

Good News Letter

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When the Year for Prayer began back in September, the emphasis was practical opportunities for participation in prayer activities. My hope is that you have found some of them meaningful. There were 60 days of devotions contributed by American Baptist missionaries whom we support through missions giving. In October there was a Day of Prayer offering to each an opportunity to spend some time alone in the sanctuary in thoughtful reflection and prayer. And since the first Sunday of Advent the Prayer Chest has been open, with the chance to pray for someone new each week.

As a part of the year-long focus, it has always been my intention to explore prayer as a spiritual activity; to become better informed in order to facilitate more meaningful experiences of prayer. The annual Lenten study seems like an excellent opportunity for that pursuit. Lent begins on March 6 this year. The study will take place on the next five Sundays; March, 10, 17, 24, 31, and April 5.

To be clear, five one-hour sessions is not enough to cover everything that is associated with the prayer discipline, but it is enough for a good and helpful effort. Some of the topics will include contemplation, prayer as intercession, prayer as petition, and corporate prayer. The goal is to help, to make more accessible an enhanced experience of



relationship with God, a more transformational spiritual life.

I am in over my head. In some ways a Bible study is easier because I know more about the Bible than I do prayer, and feel like a novice. That does not mean that I always interpret the Bible correctly, only that I feel more confident leading a Bible study than a prayer study. I have much to learn. My hope is that we can journey together, to learn from one another as well as from some of the experts from whom our sessions will take their inspiration.

There is not a study guide for this experience, but I will be working from two well-known books by authors on the subject of the spiritual disciplines. One of them is Richard Foster, who is the author of The Celebration of Discipline. I will be working from his book Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home. The other is Dallas Willard from his book, The Essence of the Disciplines. The insights found in these works will be helpful as we go.

In the meantime February intervenes. It is winter, and as we experienced last week, it can be severe. It is the time of the year when it feels right to stay inside where it is warm and safe and dry. But let me take this opportunity to make an affirmation.

In 2018, through the faithfulness of your giving, we came only six dollars short of making operational income and expenses meet. And that does not begin to tell the story of the missions and service giving in our city and around the world. Thank you all for being such a faithful and generous congregation.

Blessings,
-Mark

Worship Leaders Wanted

The deacons would like to extend the opportunity for more participants in our Worship Services. You are invited to serve as a Worship Leader for a Sunday or a series of Sundays. The Worship Leader traditionally leads the Call to Worship, introduces the first hymn, gives the Invocation Prayer, leads the Lord's Prayer and the offertory prayer. In addition, a Lay Leader reads scripture each week. If you would like to serve as a Worship and/or Lay Leader, let me or Dr. Allison know of your interest.

-Larry Faulk

2019 Directory

The 2019 Directory will be available soon. Please review your information and let me know of any updates. If you would like a new photo, please see me.

-Larry

Volunteers For February

Fellowship Time

Feb 3 Grubbs
Feb 10 Ekelberry
Feb 17 Lee
Feb 24 Faulk

Panera Pick-Up

Feb 7 Faulk
Feb 14 Snyder
Feb 21 Volunteer Needed
Feb 28 Faulk

Rides for David Harris

- No one has signed up for February. Please contact David to make arrangements.

Thank you all for volunteering.

Personals

- Max Showalter was in the hospital in January, due to illness.

- Erin Faulk spent a week at Walt Disney World over Christmas break.

- Claire Turner is studying in the Bahamas this semester.

- The Reynolds's daughter Lauren is studying in the Netherlands.

- On January 13 David Harris traveled to New York to preach for a search committee.

- Catherine Reynolds traveled to California for business.

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.

- On January 13 Maxwell Lincoln Showalter (born 7/27/18) was dedicated during the morning worship service. Max is the son of Emilie and Mike Showalter and the grandson of Beth and Archie Trigg.

- Steve Baker has been in the hospital for several weeks due to health issues and is anticipating going to rehab for a while. Please keep him and Sharon in your prayers.

- Charles Ekelberry recently fell and suffered a fracture.

Financial Update

Generous offerings, combined with continued controlled spending in the last quarter of the year has resulted in a nearly balanced general fund at the end of the year. Your faithful support is appreciated. I am also pleased to report that we met most of our Mission Giving goals as well as contributing funds to the Capital Improvement fund as well.

-Larry Faulk, treasurer

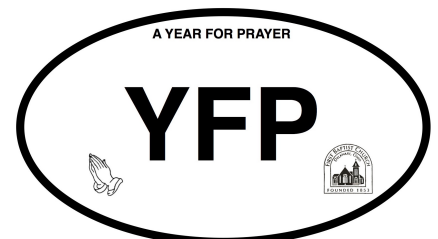
Women's Fellowship

We had a group of 12 for our January women's lunch at the Corner Cafe. There was lots of fellowship and good conversation.

