

Good News Letter

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For me, the best part of a vacation is the very beginning. Down through the years, the first moments of many of my vacations were immediately after Sunday morning worship. We would be packed up and ready to go. As soon as we left the church, we would drive away to our destination, wherever it happened to be.

The feeling of having the whole vacation in front of me, like a blank paper to write on, is very satisfying and is what makes it the very best part. It is all possibility and no opportunity lost. Each day that passes represents time forever gone and whatever happens passes quickly into the past where it is forever lodged.

In a similar way, one of the most satisfying moments of the New Year is the beginning of it, right around New Year's Day when the entire year is ahead. I like the feeling when the decorations are taken down and packed away. Whatever may lie ahead, there is hope and expectation just like we have been talking about throughout the Advent season.

The time passes quickly of course, and it seems like the months slide by with such ease that the new year is used up like a two-week vacation, before there is anything new about it, anything to distinguish it from the years that came before it. Sometimes the longing for the past is a way to combat the

passage of time, but the new year is a time to anticipate it with hopefulness. Not only might we expect to find the timeless quality of life in 2018, but also something completely new.

I am reminded of the way the Bible ends with the last few chapters of the Apocalypse of John. There is a scene in his vision of a New Heaven and a



New Earth which is followed by a description of a New Jerusalem. We are told that there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain. Among the sayings from the one who is seated on the throne, along with;

"It is done," and, "I am the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. . .," and, "look, I am coming soon," he also says, "Behold, I am making everything new."

Like those Sunday afternoon drives, the whole year is ahead of us now. My prayer for all of you in 2018 is that in some way God's presence among us, and in the world, and in your life, would be new, a renewal of life and faith and love and peace and hope, so that as we repeat in time another year so much like the others, we

find that in its way, by God's grace, it is also nothing like the others, with a newness all its own.

Happy 2018
-Mark

From Our Pastoral Intern

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that 2018 is actually here. With a new year comes the closing of another, a year full of highs and lows, celebrations and mournings. What is enclosed within the year 2017 now becomes another book of memories to share moving forward. We anticipate the new year with all sorts of planned "new beginnings," whether from how we spend our money to how we take care of our physical bodies. As we prepare for this new year and and continue in the season of Epiphany, let us also make plans, "resolutions" even, for how we will take care of our spiritual bodies as well.

In the month of January, the youth will continue their ecumenical church visits as we will worship at Zion AME Church on the fourth Sunday of the month, January 28th. That evening, at 6:30 PM, the youth will gather to discuss their worship experience. On a personal note, I will be out of town the weekend of January 14th, so I will surely miss being in worship with you all that Sunday.

Blessings and Peace,
-David L. Harris, Jr.

Volunteers For January

Kid Connection

- Jan 7- Open / Bowen Nace
(Adult volunteer needed)
- Jan 14- Open / Gabe Fogle
(Adult volunteer needed)
- Jan 21- Candy Lee /
Aidan Ferguson
- Jan 28- Pam Faulk /
Hannah Nace

NOTE- As you can see, there are still some openings for Kid Connection. Won't you please consider spending some time with our young people when they are here. No advance preparation is needed. It is very easy to do and very rewarding. Remember also that MEN can do this too. If no adult volunteers come forward, we cannot offer Kid Connection to the children.

Fellowship Time

- Jan 7- Faulk
- Jan 14- Chambers
- Jan 21- Guebert
- Jan 28- Lee

Panera Pick-Up

- Jan 4- Scott Nace
- Jan 11- Faulks
- Jan 18- Lovells
- Jan 25- Faulks

Rides for David Harris

- Jan 7- Scott Nace
- Jan 14- Lovells
- Jan 21- Open - Please volunteer
- Jan 28- Open-Please volunteer

Thank you to all who volunteer your time and energies for these rewarding aspects of our church life.

Thank You's

Genevieve Peterson thanks everyone for making use of the greeting cards in the basket in the Gathering Place and has replenished them. This is also a

good way to recycle your Christmas cards from this year.

Thank you all for contributing to this year's RMMO. As of the printing of the newsletter, we were less than \$25 short of our \$700 goal, and I am sure that we can meet our goal by the end of December.
Pam Faulk

Thank you to Candy Lee for planning and Pat Gosser for helping with the first annual Ladies Christmas Luncheon. There were 17 ladies present, including 3 visitors from Second Baptist Church.

