

# Good News Letter

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There is no better time to think about ways to get better than at the beginning of a new year. Very often, when we make New Year's resolutions, we have our fingers crossed because experience tells us that we give them up after a few months, if not after a few weeks. But, resolutions set aside, how does a church get better?

One is tempted to answer from an organizational point of view focusing on

financial and attendance increases. Such evaluations are affected by marketing concerns, target populations, worship style, political and theological positions. Sometimes the organizational perspective is driven by focus groups and surveys and then mission statements, revised budgets, revamped programs, and advertising strategies. On a certain level these kinds of things can be helpful.

Unfortunately, however, they tend to fall short. There is no formula for success that will work in every circumstance, no set of steps and procedures to follow that are guaranteed to succeed. And given the negative religious trends in the larger culture it is necessary to search deeper than what the organizational focus allows us to do. There must be a better way.

Let me suggest such an idea in terms of a story about something that happened in one of the previous churches I served as

pastor. One of the members of the search committee was a single woman who owned and ran a small business selling material and patterns for sewing. One day she suffered an aneurism that was nearly fatal. Through some providential timing and the miracle of medicine she survived though incapacitated for several months.

During that time her business was vulnerable. The people in the church teamed up

to help. Everyone signed up for four hour shifts to work to keep the store open. No one knew anything about how to run her business. One way or another orders were made and bills paid and sales were enough to save the business until she was well enough to return to work.

That effort is an example of the church being what the church is supposed to be. Something like that, people reaching out to help others, is the way it grew for centuries before it became a dominant cultural force and is a good model for us to think about as we enter a new year.

I am not suggesting that FBC Delaware is deficient in this way. Quite the contrary, I see a great willingness to be a part of such efforts. I only hope to hold this example forth as a vision of what a church can be and how we should evaluate success. When we see things like that happening among us, we are accomplishing the mission of the church, particularly when we are

able to reach beyond our own fellowship to a larger community. And then whether the numbers and finances increase will seem less important, suffering the trends of the day less frustrating. It is certainly something to think about as we start out the New Year.

– Mark

## An Invitation

Come and help us celebrate Larry Faulk's 70th birthday. We are having an open house on Sunday, January 10, from 2:00 to 4:00 at our house at 705 Canal Street, Delaware. We ask for no gifts, just your presence for the celebration.

– Pam and Larry Faulk

## A Big Thank You

Once again we have exceeded our goal for one of our special offerings. Thank you all so much for your generous support of the RMMO (Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering). Our goal was \$700, and we exceeded that goal by well over \$100.

– Pam Faulk

## Volunteer Opportunities

There are three ways every week that you can help out the church by volunteering. You can sign up to pick up Panera products on Thursday evening, supervise Kid Connection during Sunday worship, and sponsor Fellowship Time after church.



The following people have graciously volunteered their time for January.

**Panera pick-up:**

- Jan 7 Dan and Sherry Chambers
- Jan 14 the Nace Family
- Jan 21 Dave and Mary Lou Lovell
- Jan 28 Pat Gosser

**Kid Connection**

- Jan 3 Deb Fogle / Alec Ferguson
- Jan 10 Jennifer Turner / Will Fogle
- Jan 17 Deb and Scott Nace
- Jan 24 Pam Faulk / Aidan Ferguson
- Jan 31 Debi Fogle / Claire Turner

**Fellowship Time**

- Jan 3 Bring holiday left-overs
- Jan 10 Pat Gosser
- Jan 17 Jeanne Ekelberry
- Jan 24 Beth and Archie Trigg
- Jan 31 OPEN

Thank you to all who continue to volunteer every week. It means so much. There are still open dates on the sign up sheets for these opportunities. Please consider volunteering.

**News From Our Missionaries**

Please check the bulletin board in the Gathering Place for newsletters from Emerson and Ivy Wu and from Jeni Pedzinski.

Of particular note is the fact that the Wus are being moved from Macau to Hong Kong.

**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
	<b>Alvin Cox</b>	Health issues
	<b>Betty Porter</b>	Recovery from oral surgery
	<b>Christina Kilhefner</b>	Transplant recovery
	<b>Penny Hagaman</b>	Health issues
	<b>Steve Baker</b>	Health issues
	<b>Bora Porter</b> (Janet's daughter)	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!*

**Calling All Women**

Did you know that our church has a Women's Fellowship that is open to all the women and young ladies of the church? We get together on the second Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast, usually at Panera. Please consider joining us for this opportunity for fellowship.

