

Good News Letter

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LEAKY PAINT

If you were to hike straight east about 18 miles from Jerusalem, you would come to the northern tip of a very large body of water, with a lively river flowing into it. This, of course, is the Dead Sea, which is about 31 miles from top to bottom, 9 miles wide, and 1,000 feet deep. It is 1,400 feet below sea level, and



nine times saltier than the ocean. Subsequently, nothing grows in it or around it. It is, in actuality, *dead!*

65 miles north of the Dead Sea is the Sea of Galilee. This body of water is roughly 1/4 the size of the Dead Sea, but it is healthy, teeming with fish, and surrounded with wildlife and lush vegetation. The Dead Sea and Sea of Galilee are both connected by the same Jordan river, but one is dead and the other fully alive. What's the difference? The Sea of Galilee has water flowing *out* of it; the Dead Sea only has water flowing into it. It is dead because it has *no outlet*.

Thankfully, Jesus offers us *living water* (John 4:10), which permeates us with new life and pulsates within us in joyous freedom. His loving, living water shows itself in our friendly and welcoming congregational life: our fellowship is among the most supportive and caring I've ever seen. You enjoy being together, because, as a congregation, you

have taken it on yourselves to openly *practice* your love for each other, *keep in touch* with those you don't see in worship, and talk in *supportive ways* about the church whenever you get together. But let's remember something important: *if we keep the living water to ourselves, without an outlet, we could grow as dead as the Dead Sea!*

The Communist Party had no interest in buildings, so during their 41 oppressive years in Czechoslovakia (1948-1989), the beautiful architecture in downtown Prague was never maintained (some of

the buildings date back to the 12th century). Just after the downfall of communism, Czech officials realized that if these historic buildings were allowed to deteriorate for another 20 years, they would have been beyond repair and lost to time. They knew that most of the decay was due to rain and humidity, so they began a massive building renovation program and used pastel-colored paint to seal out the offending dampness, brighten up the city, and preserve the buildings. They thought they were doing the right thing.

What they discovered in the mid-90s, though, was that while the paint was keeping moisture *out*, it was also keeping residual moisture *in*, and it was this interior dampness that was continuing to eat away at the walls. As soon as they discovered this problem, they stripped and repainted the buildings with a "breathable" paint, and the buildings

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Florence Faulk

Florence M. Faulk, 92, of Delaware, formerly of Jerome, passed away peacefully Tuesday morning, December 23, 2014 at Delaware Court Nursing Home.

Born Aug. 24, 1922 in Oak Park, Illinois, Florence was a seamstress and also worked for the Dublin School District in the cafeteria.



She was a member of First Baptist Church most of her life and was a member of Young at Heart, ABW, and NITHFUS (Nothing is Too Hard for Us).

She and her husband Donald also attended the Jerome United Methodist Church when their health made the trip to Delaware difficult.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jess Amacy and Alpha (White) Graham; husband, Donald Parker "Whitey" Faulk; son, Bill Faulk; daughter-in-law, Nancy Faulk; sisters, Elvira "Peanut" Smith, Mildred Hasty.

She is survived by children, Larry (Pam) Faulk, Mark (Cindy) Faulk, Donna (Steve) Mann, Jim (Molly) Faulk, Ray (Carla) Faulk; daughter-in-law, Marilyn Faulk; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren in Ohio, Oklahoma and Florida;

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Pastor's Editorial *continued*

are now preserved and looking great.

There's a lesson in this for us. As we continue to work on a new trajectory into the future, we're putting a new "face" on First Baptist (a new coat of paint, if you will). But with these changes, will our new "face paint" keep the living water *in* (mainly for *ourselves*), or will we leak it *out*? There's no question but that the living water of Jesus is transforming us on the inside, but we'd better make sure it is also seeping out of us, or, like the Dead Sea and the stucco walls of Prague, it won't be long before what we have is *destroyed*. When we *hang on* to what we have, we tend to lose it.

Actually, that's one of the uncanny principles of the kingdom of God. Jesus once said, *"Give and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back"* (Luke 6:38, NLT). What he says is that *God's response* to us is a reflection of our prior response to Him and others: when we *sacrifice ourselves first*, we grow healthier; when we *increase* our mission giving first, we receive more *income*; when we send out current members to start a new church, we *attract* new people. It's counterintuitive, but that's the way of the kingdom in which we live.

