

Good News Letter

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Lewis Carroll wrote the celebrated "Alice in Wonderland" and in the story he records a conversation between Alice and Cheshire cat.

"Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?" asks Alice.

"That depends a good deal on where you want to go," said the cat.

"I don't care much where," said Alice

"Then it doesn't matter which way to go," responded the cat.

"So long as I get somewhere," Alice added as an afterthought.

"Oh, you're sure to do that," said the cat.

The Cheshire cat is correct: whether you are going anywhere in particular or not, you will wind up somewhere!

Our church is in the midst of transition and, unlike Alice, we care deeply about which direction we go and where we end up! These are days of moving forward in ministry. We're on a continued mission of sharing God's love in Delaware and beyond. Our call to connect with people in our community and invite them into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is ongoing. This ministry takes all forms, some revamped and some new, but all designed to share the Good News with others.

Some of our directions will unfold in ways we do not anticipate. However, we need to trust that God is leading us somewhere good! There will be times when we'll need to simply take a step into the unknown and these will be our "Alice in Wonderland times," when we take a step of faith not knowing where it will end up

but believing it will work out and that God is in control.

Dr. John Claypool says, "We can put off making up our minds but we cannot put off making up our lives."



Whether we know the way or we take steps in faith, we know God will be with us and we will get somewhere. The key in walking forward is being faithful.

As the church leadership begins a discernment process to determine what needs to be done in this interim time between permanent pastors, there are some things that all of us can do to be faithful and make this a positive God-glorifying experience.

PRAY: First, and most importantly, we all need to be praying (*1 Thessalonians 5:17*) for our church asking God to lead and guide us through this time of transition. Pray for the

Parish Council as they coordinate all our efforts in ministry both ongoing as well as new efforts. Pray for the Deacons as they work with me in worship leadership that our Sunday morning services will be uplifting and challenging. And pray for them as they continue to provide member care to our congregation. Lift up the Christian Education Board members as they seek to provide discipleship opportunities that will grow and stretch us in our relationship with Christ. Remember the Trustees in prayer as they faithfully care for our building so that it will be a place that glorifies God, is inviting to visitors and is used to minister to us and the community. Begin praying for the soon-to-be formed Pastoral Search Committee that God will lead the congregation to the individuals that He would have serve in this very important and significant role. Pray for one another, those on our weekly prayer list, the ministries of our church and the wider community we are trying to reach.

PARTICIPATE: This is not a time to step back from responsibilities or our participation in the ministry needs of our church. More than ever, each one of you is needed to help keep us moving forward. Even in the summer, there are opportunities for everyone to participate in such as Sunday worship, the Summer Serendipity Bible Series on Wednesday evenings, signing up to provide for our Fellowship Time on Communion Sundays, singing with the summer impromptu choir (introduced in worship on June 29!), supporting the Quarterly Business meeting & potluck on July 30 continued participation in our

Birthdays & Anniversaries



- July 1 Robert & Patricia Foor
- 3 Phil Mercer
- 6 Sam Chesser
- 6 Lindley Chesser
Pat and Raleigh Gosser
- 7 Roger Kennedy
- 11 Karsen Grace Riedmiller
- 12 Pam Shears
- 14 Sarah Bowman
Lucas Smith
Chad & Christina
Kilhefner
- 15 Sandy Van Brimmer
- 17 Nichelle Trigg
Ed and Angie Burton
- 18 Peter & Linda White
Chad Kilhefner
- 19 Jarrod Trigg
- 21 Dan Chambers
- 28 Regan Riedmiller
- 31 Ashlee Inscho

Please report any errors or omissions to Jim Stephenson.

mission outreach projects such as P.I.N., Family Promise and Andrews House. Everyone is needed! (*Romans 12:11*)

Be **POSITIVE**: When my husband and I moved to serve a church in Sunland, California, we followed a pastor who had been there for 37 years. Many of the members had been there throughout his whole ministry and loved him and his wife dearly. Unbeknownst to Dave and me, the members of the oldest and longest-standing Sunday School class had made a covenant with one another that, for at least one year, they would not engage in any negative or critical talk with each another, with anyone else in the church or with Dave and me. They kept that covenant and it wasn't until we were there a year or so that we learned of it. By then, they had gotten to know us and trust us. That doesn't mean they always