Why don't you join us in February? It's open to all the women of the church and their friends. Our February lunch will be on Saturday, February 9 at 11:30 at Bun's. Please let Pam Faulk know if you will attend. Invite a friend to join us. If you need a ride, contact Pam Faulk or MaryLou Lovell.

Puzzle "Pizzas" and Fellowship

Do you like to have fellowship? Do you like pizza? Do you like to put puzzles together? Well on Saturday, February 23, we are going to do all three. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at church at 6:00. The Faulks will bring the pizza and some puzzles. Maybe someone else will bring a salad and someone else can bring some beverages. We'll have a pizza supper and some fellowship and work on a puzzle or two. Feel free to bring friends and bring other puzzles too. This is open for our whole church fellowship, so come and join in the fun. Please let Pam Faulk know if you can supply a salad or sodas.



February Acrostic

F Faith and Friends
E Encourage others and Energize yourself
B Believe
R Rely on God's promises
U Understanding for others
A Action for what you believe
R Read the Bible and get Renewed
Y Yesterday's thoughts can be today's actions

Brothers All

Thanks to the men who blessed us with their singing in December. We are starting a new year and will rehearse on Sunday, January 27th at 1:30 p.m. and February 10th at 1:30 p.m.
 Men----come and sing!

Mission/Outreach News

The Mission/Outreach group met on Sunday, January 13th. We reviewed the Mission focuses for 2018.

Mike(from Zion UCC) has taken the frozen leftover soup from the Soup and Sing Gathering in December. We may be asking for more to be made to be given to those staying at Zion UCC(Place of Warmth) on very cold nights. The church has served as shelter for 9 men this winter.

January 27th is the last day for the collection for Family Promise. We did not have church service on Jan. 20th. We would like to fill

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
Raleigh Gosser	Health Issues
Richard Lovell	Health Issues
Raeleen George	Health Issues
Steve & Sharon Baker	Health Issues
Charles Ekelberry	Recovery & Rehab

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

the box, so if you have purchased items, the box will still be there through Feb. 3rd. Monetary donations are welcome as well.

Needed items:

- shampoo
- dish washing soap
- paper towels
- toilet paper
- feminine products

Remember our missionaries:

Emerson and Ivy Wu, Jenni Pedzinski, and the McCurdy family. Pray for them. Send an email or a card.

With the opening of Turning Point in Delaware, we are asking the congregation to support their mission. Turning Point offers a place to reside, counseling and legal help to those in need due to domestic violence. The shelter is the former Delaware Children's Home. Donations have been used to rebuild and create a comfortable facility. There are 13 bedrooms each holding 4 people, with 3 of them being transitional units.

In 2019, let's think of our blessings and how we can share them with others.

The Mission/Outreach group will meet on February 17th at 2 p.m. All are welcome to come and share ideas of how we can best reach out in our community in 2019.

Turning Point

There will be a box to place items in the vestibule.

Most needed items:

- toilet paper and paper towels
- razors
- deodorant
- girls pajamas of all sizes

Also ongoing needs: non-perishable foods and new baby items

If you have time- volunteers are needed: Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- assemble small furniture
- sort donations
- clean
- unload donations
- Sign up online so they can plan accordingly.

MLK Breakfast

Four from First Baptist attended the breakfast at OWU to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Bishop Tracy Malone spoke of Dr. King's dream. Her vision is that WE come together in community and have open communication, and put the thoughts and ideas presented into ACTION as Dr. King would have wanted.

Panera Continues

Thanks to ALL who go to Panera on Thursday night at 8:45 p.m. to pick up the unsold items, repack them, and deliver them to Andrews House on Friday morning so that they can be distributed in the community.

Go Paperless

If you no longer need the paper version of "The Good News," there are two ways to "go paperless."

The newsletter is available in pdf form on our website at www.fbcdelaware.org. Just click on the "Newsletter" link on the left side of our home page to see a list of recent newsletters. We publish next month's newsletter on the last Sunday of each month. Newsletters from the previous three years are also available on our website.

A second method to receive the newsletter is by email. If you would like the newsletter emailed to you shortly after it publishes each month, please send me your email address to be added to the mailing list.

-Larry Faulk, editor

Mark Your Calendar - Andrews House

We have signed up to help at Andrews House for two Second Friday meals in 2019: Friday, April 12th and Friday, November 8th. On those dates, we will need 5 - 6 people from 5 - 7pm to help serve and clean up after the meal. There will also be a couple of meals during the year that we will be asked to provide deserts, but those dates have not been set yet.