

Good News Letter

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2017 has gotten off to a rough start for our church. Jim Stephenson was a part of our church all his life. I am sure you all know the roles he played; taking care of the floral arrangements in the sanctuary, serving as choir director for the last twenty years and publishing our monthly newsletter, but those things do not begin to describe his importance to our family in Christ. He is sorely missed. We offer prayers for the Stephenson family and wish them well.

As we move on there are many things to which we can look forward in 2017. The missions emphasis for February is the Salvation Army's ministry to the victims of human trafficking. Also Lent begins at the end of February and I am looking forward to a Bible Study throughout that season. More information will be forthcoming in February.

And I want to take the time for something new that is happening in our city that I believe is worth our attention; the Delaware Community Coalition (DCC). In the face of the social strife in America that has been sometimes violent; community, city, and church leaders have come together to establish relationships and build trust across all the divisions we experience in America and in Delaware. The Delaware Vineyard, Terra Nova Church, Second Baptist Church began this effort over this past summer. I have been to some of the meetings and have been gladdened to meet civic and church leaders from our city and

have been encouraged by their spirit of cooperation.

Among the things the churches are doing include joint worship and fellowship activities, usually taking place at The Vineyard Church on Troy Road. It has been decided to schedule four such events, one on each of the 5th Sunday evenings in 2017. The first will be on January 29th which is the day this newsletter is available and will be late for those receiving it by mail, but even so, it is good to know about. There will be a potluck meal followed by a worship service. The purpose of these gatherings is to get to know people well enough to become friends across denominational, ideological, and racial lines. Some of you may be interested in taking part, you are welcome. Others may not and that is okay. I want to keep you well-informed. There is no pressure. We can all pray that relationships in Delaware and in our country improve over time.

There is much to do. As always be prayerful. We grieve our loss with the hope of resurrection in our hearts. I hope the New Year finds you well and in a place of spiritual growth and peace.

Blessings
-Mark

Jim Stephenson, a lifelong member of First Baptist, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 11. Jim was born in Delaware on Aug. 21, 1953, to Sophia Stephenson and the late Rev. James B. Stephenson. He

attended Hayes High School and was a graduate of The Ohio State University.

Jim was passionate about his chosen profession of graphic design.



Jim's dad was pastor here for 40 years. Jim

served as choir director for 20 years. He ordered the lilies and poinsettias (and cared for them) as well as providing flowers from his garden for the altar. He maintained the plants in the church as well as planting flowers outside the church each year.

Jim published our monthly newsletter, published our annual directory, and put pamphlets together about the church and its history. He also painted the nursery tables and chairs. His personal interests included genealogy, travel, classic movies, and computers. He enjoyed gardening and working outdoors. He most enjoyed being with his family.

He is survived by his mother, Sophia; brothers Rev. Ted Stephenson and Dr. Robert Stephenson, and their families.

Jim's life was celebrated in a private family service on Sat., Jan. 21 at FBC. He is dearly missed.

Dear Church Family,

I want to offer my deep appreciation for your prayers, cards, love and acts of kindness on the occasion of Jim's passing. They mean more to me than I can express with words.

The dinner in the fellowship hall provided time for our family to gather and feel the strength of each other's presence. Pastor Mark was a gracious host. Mary Lou Lovell, Debbie Fogle and Beth Trigg provided a wonderful dinner and the choir thoughtfully provided much of the food. A display included photographs and items that meant a lot to Jim. The prayer shawl made by Genevieve Peterson means so much, and the flowers were beautiful.

We are grateful for the recent time of memorial during the morning service and the choir's special anthem. Jim truly loved serving God by directing the choir. He loved First Baptist Church and her people with all his heart.

