

Good News Letter

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A CALL TO PRAYER

There is a contemporary Christian song, which says,

*When God's people pray,
And take the pains of earth to the
doors of heaven.
When God's people pray,
There is hope reborn, there is sin
forgiven.
And miracles you can't explain
await,
When God' people pray.*

It's not that prayer always changes things but it always changes us. Prayer is not something we've been given in order to twist God's arm. Nor is it a way of convincing God to see things from our viewpoint. Prayer is not optional on our spiritual checklist. It is not a duty; it is a necessity.

The disciples didn't ask Jesus to teach them how to lay hands on people, heal the sick, raise the dead, walk on water or even how to deal with the Pharisees. They asked the Lord to teach them to pray.

The greatest failure of Peter, James and John is summarized in the words, "Could you not watch and pray with me one hour!" Those who are too busy to pray will be too busy to live a life of worth. Other duties become pressing and crowd out prayer. Paying attention to our responsibilities is good, but we are sometimes so consumed by them that they crowd out what is most important. (Read the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42.)

It seems that it's easier to do anything in the church than to pray. It's easier to serve, sing, preach,

teach, work in the kitchen or...you name it! It's not that we should stop doing these things and just pray but, rather, we must pray and then do these things or our ministries will lack power.

We, as individuals and as a church, are only as strong as our prayer ministry. *Units of pray combined, like drops of water, make an ocean that defies resistance* (E.M. Bounds.) Prayer is a privilege given to us. It is a spiritual discipline that no Christian or church can do without.



In the coming months, let us resolve to be, more than ever, a praying people. Every meeting we have should be bathed in prayer. I'd also like to challenge the Parish Council to plan a 12-hour Prayer Vigil sometime between now and Easter. Each of us would have the opportunity to sign up for a 30-minute timeslot in which to come to the sanctuary and pray. In a 12 hour time period, we could have 24 individuals or more praying for our church as we seek God's will and leading in the days ahead.

Let me suggest a few areas each one of us can be lifting up in prayer.

• This time of transition as we continue to be the church in our community.

- Our church leaders and ministry boards.
- Wisdom as we work to provide a solid Christian foundation for our children and youth.
- The Pastoral Search Committee for wisdom and clarity in identifying, first, potential pastoral candidates and, ultimately, God's candidate for our church.
- The leading of the Holy Spirit as we continue to seek new ways to reach out in our community.
- The upcoming Church Health and Growth Workshop that we might have open ears, eyes, hearts and minds.
- Our Lenten Bible Study as we walk the road to Calvary and the empty tomb.
- The many circles of connection we have with organizations in our community and our ongoing support of them.
- Our continued growth as individual disciples of Jesus.
- The wider family in ABC of Ohio and ABC-USA.
- The global family of God.
- The great need in our communities, nation and the world.

The end of the song says, "No, He will not turn away when His people pray."

Will you join me in praying?

Pastor Ellen



Lenten Opportunities

We are offering two very meaningful opportunities for the congregation during Lent.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

First is a Lenten Devotional that will guide you, day-by-day, through the 40 days leading up to Easter. This PDF file can be downloaded at:

<http://tinyurl.com/o76nu48>

Please download this PDF and save it to your computer, or bookmark the URL.

The link will also be posted at our church's website.

If you do not have computer access, please talk to one of our Deacons to obtain a printed copy.

The journal begins on Wednesday, February 18 and goes through Easter Sunday.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

In our Lenten Bible Study, *Jesus' Final Week*, we will be looking at the last week of Jesus life here on earth. The study will begin on Tuesday, February 10. There will definitely be an evening Bible study from 6:30-7:30 p.m. However, if there is a need, Pastor Ellen will also offer one on Tuesday afternoons. So far, no one has indicated they can only come in the daytime.

All are welcome to attend as many weeks as possible. Please check the yellow *Get Connected* slip on Sunday mornings to indicate your interest and to help plan for materials.

Here are the dates and topics of the Bible Study.

