m. on Jan. 14th. at Zion AME Church.

On Jan. 15th, 5 people from First Baptist attended the Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast at OWU. It was a good opportunity to join with others in our community to think about Dr. King's message.

Delaware Coalition will meet on Jan. 28th at 6:30 p.m. at Delaware Christian Church.

Dr. Allison will be participating. It is an opportunity to unite with others in community to worship the Lord.

The next meeting is Feb. 18 at 1:30 p.m. Come and join us. Bring ideas to reach out to others in the community.

-Mary Lou Lovell

February Acrostic

I took a few minutes to think about the word FEBRUARY as Lent begins in February. I decided to think of a word for each letter of the word. Here is my list.

F food- bring one item of food for People In Need

E evaluate my priorities

B believe

R read the Bible

U unite with others in the community

A attend the Lenten Bible Study

R reach out to someone to let them know you care

Y youth - learn something new about our youth

Take a few minutes and list the letters of February and see what additions in your life you want to make.

-Mary Lou Lovell

**Brothers All
Practice**

Feb 4, 11, & 25
at 1:30 p.m.

THANK YOU

A huge thank you goes out to our congregation for your generosity. Our Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering in December totaled \$797!

Personals

• Pastor Mark traveled to Missouri for a few days last month, due to his father's ill health. His father is now home from the hospital and recovering.

• Ben Geary has been undergoing radiation treatment and also suffered a severe case of the flu.

• On January 21 our congregation presented Ben with a prayer shawl.

• Dave Lovell slipped on the ice and suffered bruises and a cut on his hand.

• Carol Grubbs fell down several steps at home and suffered bruises.

• Pastor Mark had an article in the Jan 26 edition of the Delaware Gazette titled "If You Don't Have Anything Nice to Say."

• Ben Geary recently celebrated his 95th birthday. Congratulations Ben!

• We received word from her daughter that former member Geneva Evans died on December 29 from cancer

Attention All Women

We had to cancel our January lunch because of bad weather, but we are hoping for a good turnout at our February lunch.

The Women's Fellowship will gather at the Delaware Bob Evans at 11:30 on Saturday, February 10. Call someone and invite them.

If you need a ride, call Pam Faulk, MaryLou Lovell, or Deb Guebert. Come and have a good time and good fellowship.

A Few Words About Panera

When the Panera opened in Delaware a few years ago, our church was the first group to volunteer to make use of their donations. Panera gives away all unsold product at the end of every day. Various organizations volunteer to pick up these breads, pastries, and bagels and distribute them to various places in the community. We volunteered for the Thursday-night pick-up with the plan to give our donations to Andrews House.

Andrews House provides several free community meals each month and makes use of the baked goods for the meals and in their "bread room" where items are selected to take home. They also use the bread with the summer lunch program to make sandwiches for the parents who come with their children for a free lunch. Bread items are also placed on a table for the children to take home from these lunches.

We are the only organization in Delaware that is giving Panera donations to Andrews House. Without our help they would not get any. We thank everyone who

helps with this, but lately, the number of Panera volunteers has dwindled.

We could use more help with this vital project. It is not hard to do, and there are church members who would be willing to show someone new how to do it. All supplies are provided. You simply show up at Panera around 8:45 on Thursday night and tell them you are there for the donations. We have 2 plastic bins to bring in for them to put all the pastries in. They will put all the bread and bagels in big trash bags. You then take these home and put the items into bags with a twist-tie and then into big bins which are provided. The next morning you deliver the bins to Andrews House between 8:30 and 9:00.

If you feel you cannot do this by yourself, there are others who would be willing to help you with it. If you feel you cannot do this at home, you could use the church's fellowship hall. If you have a problem getting it to Andrews House on Friday morning because of work or school, you could call Larry Faulk or Pastor Mark and leave the bins at church and they will deliver them. Please consider helping with this valuable mission.

Prayer List

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

Name	Reason for Prayer
Alvin Cox	Health Issues
Dr. Ernest Jones	Health Issues
Richard Lovell	Health Issues
Ken Peterson	Health Issues
Ben Geary	Health Issues
Kilhefner Family	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!

Pancake Supper

All are invited to join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Feb 13th at 6 p.m. The menu includes pancakes, waffles, sausage, fruit, and Dave Lovell's famous blueberry syrup. The meal is free. Just bring a friend and your appetite. There will be an opportunity to share your talents with a reading, a skit, a song, a poem, or such. Come and join in an evening of food, fun, and fellowship.



Lenten Bible Study

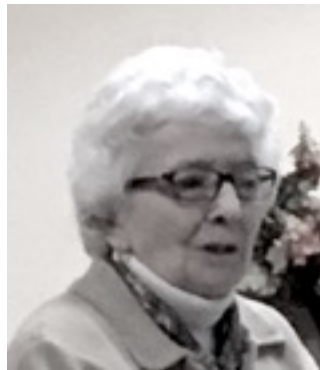
Dr. Allison will lead a Lenten Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark on Sunday evenings for five weeks, Feb 18th thru March 18th. at 6:30 p.m. There is additional information in Mark's article on page one.



Special Prayer Request

Please be in prayer for Dr. Ernest Jones. Dr. Jones is our Executive Minister of American Baptist Churches of Ohio. He will be taking a Medical Leave of Absence from his duties beginning Thursday, January 18, 2018, due to his current health situation. We encourage you to uplift, encourage and pray for Dr. Jones and Denise during this time.

Please send cards or letters of encouragement to the office at 136 N. Galway Drive, Granville, Ohio 43023



Author Moore Visits Library

Jane Corder Moore Snyder made a presentation at the Delaware Library on Wednesday evening, Jan 24 on her book: "Enlarge My Territory: A Love Story". She described her life after a devastating auto accident that left her husband Jimmie a paraplegic. Through her book, she shares her faith as she sees Jimmie through his rehabilitation to his passing.

Many from First Baptist were able to attend the presentation and share in her story. The title is a quote from 1 Chronicles 4:10.

Game Night Mark Your Calendar

All are invited to a Game Night at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 3rd in the fellowship hall. Bring a favorite board game and a snack to share. Join us for an evening of fun and games.