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 | Jerry Palmer | Knee replacement surgery |
| | Ken Frische | Surgery recovery |
| | Christina Kilhefner | Transplant recovery |
| | Bertha Van Brimmer | Health issues |
| | Penny Hagaman | Health issues |
| | Steve Baker | Health issues |
| | Fran Cook | Heart problems |
| | Bora Porter (Janet's daughter) | A patient at Childrens' Hospital |
| | Betty Porter | Health issues |
| | Betty Porter | Joe DeGenova |
| Beth Trigg | Joy McAfee | Cancer |

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

agreed with everything we did but they chose to be positive rather than negative. For the 10 years we served with them, they continued to choose not to gossip or be critical and it made all the difference in the world to our ministry together as well as to the atmosphere in the congregation because it rubbed off on others. Remember, our words have the power to tear down or to build up. We will have opportunities at our Town Hall Meetings where we can openly and honestly express our thoughts and opinions in a safe environment. We will not always agree on everything, however, we are called to be "the people of God" (*Colossians 3:12-15*) that should be reflected in the way we talk with and to one another.

I encourage all of us to covenant with God and each other to stay away from critical thinking, negative talk or gossip (*Philippians 4:8*) but instead strive to exhibit the fruit of the spirit (*Galatians 5:22,23*) as we work together and move into the future to which God is already calling and preparing us.

Like Alice, we want to go somewhere but not just anywhere. We want to go where the Lord is leading. To get

there we need to pray, *participate* and be *positive* with one another.

Moving ahead in ministry together!

Ellen Brown
Interim Pastor

Summer Bible Study

Our Summer Serendipity Series has begun on Wednesday evenings. This is a time to come together to look at how God's Word can speak to us in new and fresh ways. This Bible study is open to those from middle school through adult. We will unpack familiar passages and then discover how they apply to us today. Here are the titles and scriptures we'll be looking at during July.

How Long Can You Tread Water?

Matthew 14:22-33

July 2

Do You Have a Green Thumb?

Matthew 13:1-23

July 9

Are You Thirsty?

John 4:7-30

July 16

“Tools of Hope” Offering for Church World Service

Thank You First Baptist! We contributed \$277 to Church World Service on Father’s Day (June 15). Your donations will help Church World Service provide help and relief to those struggling in poverty and recovering from disasters. What a wonderful way to honor the men who have influenced our lives!

– Randy Turner, Financial Secretary

| Giver | Honoring/Memorializing |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jim and Ann Brown | In Memory of: Fred Grubbs Sr. Charles Brown In Honor of: Jim Brown Bruce Bowman |
| Sherry Chambers | In Memory of: Bill and Janet Layton |
| Jean Ekelberry | In Memory of: Hewlett Trogdon |
| Erin and Pam Faulk | In Honor of: Larry Faulk |
| Pam and Larry Faulk | In Honor of: Jeff Faulk Keith Anderson In Memory of: Ralph Cole Donald Faulk Ron Rose Bill Faulk Wilbur Wickum |
| Debbie, Will and Gabe Fogle | In Honor of: Vic Fogle Ray Serviss In Memory of: Will Fogle |
| Lovell’s/Fogle’s/Smith’s | In Honor of: Dave Lovell Ray Morby Kip Smith In Memory of: Robert Lovell |
| Hannah, Emily and Nathan | In Honor of: Uncle Jim |
| Jim and Jane Moore | In Honor of: Phil Mercer Randy Turner |
| Deb Nace | In Honor of: Nace, Gehart, Hunt and other Christian men |
| Jerry Palmer | In Memory of: Cecil Palmer Ben Turney |
| Ken and Genevieve Peterson | In Memory of: Ebert Peterson Vernon MacNeill |
| Betty Porter | In Honor of: John Porter In Memory of: Ralph E. Guy |
| Randy and Jennifer Turner | In Honor of: Jimmie Moore Heryl Turner |
| Calvin, Ben and Claire Turner | In Honor of: Phil Mercer Randy Turner |
| Linda White | In Memory of: Charles Seckman |
| Sally and Judy Williams | In Memory of: Donald Williams |

What’s Your Be-Attitude?

Matthew 5:1-12

July 23

Come join us any Wednesday you’re in town at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall!

Summer Impromptu Choir

On Sunday, June 29 we will be having the first Impromptu Choir during our worship service. Since our chancel choir doesn’t sing in the summer except on Communion Sundays, we are providing an opportunity for those who like to sing to participate. We will be doing this several times throughout the summer. Anyone interested will be invited to come to the piano to join the Impromptu Choir for that morning. We will sing a hymn, in unison, that is familiar to everyone. If you sing or have sung in our choir, if you’ve sung in other choirs, or you simply love to sing, then feel free to join our Impromptu Choir any Sunday. We’re not looking only for people with “trained voices” but those willing to “sing to the Lord.”