We enjoyed a delicious lunch, complete with sandwiches, salads, and desserts. There was a beautiful Christmas tree, favors for all and a special Christmas message ornament for each of us. Candy led A Christmas story game, a raffle in which 2 beautiful handmade blankets were given,

and a What's in Your Purse? game. What laughter and fellowship we enjoyed with the women from First and Second Baptist Church! We all had a great time!

Thank you to all who helped fulfill the wish lists for our three foster children. Three very full bags were dropped off at Jobs and Family Services.

-Larry Faulk

Thank you to Mary Lou Lovell for planning the Soup and Sing. Many carols were sung, and many bowls of yummy soups were served. The leftover soups were donated to the Warming Center.

Thanks to all the "Angels" at First Baptist. There are many people at First Baptist that see something that needs to be done at church for the building to be maintained or for the worship service to be more meaningful. Those "Angels" see a need or a way to improve the church and Sunday service and quietly go about making those things happen.

A huge thank you for ALL you do!

A Reminder

Please remember that Daylight Saving Time will be here before we know it, and that means another Change for Change offering. Please, please, please, hold onto all your loose change for that offering. If you do not wish to keep it, you can bring it to church and put it in the jar in the Welcome Center and I will hold onto it for you.

Ladies! Ladies! Ladies!

After looking over the surveys and our discussion at the Christmas luncheon, we have decided that we would continue to gather on

Birthdays and Anniversaries



January

- 6 Ken & Pam Shears
- 10 Kip Smith
- 12 Matt Cooper
Larry Faulk
- 13 Evan & Carrie Trigg
- 16 Jane Moore Snyder
- 18 Matthew Lovell
- 20 Jennifer Turner
- 22 Michael Mercer
- 23 Nick Porter
- 24 Ben Geary
- 26 Sophia Stephenson
- 27 Steve Baker
- 30 Calvin Turner
- 31 Bowen Nace

Please report any errors.

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
Dr. Ernest Jones	Health Issues
Richard Lovell	Health Issues
Ken Peterson	Health Issues
Ben Geary	Condolences on sister's death
Ben Geary	Health Issues
Kilhefner Family	Brother's Health Issue

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 second Saturday of each month, BUT we will meet for lunch (or some other afternoon activity) instead of breakfast. We had a great turnout at the December luncheon and hope to continue with strong attendance throughout the year. This is a great way to get to know each other better and to have fellowship. Even if you have never attended before, we welcome you to join us. We hope that all the women of the church will participate. Our January lunch will be on Saturday, January 13 at 11:30 at the Delaware Bob Evans on Rt. 23. Please feel free to offer a ride to another member of our women's fellowship and/or to bring a friend. If you would like to go but have no ride, please feel free to call Pam Faulk or Mary Lou Lovell. If you have an idea of a place you would like to go for lunch or another afternoon activity, please make suggestions to Pam Faulk. When considering restaurants, please keep in mind parking availability.

FBC on YouTube

Videos of selected sermons and worship services are available for viewing on YouTube. Go to our website: fbcdelaware.org and click on "Videos" for links to the

videos. Audio recordings of each week's worship services and sermons are also found on the website.

Personals

- Brothers All, our male chorus, performed for the first time during worship on November 16, singing "Count Your Blessings." They then performed during Advent and for the Soup and Sing. Thanks guys. It was really enjoyable.
- We offer condolences to Ben Geary on the death of his sister on November 29.
- Jarrod Trigg had exploratory surgery on his kidney in December. Fortunately, no issues were found.
- Former member Karen Hedges fell and broke her leg in 8 places and is recovering in Florida. Karen is the mother of Nichelle Trigg.
- Pat Cole, Pam Faulk's mother, fell and fractured two ribs, an ankle, and a vertebrae and is in recovery in a rehab facility in Columbus. She was disappointed to be missing our Christmas Eve service.

- Emilie and Mike Showalter are expecting a baby in late summer.

Mission/Outreach News

As I reflect on the year 2017, I am overwhelmed by the giving by the congregation at First Baptist Church. Through your generosity we have been able to reach out both locally and globally. By giving of your time, talents, needed items, and monetary gifts, we have made a difference.