As we move into a new year filled with possibilities we need to remember that there's a dry and thirsty world out there that needs his (and our) living water more than ever. So, even as we celebrate where we've come from, where we are now, and where we're headed, it's time to focus greater attention on new channels through which the living water of Jesus will flow through our "face paint."

Blessings,



Pastor Ellen
Interim Pastor

Florence Faulk *continued*

sister, Dorothy.

The family received friends on Sunday, Dec. 28 at Ferguson Funeral Home in Plain City, and the funeral was held there on Monday, Dec. 29 with Rev. Ellen Brown officiating. Burial was in Jerome Township Cemetery.

We extend our sympathy to her family and friends.



Florence and her husband, Donald, who was also active in our church for many years.

January Mission Focus – Spotlight on "Family Promise"

Most of us don't even think of how we would manage if we were suddenly homeless. Circumstances often are such that families are left with no place to live. There is now a facility right here in Delaware that is meeting that need on a limited basis.

Family Promise is an interfaith hospitality network to help homeless families achieve lasting independence. Volunteers help to meet various needs such as housing, food, mentoring, and comprehensive support services. Those volunteers are trained to help at-risk families to achieve goals and maintain self-sufficiency.

Our own Beth Trigg is the director of this facility, and she sees to it that

the families are housed, fed and counseled appropriately. Several local churches have volunteered to provide meals, clothing, bedding, and financial aid for expenses incurred with this ministry.

Our focus for the month of January will be *Family Promise*. Here is a list of needs that we can supply to help them:

- Liquid laundry detergent
- Liquid dish soap
- Toilet tissue
- Paper towels
- Large bottles of shampoo

– Jane Moore, Mission Coordinator

Kid Connection Update

The members of the Board of Christian Education and Pastor Ellen have discussed some recent changes in Kid Connection during Sunday worship. Kid Connection is basic child care for children ages 3 through fourth grade. Currently we have one adult each week volunteering for that. We feel that for safety's sake, that adult could use a teen helper. Each week we will have a member of the Teen class go back as a helper to the adult volunteer. We also need to emphasize that all children who go back for Kid Connection stay in the same room with the adult, as a safety precaution.

As always, if a need arises for the crib room, we will have a second adult volunteer to be in the crib room for the whole service.

I will be meeting with the teens to work out a volunteer schedule for them. This counts as a service project for them. There are still a few openings for adult volunteers that are not yet filled on the following dates: March 1, April 5, April 12, and May 3. Please see me if you can help.

– Pam Faulk

Five Years Ago

January 2010 Newsletter

During December, our carpet installer removed the old sanctuary carpet and installed our new one, and our paint contractor painted the assembly room and the two vestibules (the sanctuary was painted during November).

Volunteers For January

Kid Connection volunteers for January are as follows:

January 4 Pam Shears
 January 11 Beth Trigg
 January 18 Pat Gosser
 January 25 Lana Palmer

Sunday School Opening volunteers for January are as follows:

January 4 Lovells
 January 11 Melissa Mercer
 January 18 Debbie Fogle
 January 25 Carol Grubbs

Thank You

This Advent Season, Impromptu Nativity, and Christmas Eve Service were filled with music!

Thank you to the choir and Jim Stephenson for all their wonderful anthems.

Thank you to Peter White for playing Christmas music each week of Advent before the service.

Thank you to Claire and Randy for their duet, "Waiting for a King".

Thank you to violinists Deb and Will Fogle for playing for the "Impromptu Nativity".

Thanks to all who played or sang for the prelude on Christmas Eve: Many lovely carols by Violinists Aidan Ferguson, Colin Ferguson and Will Fogle, Cellist Claire Turner, Jackson Trigg for playing "O Christmas Tree" on the piano, Taylor and Connor Trigg for singing "Christmas is Coming".

Thank you to Claire Turner for her

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	Faulk Family	Death of Florence Faulk
	Phil Mercer & Family	Death of Phil's father
	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!

beautiful solo "O Holy Night".

Thank you all for sharing your gift of music to praise God and make this a blessed Christmas Season !

– Mary Lou Lovell

Recipe

Here's a recipe I used for a recent potluck, using a recipe from Bertha VanBrimmer. I thought I'd share it with others in the congregation.

BAKED DEVEILED EGG CASSEROLE

Makes 12 servings.