Sophia & family

From Our Pastoral Intern

Good morning, FBC family! I can't believe that we have already gone through a month in 2017, when it feels as though just yesterday we were ringing in the New Year around the communion table. As January draws to a close and we begin to look forward to February, there is a lot of energy within and amongst the youth of the church. As the new year began, our youth were actively participating in both church and family life. On January 22nd, the youth worshipped at William Street UMC in Delaware, and discussed their emotional and initial responses later that evening at youth group. There was a rich and lively conversation that took place, and many ideas about worship and tradition took place, a conversation that I am anticipating

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).	
Name	Reason for Prayer
Dan and Sherry Chambers	Condolences on the death of Dan's Mother
Alvin Cox	Health Issues
Dr. Ernest Jones	Health Issues
Richard Lovell	Health Issues
Sophia Stephenson and Family	Condolences on the death of Jim Stephenson
Remember daily all the men and women in the military — Those stationed in the USA and those deployed throughout the world. GOD BLESS AMERICA!	

with excitement will continue over the coming weeks and months. As we look forward to February, the youth will continue their conversation about ecumenism by attending and worshipping at Zion UCC on February 26th, followed by our youth group session that same evening. Because the final day of the month, the 28th, is also Shrove Tuesday, the youth will receive their Lenten guides on the 26th as well. I look forward to this month ahead as we draw closer to the Lenten season, and closer to the cross.

-David L. Harris, Jr

Elevator Repaired

The elevator repair has finally been completed after several months of waiting and looking for parts. The basement door to the elevator is now working properly. The "Key" system has been discontinued and the keys have been removed. Now, you only have to "push" the "call" button to call for the elevator. The cost of the work was \$1,334, but we should get a rebate of \$500 when Cable Elevator sends the old part back to the supplier.
-Peter White, Trustees Chairman

Volunteers For February

Kid Connection

Jan. 29- Pat Gosser/Bowen Nace
Feb. 5- David Harris/Aidan Ferguson
Feb. 12- Deb Nace/ Gabe Folge
Feb. 19- Pam Faulk/Hannah Nace
Feb. 26- David Harris / Colin Ferguson

Fellowship Time

Jan. 29- Lovells
Feb. 5- Gossers
Feb. 12- David Harris
Feb. 19- Petersons
Feb. 26- Triggs

Transportation For David Harris

Jan. 29- Turners
Feb. 5- No Volunteer-Please sign up
Feb. 12- Naces
Feb. 19- No Volunteer-Please sign up
Feb. 26- No Volunteer-Please sign up

Panera Pick-Up

Feb. 2- Faulks
Feb. 9- Gossers
Feb. 16- Naces
Feb. 23- Lees

Thank you all for volunteering your time!

GAME NIGHT

Feb. 4
7 p.m. -Fellowship Hall
Bring games and snacks
and be ready to have a fun time!

Birthdays and Anniversaries



February

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

Please report any errors.

Mission / Outreach Update

The Mission/Outreach Group met on Jan. 22nd. with 8 people present.

Thanks to:

- All who gave to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering allowing us to meet top the \$700 goal.
- All who made and donated cookies to Andrews House Christmas Cupboard held on Dec. 3rd.
- All who participated in packing food for People In Need recipients
- Jim Snyder who presented "Scrooge" at the "Soup and Sing"Event on Dec. 11th.
- All who made delicious soup to share (14 crockpots)for "Sing and Soup" with the leftovers donated to the "Place of Warmth".
- All who gave to the Christmas offering that was donated to Andrews House.
- All who gave items to Family Promise

ATTENTION LADIES!

The Women's Fellowship meets on the second Saturday of the month for breakfast. We have a fun time and would like more women of the church to join us. This month we will be returning to The Jug in the Westgate Center at Rt. 37 and Houk Road at 9:00. The food is excellent, the prices are good, and there is easy parking. If you plan to come, give someone else a call and offer a ride. If you need a ride, please call Pam Faulk.

THANK YOU for RMMO

Thanks to all who contributed to our annual Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering. We met our goal of \$700 and exceeded it. The total for the RMMO was \$740. Thank you all.

-Pam Faulk

The Place of Warmth

To date, 50 sandwich baggies have been made and donated to Zion Church for their "Place of Warmth" Ministry. These baggies contain granola bars, cheese/peanut butter crackers, fruit snacks, applesauce, Slim Jim's, hot cocoa mix, and a gift card to be used at Wendy's or McDonald's. The men that spend the night at Zion when the temperature is 20 degrees or below, receive a bag as they leave in the morning.

Personals

- Please be in prayer for Dan and Sherry Chambers. Dan's mother passed away in December.
- Will Fogle, Colin Ferguson, and Brianna Showalter made the Hayes Honor Roll. Congratulations!!
- Sam and Lindley Chesser had a baby girl on January 22. Her name is Eliza Grace Chesser.