**Musicians, Take a Bow!**

Thank you to choir for the beautiful anthems during the Christmas Season. Thanks to Jim Stephenson, choir director.

Thanks to Claire and Randy Turner for their duets, "Prepare Ye!" by

Shovic and "Waiting for a King" by Martin.

Thanks to Randy Turner for his solo: "Did Mary Know?"

Thanks to Claire Turner for singing "O Holy Night" for the Christmas Eve Service.

Thank you to the string quartet: Colin Ferguson, Aidan Ferguson, Will Fogle, and Claire Turner for playing carols for the prelude on Christmas Eve.

Thanks to all for their time to prepare and bless us with beautiful music for Advent and Christmas!

*— Mary Lou Lovell*

*2016 First Baptist Church Directory*

It's time to update our directory for 2016. Please review your info in the 2014 directory and let Larry Faulk know about any changes, or fill out the form below and return it to him. We would like to update pictures as well. See Larry Faulk or Dave Lovell to get a new picture taken. We would like to include all members and friends of FBC.

Name	Birthday*	Anniv.*	Cell Phone	Email
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*\* No year is necessary*

## 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

*Names and dates are from the latest church directory.*

## Soup and Carol Sing, a Success!

On Sunday, December 6th at 4 p.m., 40 people enjoyed singing Christmas carols. We asked for the congregation to suggest their favorite carols which were included in the carol sing. The carols were accompanied by pianists Peter White and Jennifer Turner with Debbie Fogle and Will Fogle playing violin, and Mary Lou Lovell playing organ. Thanks to Peter for playing Christmas music before the carol sing began.

After singing, everyone went to the youth room for delicious home-made soup, crackers, and cookies. What a great time of eating and fellowship!

Thanks to all who provided soups and cookies. Thanks to Pat Gosser for organizing the food. Thanks to Larry for putting up the TV and scrolling the words of the carols.

Thanks to Deb Fogle for printing song sheets. Thanks to Larry Faulk and Mark Allison for carrying tables to Youth Room as the Fellowship Hall was not available because the furnace stopped working that day.

## PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

### 1 Year Ago

*Jan 2015 Newsletter*

Florence Faulk, 92, formerly of Jerome, has died at the Delaware Court Nursing Home. She worked as a seamstress and for the Dublin School District in the cafeteria. A member of First Baptist most of her life, she was active in many church organizations along with her husband Donald.

### 15 Years Ago

*Jan 2001 Newsletter*

Teresa Griffith, 39, died at her home after a long illness. She worked in management at Meijer and was a member of our church all her life. The daughter of Carol and Fred Grubbs, she is survived by her husband, Michael, daughters Natalie and Katie, and many other relatives.

Rev. Robert Hughes is our new Interim Pastor. The Pastoral Search Committee, led by Rick Van Brimmer, is interviewing candidates.

Carol Sue Fogle retired from her job as a cook at Hayes High School.

### 20 Years Ago

*Jan 1996 Newsletter*

Will Fogle died at The Arbors as the results of carbon monoxide poisoning. He was the owner of Will's Barber Shop (previously owned by his father-in-law Cap Gabriel), and later was employed by Delaware City Schools in the maintenance department. He was a member of First Baptist for many years and held many offices. He is survived by Carol Fogle and other relatives.

Jean Wickum and Jack Smith had heart catherization recently.

### 25 Years Ago

*Jan 1991 Newsletter*

Wilbur "Wick" Wickum, 69, died on Christmas morning. A member for many years, he had been choir director and held many other offices. He will be remembered as a frequent soloist with a beautiful tenor voice. A retired Vice President at an insurance company, he also served on City Council and was active in community organizations. He is survived by his wife Jean and other relatives.

### 30 Years Ago

*Jan 1986 Newsletter*

Bessie Dunham has died at the Sunny Vee Nursing home after a long illness. She was a cheerful and happy person and will be missed.

### 40 Years Ago

*Jan 1976 Newsletter*

Paul and Sandra Cagwin have become members.