Feb. 10	Introduction and Triumphant Entry
Feb. 17	NO Bible Study due to the Pancake Supper
Feb. 24	Clearing the Temple

March 3	Plot to Betray
March 10	Betrayal and Arrest
March 17	Trial: Part 1
March 24	Trial: Part 2
March 31	Crucifixion
April 7	Resurrection

Search Committee Update

Thanks to all who have participated in the Connections, History, and Core Value events as well as the Demographic and Pastoral Needs surveys. The information gathered from these activities have enabled the search committee to begin to assemble our Church Profile. The Profile is a comprehensive document which introduces prospective pastoral candidates to our church - Who we are, What we believe, What we need, expect, and envision in a new pastor.

We have registered to attend a regional "Face To Face" event Feb. 27 & 28 in Indiana. The event is an opportunity to interview up to 10 potential pastors.

– *The Search Committee*



Church Health & Growth Workshop

Dr. Jeff Woods, Associate General Secretary for Regional Ministries of ABC-USA, will be leading a workshop for us on February 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon in the Fellowship Hall. Dr. Woods, will draw from his involvement on the "Pulpit and Pew" project as well as numerous research papers presented at the Religious Research Association over the last

few decades in order to respond to questions such as:

- What are the marks of a healthy church?
- What is the number one concern of congregations?
- How do congregations engage their communities and neighborhoods?
- Who is healthier – larger or smaller congregations?
- How does location influence a congregations' ability to grow?
- What type of member is more likely to invite their neighbor to church?
- What are the factors that enhance and inhibit church growth?
- Where do we go from here?

Please plan to attend this very important time of discovery as we continue to move into the future. You can indicate your participation on the yellow *Get Connected* slip any upcoming Sunday.

February Mission Emphasis: Restart

Frances Jo Hamilton, the President and Founder of *Restart*, will be with us on Sunday, February 8 for worship and will be bringing the morning message.



She has a background in youth ministry with the United Methodist Church, has taught pre-school and special education and is currently employed in the non-profit sector as the Executive Director of Main Street Delaware.

Frances has a heart for prisoner reentry and started her own non-profit organization, *ReStart — A Work Release Advocacy Program*, in Delaware County to assist female offenders in their reentry into the

work force following incarceration. She also serves on the board for the Ecumenical Youth Council and the Delaware County Community Market and is an active community volunteer.

You don't want to miss this dynamic young woman tell about this much needed program in our community.

Senior Fellowship Group

All those interested in discussing the formation of a fellowship group for our senior adults, plan on staying for a meeting on Sunday, Feb. 1 during the Fellowship Time after worship.



Teen Youth Group

The TEEN youth group is going to start meeting every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the youth room. If you are in the teen youth classes, please come and share and have fun! More information to come about topics and projects.



Thank You

Dear Friends of First Baptist,

Thank you!. Pam (Faulk) forwarded to us a wonderful check from your Sunday school classes. Those monies will help provide lunch snacks and after-school treats for the children.

Sincere Thanks,

– Beth, Staff and Board of Family Promise

(This is the money that was collected during the Change-your-Clock-Bring-

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
The Deacons	Carol Serviss	Surgery recovery
	Alvin & Bev Cox's Granddaughter	Chemotherapy for Hodgkins
	Don Elliott	Health issues
	Ken Frische	Surgery recovery
	Christina Kilhefner	Transplant recovery
	Bertha Van Brimmer	Health issues
	Penny Hagaman	Health issues
	Steve Baker	Health issues
	Bora Porter (Janet's daughter)	A patient at Childrens' Hospital
	Betty Porter	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!

your- Change-to-Church Sunday. We will be doing this again on March 8 when we begin Daylight Savings Time. We will once again be collecting coins of all denominations to give to a local organization to help eliminate childhood hunger. Please remember to be saving up all your change for that Sunday.)

ABC/Ohio Leadership Conference

The annual ABC/Ohio Leadership Conference is being offered at the Karl Road Baptist Church in Columbus on March 20–21 (Friday and Saturday).