Ingredients

6 hard-cooked eggs
 2 teaspoons prepared mustard
 3 tablespoons sour cream
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
 ½ cup chopped green pepper
 ⅓ cup chopped onion
 ¼ cup chopped pimiento
 1 can (10 ¾ oz.) cream of mushroom soup
 ¾ cup sour cream
 ½ cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Directions

Cut eggs in half lengthwise; remove yolks. Mash together yolks, mustard, 3 Tbls sour cream and the salt. Fill egg whites with yolk mixture.

Melt butter in a large skillet; saute green pepper and onion until tender. Remove from heat; stir in pimiento, soup and ¾ cup sour cream. Place half of the soup mixture in a greased 1½ cup shallow baking dish; arrange eggs, cut side up, in a single layer in the dish. Pour remaining soup mixture over top; sprinkle with cheese.

Bake at 350° for 20 minutes or until heated through. Casserole may be prepared in advance; refrigerate until ready to bake.

– Jane Moore

Worship Leader Workshop

Public worship depends on the participation of more than just a few individuals. To this end, the Deacons and I would like to involve more lay leaders in the Sunday morning worship experience. The plan is to develop a team of people who will rotate these responsibilities.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Jan. 4	Fred DeBiasio
6	Ken & Pam Shears
10	Kip Smith
12	Larry Faulk Matthew Cooper
13	Evan and Carrie Trigg
16	Jane Moore
18	Matthew Lovell
20	Jennifer Turner
21	Tim Fogle
22	Michael Mercer
23	Nick Porter
26	Sophia Stephenson
27	Steve Baker
30	Calvin Turner

Please report any errors or omissions to Jim Stephenson.

In order to have continuity in our worship services, Pastor Ellen will be holding a **Worship Leader Workshop** on Saturday, January 24 10:00-11:00 a.m. This time will give us the opportunity to discuss the purpose of worship and the specific elements of our order of service as well as give practical suggestions and support.

There are a variety of ways you could serve and you can choose what you are interested in doing. However, you will not be committing yourself simply by attending this workshop. Everyone is invited to prayerfully consider attending and only make a final decision about participation in worship leadership after attending the workshop.

Please indicate your interest in participating in this workshop on the yellow *Get Connected* slip any Sunday morning.

Thank You

What a surprise to open my door to get Wednesday's morning paper and find a box of Christmas cookies from "My friends at First Baptist Church."

Just a really great early Christmas gift! Thanks to the Christmas elves!

– Jeanne Ekelberry

Church Hall Meeting

There will be a Church Hall meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, January 11. Please plan to stay to share any thoughts, questions or concerns you may have. Our Pastoral Search Committee will also give an update.

In Appreciation

What a wonderful Advent season we had from our First Friday and caroling in the neighborhood outreach events, the Spontaneous Live Nativity Christmas Program, caroling to our homebound, the Youth Christmas Party, our Sunday Advent services to the beautiful Christmas Eve Service. However, none of these would have been possible without the help and involvement of so many in our congregation.

There are some individuals we should thank for their leadership and/or the use of their gifts for these events. So, a big **THANK YOU** to the following people:

First Friday: Aidan, Alec & Colin Ferguson, Will Fogle & Claire Turner and Erin & Larry Faulk for putting the bags together; Debbie & Gabe Fogle, Mary Lou Lovell, Erin, Pam & Larry Faulk, Melissa Mercer, Lana Palmer, Ken & Pam Shears, Jennifer Turner for manning the table and handing out bags.

Caroling in the Neighborhood:

Ellen Brown, Larry Faulk, Debbie, Gabe & Will Fogle, Dave & Mary Lou Lovell, Jane Moore, Deb Nace, Jerry Palmer, Barbara, Andrew & Lucas Smith, Randy Turner; Pam Faulk & Mary Lou Lovell for the hot chocolate & goodies.

Spontaneous Live Nativity: Mary Lou Lovell, Debbie, Gabe & Will Fogle for the music; the "impromptu actors" and all who came.