Format of Sunday School Opening

Dear Fellow Church Members,

As you know, the Board of Christian Education has been charged with the task of examining the current format of Sunday School opening. To that end, we have carefully reviewed the survey forms you completed and considered your comments. We truly appreciate the input you all provided.

The Board of Christian Education, comprised of Pam Faulk, Pat Gosser and Pam Shears have taken this task seriously and in the spirit of consideration of all points of view, we have

arrived at a decision. We are hopeful that everyone will see that some of their ideas/opinions have been incorporated into this format. We are excited to begin the next Sunday School year with contributions from all Sunday School teachers and attendees who bring their unique individual talents. We encourage all to volunteer to host a Sunday or two.

Opening will continue to be held in the Fellowship Hall with breakfast items served as well as coffee, juice and milk. We will have the opportunity to fellowship, share birthdays, anniversaries and announcements. Song books will be on each table for those who wish to include music. Who doesn't like to sing praise to the Lord? As we prepare ourselves to enter the learning portion of the morning, we will end the opening session in prayer. It is our hope that variety from week to week will encourage attendance and offer fresh perspectives.

It is important to have participation from as many of you as possible. We welcome participation from teachers and those who are not teachers with talents and insights to share. Teachers, consider including your students in some way periodically. You may like to share what the class is up to or to include them in the serving food, or picking out songs to sing.

We (the Board), sincerely hope that this resolution will be received in the spirit in which it is intended, that is to prepare our spirits and open our hearts and minds to the Lord. Prior to Rally Day, you will be given an opportunity to volunteer to be

put into the rotation for the 2014-2015 Sunday School year. Please prayerfully consider how you might participate.

God Bless,

– Board of Christian Education.

Andrews House Summer Lunch Program for Children

Our Summer Lunch Program has started at Woodward School. This program provides a free lunch every weekday to children 18 and under during the summer months when school is not in session. Additionally, children receive a "backpack" on Fridays that contains two meals for the weekend. Last summer we served approximately 7,200 lunches to area children.

There are volunteer opportunities available on Tuesdays, Thursdays and the following Fridays: July 18 and August 1. For more information on volunteering, please contact Robin Moore, Program Coordinator, phone 740-833-1619.

– Liz Bowman, Office Manager
Andrews House

Thank You

Dear First Baptist Church,

I wanted to thank you all for the support since my kidney and pancreas transplant. The cards, phone calls, and prayers have meant a lot to both Chad and I. We couldn't ask for a better church family! We hope to be back in church soon to thank you all in person.

With much thanks and love,

– Christina Kilhefner

Fellowship Time

Please consider signing up to host fellowship time after worship on a communion Sunday. There are openings for Sept. - Dec. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board or you can contact Larry Faulk.

Helping HelpLine

Did you know that if you use your Kroger Plus Card when you buy groceries at Kroger, you can help HelpLine? Kroger donates to HelpLine based on the percentage of eligible purchases each month. The donation does not cost you anything. You can designate HelpLine as a recipient through the Kroger Community Rewards program. See me for directions on registering your Plus Card or go to our website fbcdelaware.org and click on "HelpLine" for directions.

– Larry Faulk

Personals

- Charles Ekelberry from California visited Jeanne for a few weeks and was on hand to help her after a medical procedure.
- Archie Trigg retired from Honda. He and Beth took a trip to England and took grandson Jackson with them.
- Dave and MaryLou Lovell and Debbie, Will, and Gabe Fogle took a trip to Dearborn, Michigan. Debbie and the boys stopped at the Dum Dum candy factory in Bryan, Ohio on the way home. Dave and Mary Lou went on to Frankenmuth and then to visit Jean Osborne.
- Randy Turner played a role in the local production of WHITE CHRISTMAS.
- Ken Peterson was our guest speaker on June 22. Two former neighbors of the Petersons attended our service and heard Ken speak.
- Jane Moore traveled to West Virginia for a high school class reunion.
- Carol Grubbs and her sister Donna visited Ted and Jeannie Stephenson in Indianapolis.

– Pam Faulk, Personals Editor

Church Directory Update

Sam and Lindley Chesser

Their street address has changed to "4 Grant Court". The rest of their address stays the same.