Friday is primarily for pastors, seminary, and Leadership Academy students.

Saturday sessions are open to any church member, but especially to those who have leadership positions.

The theme is "Making Friends, Making Disciples," in order to create community, create disciples, and create growth. The keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer, Executive

Minister American Baptist Churches of New Jersey.

The cost for Saturday only is \$65 which includes lunch. Registration is due by February 27. After Feb. 27 the cost is \$70 and may not include lunch.

Please speak to Pam Faulk if you are interested in attending. There is money in the budget to help pay for some of this, depending on how many wish to go.

Volunteers for February

I want to thank the teens for volunteering to help with Kid Connection each Sunday. We feel it is important to have two people available. We still need adult volunteers for a few dates. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Gathering Place.

Volunteers For Kid Connection

- Jan. 25 Lana Palmer / Claire Turner
- Feb. 1 Carol Grubbs / Aidan Ferguson
- Feb. 8 Jennifer Turner / Alec Ferguson
- Feb. 15 Pat Gosser / Will Fogle
- Feb. 22 Pam Faulk / Colin Ferguson

Volunteers For Sunday School Opening

- Feb. 1 Pam Faulk
- Feb. 8 Ellen Brown
- Feb. 15 Ann Brown
- Feb. 22 Pat Gosser

– Pam Faulk

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

All are invited to join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Feb. 17th at 6 p.m. Please note the time change from previous years. The menu includes pancakes, waffles, sausage, fruit, and especially blueberry syrup. Plan to share food and fellowship. There will also be an opportunity to share your talents with a reading, a skit, a song, a poem, or such.



Security Issue

Due to some security risks, the Board of Deacons have requested that the Trustees lock the side and back doors during our worship services.

Once worship begins it will be necessary to enter the church through the front doors or have someone open the door if outdoor access to the elevator is needed.

We apologize for any inconvenience this creates in order to safeguard our facilities.

– Board of Deacons

Personals

- Chad Myford was recently in the Emergency Room for some medication issues.
- Carol Serviss is recovering from cancer surgery on her ear.

- Harold Van Broekhoven has sold his house in Delaware and has moved to Tucker, Georgia (near Atlanta). You can find his address in the church directory.
- Jennifer Turner fell and broke a bone in her foot.

– Pam Faulk, Personals Editor

Five Years Ago

February 2010 Newsletter

Shirley Parker, 90, a longtime member of First Baptist, died on January 18.

Twenty Years Ago

February 1995 Newsletter

Michael Mercer was born. Hospital patients included John Linn, David Osborne, Ben Turney, Karen Stoner, and Bob Heizer.

The fire department responded to a fire at the old parsonage, which fortunately didn't spread to the church.

Thirty Years Ago

February 1985 Newsletter

Cap and Myrtle Gabriel became great-grandparents.

Hospital patients included John Richards, Helen Aleshire, Marie Priest, Mary McKean, Bob Smith, and Ernestine Frost.

Thanks to Jim Van Brimmer for preaching recently.

Forty Years Ago

February 1975 Newsletter

We learned that former pastor Rev. Morgan Williams had been in a Michigan hospital with serious heart problems.

The new Trustees are Don Faulk, Don Brown, Steve Stoner, Peter White, and John Mansfield.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



- Feb. 2 Elizabeth Bowman
- 2 Cynthia Tizzano
- 13 Lana Palmer
- 15 Deborah Van Broekhoven
- 16 Barbara Payne
- 24 Emilie Trigg
- 26 Shannon Kennedy

Please report any errors or omissions to Jim Stephenson.

February Sermon Titles and Scripture

February 1

Fan or Follower?
Luke 9:57-62

February 8

Guest Speaker:
Frances Jo Hamilton
President and Founder of Restart

February 15

Whatever Happens
Philippians 4:11b-13

February 22

Lessons From a Mule
Mark 11:1-11