February Mission Focus

February's Mission Outreach will be to give items to the Salvation Army for those that are recovering from being trafficked. The Salvation Army locally provides a place for those in need to stay and gives them items for starting over in an apartment. We will have a box in the entry way of the church marked for the Salvation Army with items you donate. The needed items include:

Food

-shelf stable food, gatorade, snack foods.

Gift Cards

-Meijer, Walmart, Target, Kroger, fuel cards

Other

- new dish sets, new sheet sets, pots and pans, new blankets, cooking utensils, new dish towels, new pillows, laundry detergent, pre-paid cell phone, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products, hair products

2016 Financial Review

The FBC 2016 Financial Report was presented at our Annual Business Meeting. I would like to share some of the details and observations. We completed 2016 by spending less in all areas of our Church Operating Expenses than our budget anticipated. We funded about 90% of our budget for the General Fund. The church continues to spend slightly more than it takes in but this is not of immediate concern. We achieved over 96% of our Outreach Missions goals.

Our Educational Endowment fund thrives as a stable investment. Your continued contributions to our Capital Improvements fund provides the resources necessary to maintain our facilities and replace aging appliances.

During 2016 we were able to replace the furnaces that heat our office, choir robe room, and fellowship hall as well as remove an old unused chimney that had deteriorated. We have currently contracted work to change the roof over the Gathering Place in hopes that we can eliminate further water damage on the north wall.

Your thoughtful memorial gifts provide a nest egg of funds available to extend programs and enhance our facilities.

While we are currently experiencing an income shortfall in our general fund, we are encouraged by your commitment to fund our Outreach and Missions goals as well as make contributions to our Capital Improvements fund and memorials. This balance of giving allows our FBC fellowship to worship, study, and serve within our church, our community, and beyond.

-Larry Faulk, treasurer, on behalf of the finance committee

Annual Pancake Supper

All are invited to join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on February 28th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend.

The menu includes pancakes, waffles, fruit, sausage, and Dave Lovell's famous blueberry syrup.

In addition to the food and fellowship, there will be an opportunity to share your talent — a song, a skit, a reading, a poem, or joke, if you wish. See you there.



Adult Sunday School

Our Adult Sunday school classes are going strong and meeting at 9:30 every Sunday. Please join us on any Sunday.

Adult I Class

February lessons in the Adult I class are as follows:

- Feb.5- Re-Created to Live in Harmony (Galatians 3:26- 4:7)
- Feb. 12- New Birth Brings Freedom (Galatians 4: 8-20)
- Feb. Feb. 19- Freedom in Christ (Galatians 5:1-17)
- Feb. 25- Christ Creates Holy Living (Galatians 5:18-6:10)

Adult II Class

The Pastor's Sunday School Class will be looking at the Life of Jesus from a historical point of view which is appropriate this time of year as the season of Lent approaches and then Easter. Anyone who is interested is welcome.

Dedication of Officers

On January 8 our church officers for 2017 were dedicated during the worship service. The elected officers for 2017 are as follows:

- Moderator- Randy Turner
- Asst. Moderator- Jeanne Ekelberry
- Church Clerk- Lana Palmer
- Treasurer- Larry Faulk
- Asst. Treasurer- none
- Financial Secretary- Randy Turner
- Asst. Financial Sec.- Linda White
- Church School Clerk- Pam Faulk
- Finance Chair- Debbie Fogle
- Board of Christian Education - Pam Faulk, Pat Gosser, Pam Shears
- Board of Deacons - Larry Faulk, Dave Lovell, Claire Turner, Jennifer Turner
- Board of Trustees - Scott Nace, Ken Shears, Archie Trigg, Peter White

Game Night - Feb 4

FBC will have a "game night" on Saturday, Feb 4th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite games and a snack to share. Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Change for Change

Mar. 12
 Start saving your coins!
 We will collect your change in March to give to the Delaware City Schools Summer Lunch Program

Newsletter Options

Did you know that the "Good News Letter" is available by email? If you would like to save the time and postage needed to mail it to you, please send me your request (lfauk01@aol.com) and I will make sure you are added to the list of those who receive it via email.

The newsletter is also available each month on our website: [www. FBCDelaware.org](http://www.FBCDelaware.org)