January Sermon Titles and Scripture

January 4

Looking Back, Looking Ahead
Colossians 3:12-17
Communion

January 11

Where is Jesus?
Acts 2:44-47

January 18

Stranger at the Well
John 4:7-10

January 25

Get Out of the Pit
Matthew 4:1-11,
Romans 5:14b-17

Youth Christmas Party: Debbie Fogle, Larry & Pam Faulk, Janet Lathrop and Pam Shears

Sanctuary Decorations: Jim Brown, Jeanne Ekelberry, the Mercer/Moore/Turner families, Jim Stephenson, Peter White

Vocal Music: Dave Lovell, Jane Moore, Pam Shears, Jim Stephenson, Claire Turner, Randy Turner and Linda White

Instrumental Music: Aidan & Colin Ferguson, Will Fogle, Mary Lou Lovell, Jackson, Connor & Taylor Trigg, Claire Turner, Peter White

Caroling to the Homebound: Ellen Brown, Debbie, Gabe & Will Fogle, Pat & Raleigh Gosser, Dave, Mary Lou & Matt Lovell, Pat & Raleigh Gosser, Deb Nace, Jim Stephenson

Advent readers: Dan & Sherry Chambers, Debbie, Gabe & Will Fogle, Chad & Christina Kilhefner, Melissa Mercer, Jane Moore, Pam & Ken Shears Claire & Jennifer Turner, Jacob Thatcher

Worship Leadership: Larry Faulk, Dave Lovell, Lana Palmer, Claire, Jennifer & Randy Turner

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Save the Date!

On Saturday, February 21, Dr. Jeff Woods, (former Executive Minister of ABC of Ohio) will lead us in a **Church Health & Growth Workshop**. With so much written about church growth and health, it can be difficult to sort out the hunches from reality in order to know what works and does not work in promoting church health and congregational renewal. The workshop will be 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Calling All Women

Wherever you go in the world you will find that women need other women to feel whole. While men provide the sense of "other", women are mirrors of femaleness. Women accept, affirm and understand what it means to be a woman. They hold us accountable, help us grow and share our spiritual journey.

We cannot get along without men in our lives nor would we want to. Even so, they cannot provide all we need of love, friendship and understanding. We will always need the communion of other women and this will help us become better friends, wives and mothers.

We need women all our lives! However, with the busy lives most of us lead, we don't take the time to cultivate our friendships with other women. Home, family, work, and church all consume our lives. Therefore, quality time spent with other women gets pushed down low on the priority list. Women need to take the time and make the commitment to nurture the female friendships in their lives.

Some of the women of our church have expressed the desire to start a women's group. What this will look like depends on the needs of those who are interested. Come to an exploratory discussion on **Sunday, January 25** after worship. This is open to all women 18 years of age and older.

Thank You!

I want to thank the congregation for the gift given to me at the Christmas Eve Service. It was totally unexpected but greatly appreciated. The last 7 months as your Interim Pastor has really been a joy for me. We have explored some exciting new ideas together and I look forward to the new year as we discover what God still has in store for First Baptist. You are a wonderful church!

– *Pastor Ellen*

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

A number of events are planned to celebrate this day. OWU has posted an article discussing the events, go to:

<http://blogs.owu.edu/connect2/> and type "Martin Luther King" into the search box. A list of articles will appear, pick the one dated **December 2014**.

Personals

- On December 27, Jane Moore married Jim Snyder in Morgantown, West Virginia. Jim's son Jeff is an ABC/USA pastor and he officiated. His other son Marc stood as Best Man. Jane's daughters Melissa and Jennifer, stood with her.
- Bertha VanBrimmer has moved to assisted living at Sarah Moore.
- Ken Frische was back in the hospital and was at Select Specialty Hospital for awhile, but he is now back home. He and Phyllis thank everyone for their prayers and cards.
- Please offer condolences to Beth Trigg and her family on the death of her aunt Caroline in Florida. Caroline was the sister to Beth's mother Anne Linn, a long-time member of our church.
- The Faulk family would like to thank our church family for their many prayers, cards, the beautiful flower arrangement from the church, and expressions of sympathy on the loss of our mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Florence Faulk.

- Pastor Ellen's husband David Brown preached at our worship service on November 16.
- Aidan Ferguson will be portraying Christopher Robin in Willis's spring production of "WINNIE THE POOH."
- Claire Turner was selected to play the lead female role in Hayes's musical this year, "FOOTLOOSE."
- Debbie and Will Fogle played their violins during the Christmas program on December 14, and Colin and Aidan Ferguson played their violins during the worship service that morning.
- Matthew Lovell was here for a visit over the holidays and even went caroling with our church members.
- Charles Ekelberry visited his mother Jeanne over Christmas, and they traveled to West Virginia also.

– *Pam Faulk, Personals Editor*