Joe Brower reports that we have received pledges totalling \$21,500.

### 45 Years Ago

*Jan 1971 Newsletter*

Margaret Cummins passed away at the Helene Nursing Home.

Helen Crane was honored by the Girl Scouts for her 28 years of work.

Karen Van Brimmer and Steve Stoner were married.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smale announced the engagement of their daughter Cynthia to Thomas Warner.

Rev. Stephenson was elected president of the Board of Trustees of the Delaware Library.

Thanks to Pam Faulk for set up. Thanks to all for coming, singing, and making it a success. Let's do it again next year!

## Mission and Outreach News!

During December we asked for donations for the Christmas Clearing House. Those were delivered and much appreciated.

Thanks to all who made and delivered cookies to Andrews House for their Christmas Cupboard on Dec. 5th.

Our January Mission Focus will be Family Promise.

Needed items for the Family Promise House are:

1. liquid laundry detergent
2. liquid dish soap
3. toilet tissue
4. Paper towels
5. large bottles of shampoo

Could you add one of these items to your shopping list and bring it to church on a Sunday in January?

Thanks to all who have participated in the Panera Pick Up and those that have signed up to help with it for the next 3 months. What a blessing you are!

### Church Directory Update

Please make the following changes in your copy of the church directory.

**Dave and Mary Lou Lovell**  
661 Cobblestone Drive  
Delaware, OH 43015  
740-369-6041  
rlov344@gmail.com  
malovell49@yahoo.com

**Matthew Lovell**  
8840 Villa La Jolla Drive #114  
La Jolla, CA 92037

The next meeting for the Outreach and Mission Group is planned for Sunday, January 24, 2016 at 2 p.m. Everyone is invited! Please bring new and fresh ideas when you come to plan for 2016. It will be at the Lovell's home, 661 Cobblestone Drive, Delaware.

– Mary Lou Lovell

## Letter

We have received a letter from Deborah and Harold Van Brockhoven who live in Georgia. It's hanging on the bulletin board.

## Youth Group

Thank you to Dr. Allison, who hosted the Christmas Party for the youth. We played a cool scavenger hunt game and ate lots of pizza. It was a nice night to get to know each other and to celebrate the upcoming Christmas holiday.

Also, thank you to Larry Faulk, Pam Shears, Dr. Allison, & Deb Nace for coming to the Christmas Clearing House to pack food with the youth. Colin, Alec, Jacob, Hannah, Bowen, Will and Gabe went from the youth group to shop for food for the families. They did a great job and provided a nice service to our community.

Our next youth group meeting is on January 10th at 6:30 p.m. The following week, Jan. 17th, the Marion Association Youth will be hosting a meeting at Zoomers Skating Rink in Marion. Look for more details in the upcoming weeks.

– Debbie Fogle

## MLK Breakfast

FBC is once again sponsoring a table at the OWU MLK breakfast on January 18th. If you would like to join us, please contact Dr. Allison or me.

– Larry Faulk, deacons chair

## Thanks for JFS Foster Kids Gifts

Thank you to all who contributed to the Christmas wish lists for the foster children from Jobs and Family Services. We were able to fulfill most of the requests on their wish lists.

## Personals

- Please extend sympathy to the Faulk family on the death of Laurie Faulk's mother, Mary Anderson, who had been on our prayer list for the past year.
- Pastor Ellen Brown has been experiencing several weeks of excruciating back pain and is awaiting surgery.
- Aidan Ferguson had the role of Tiny Tim in Dempsey's production of A CHRISTMAS CAROL.
- Twelve of our church family, including many of our youth, helped with the Christmas Clearinghouse at the fairgrounds.
- Colin Ferguson and Claire Turner made the Hayes Honor Roll, and Alec Ferguson made the Merit Roll for the first quarter.
- Pastor Allison's three sons visited him over the holidays and attended a Cavs game in Cleveland together.
- Jeanne Ekelberry had an extended visit from her son Charles and Elizabeth from California.
- Matthew Lovell also visited from California over the holidays from Dec. 23-30.
- Taylor Trigg was hospitalized recently with a case of hives from a high fever. She is now home.
- Ken Peterson has had his second successful cataract surgery.
- Sophia Stephenson will celebrate her 95th birthday this month.

– Pam Faulk, Personals Editor