You have given to the: America for Christ Offering, Easter Offering, Blanket Sunday, People in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Tools of Hope, World Mission Offering, Thanksgiving Offering, Christmas Offering, Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering, Help Line, Our missionaries- Jeni Pedzinski, Emerson and Ivy Wu, and the McCurdy family.

You have given needed items for: Baggies to be given to those at the Place of Warmth, Family Promise, Salvation Army Guest House for those who have been trafficked, Conger Elementary School students, Common Ground Free Store, People In Need, Foster children Christmas wish lists.

You have purchased food for, prepared and/or served 4 meals to those in the Getting Ahead Program, and given money for gift cards to Kroger or Meijer to be given to the class participants.

You have given your loose coins in the spring and the fall to the Delaware City Schools Summer Lunch Program. You have given time to help at People In Need. You have packed foods for families for People In Need Holiday Clearing House.

You provided soup to the Place of Warmth at Zion UCC Church. Thanks to those who volunteered for a shift at Zion, as well.

You have walked in the Crop Walk and /or given a donation.

You have provided food to Andrews House Second Friday Meals. You have given your time to help with the meals. You have donated items for the Christmas Cupboard.

You have given donations for the Block Party in July. You have come to supervise and participate in the lawn games and activities.

You have given your time and knowledge to tutor math at the high school.

You have picked up the leftover bakery items from Panera, bagged them and delivered them to Andrews House on Friday mornings.

You have attended the Delaware Community Coalition 5th Sunday worship services.

What a LONG list of GIVING!
Thank you all!

Our Mission Focus for January will be Family Promise (Collection of liquid laundry soap, liquid dish soap, toilet tissue, paper towels, large bottles of shampoo) and Place of Warmth at Zion UCC.

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 21st at 1:30 p.m. Please come and be a part of the Mission/Outreach Group to plan for 2018!

-Mary Lou Lovell

Panera Pick Up Needs Helpers

Thanks to all who so faithfully are part of picking up the unsold bakery items from Panera on Thursday night at 8:45 p.m. More volunteers are needed to help in this valuable mission.

The wrapping of the items takes about 20 minutes. Items are delivered to Andrews House on Friday morning about 8:30. Mel, at Andrews House distributes the items to those in need. Thank you for your willingness to be a part of this ministry. If you would like to know more or you would like to help a volunteer with wrapping the items, talk to Pat Gosser or Mary Lou Lovell.

Soup and Sing 2017

Thanks to all who came to sing Christmas Carols on Sat., Dec. 16th.!

Thanks to Dr. Allison for welcoming all to a time to celebrate with song.

Thanks to Jennifer Turner for playing piano.

Thanks to Deb Fogle and Will Fogle for playing violin.

Thanks to Randy Turner for leading the singing and the narration about the carols.

Thanks to "Brothers All" (Randy Turner, Dr. Allison, Dave Lovell, David Harris, and Jerry Palmer) for singing "Let There Be Peace on Earth", and "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen".

Thanks to Larry Faulk for making sure that the words appeared on the large screen for singing.

Thanks to Gabe Fogle for running the computer.

We welcomed guests from Second Baptist Church.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to play the organ for such a joyous time of celebration.

Thanks to ALL who provided soup, crackers, and desserts.

Left-over soup will be given to the Place of Warmth at Zion UCC Church.

We had a great time singing, eating, and having fellowship. We look forward to next year's Soup and Sing.

Beautiful Advent Season Music

Thanks to Mary Lou Lovell and the choir for all the beautiful music throughout Advent and for Christmas Eve.

Thanks to "Brothers All" who sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth" and "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" at the Soup and Sing gathering.

Thanks to those who sang "Go Tell It On the Mountain" for Sunday service.

Jennifer Turner "Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head", piano solo

Randy Turner "Waiting for a King" -solo

Claire Turner "O Holy Night" -solo

Choir anthems sung by Pam Shears, Linda White, Jennifer Turner, Claire Turner, Dave Lovell and Randy Turner.

Violinists- Deb Fogle, Will Fogle, Aidan Ferguson, and Colin Ferguson

We welcome those who like to sing to join these ensembles.

"Brothers All" will have rehearsals in February.

Choir rehearsal is each Wed. at 6:30 p.m.