

Good News Letter

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Rev. Brown Resigning

Rev. Ellen Brown, who has been our interim pastor since June 1, 2014, has submitted her resignation to the Board of Deacons.

Her last day with us will be Sunday, July 26.

In her letter she said that much has been accomplished during the past year, that we are ready for the arrival of a permanent pastor, and that God is leading her to conclude her time with us.

We thank her for being our interim pastor for 14 months, for her hard work, leadership and friendship.

After church on her last day (July 26) there will be a Potluck Picnic in the fellowship hall to celebrate Ellen's time with us.



change or new idea has been met with "Let's try it!" You as a congregation have accomplished more in the last 12 months than most churches do during longer interim periods. I believe you are ready for the arrival of a permanent pastor and are on the precipice of a new day. Added to your readiness for the next chapter, my own life circumstances have changed since I've been with you and I feel



those now need my attention. I truly believe the timing of my departure is God's timing for me and First Baptist.

However, with my impending departure, you may be wondering what's going to happen next, particularly before your new pastor arrives on the scene. Let me say initially that it is not unusual (or catastrophic) for an interim pastor to leave before a new pastor is announced. It is also important to have some time between the Interim and the permanent pastor. Still, you might have some anxiety about the days ahead.

I want to remind you of something

that James writes: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (James 1:2-4, NIV). James is reminding us that trials (like those that come during an interim period) **test our faith**. The Greek actually means that our faith is **refined by fire or proven like gold**. Our faith becomes *purified* when we stick it out during challenging times, because, in times like these, our Lord not only continues to use us but is also preparing us for a more dynamic and exciting future than we have ever imagined.

From where I sit, that trajectory has already started. Actually, your energy, patience, and "stick-to-it-iveness" have impressed me over this past year. Your faith has grown, even through the *growing pains* of this transformational season. Your mission interest continues to increase, and you have been putting hands and feet and faces to your ministry. But the transformation of First Baptist is still "in process." So I encourage you to *keep at it*. But before your new pastor comes, you have the opportunity to test "ownership" of your ministry. Pastors come and go, but you remain.

In the meantime, if you feel yourself becoming overly anxious for the arrival of your new pastor, remember what James writes: "let perseverance *finish its work*." That's why it's important to keep up your disciplines, strengthen your study

Editorial

WHAT'S NEXT?

I've heard several comments about the announcement of my resignation and I want to assure you that I did not make this decision quickly or easily. As I wrote in my resignation letter, *just as the Lord prepared and called me to walk alongside you this past year, I believe that He is calling me to conclude my time with you. I look back over the last year and am amazed at all the congregation has accomplished. You have been willing to be stretched, both by doing some things differently and by trying new ministry ideas. Almost every*

of Scripture, pray together more intentionally, and continue to join hands and hearts in ministry. Consistency and perseverance will be even more critical as your Pastoral Search Committee diligently completes its assignment. But you'll soon discover that when your faith is "tested" and you remain faithful to our Lord and church, wonderful things will continue to happen in and through you!

So how are *you* doing as an individual participant in the life of First Baptist? How's **your** prayer life, **your** financial support of the church, **your** active engagement in ministry, **your** energy for "usual routines" of church life? Have **you** recently volunteered for a ministry that interests you? How are you using your gifts and abilities for the health and growth of First Baptist? The coming days will provide myriad opportunities for you to "keep on keeping on," as you've been doing all during this past year.

I have always had the desire to play the piano and, even though my father loved to play, we didn't have a piano in our home. Then someone donated a piano to our church. However, the church didn't need another one so it was decided that it would go in the parsonage. But the only space we had for it was – in my bedroom!

I spent hours playing, so much so, that my mother had to tell me to stop playing and go outside! I took piano lessons over the years but there were huge gaps between the formal lessons. Each time I had to start over and relearn some things. The last time we had a piano in our home, I played it all the time. I couldn't pass by it without sitting down to play "just for a few minutes," which usually turned into an hour. When we moved to Europe, we had to leave the piano behind and storing it wasn't an option.

A dozen years went by and I didn't play a note. Then Dave surprised me by giving me an electronic keyboard for my birthday. I was thrilled! I pulled out my old piano books to play and discovered that I had forgotten almost everything I learned. Today if you asked me to play anything, I could play simple tunes but not much else.

I didn't keep at it, and lost the ground I'd gained.

The time has come now for you to continue the journey. But take it from me: if you don't persevere, you could lose the music.

Blessings,



Pastor Ellen

Pastoral Search Committee Update

Please be in prayer for the search committee as they travel to a couple of neutral pulpits in the next few weeks to hear potential candidates for pastor.

– Larry Faulk, Chairman



First Baptist Missions for July and August

— July —

School Supplies Needed for Conger School. Here are the most needed items from the school supply list that could provide:

- head phones
- spiral notebooks
- glue sticks
- Pencils(#2) can always be used as well.

Children use the head phones can be used in 2 ways: with the computer and to block room sounds when working individually. Be watching for the envelopes with a picture of the head phones on it in the pews. Each set of head phones are about \$18.00. Any donation for

these would be great!

Since there are many sales on spiral notebooks and glue sticks in July, we should be able to fill a box!

Let's help the students have a successful beginning to their new school year!

— August —

Common Ground Store on East Central Ave. that provides clothing and household items to people in need at no charge. Donations of household items can be gently used.

Coming Soon! – Undy Sunday!

Be on the look out for sales on new underwear that we can provide for

Common Ground. Bring your items to church and place them in the box provided.

– Mary Lou Lovell

Mission/Outreach Team News

The Panera Bread Donation mission, headed by Pat Gosser, is going well. On Thursday night, a volunteer from First Baptist picks up the unsold breads and pastries from Panera, takes them home and wraps them so that they can be frozen and donated to Andrews House. Mel, at Andrews House has found many places the baked goods can be used (Andrews House Meals, Woodward Summer Lunch Program, and a church that has an open pantry on Friday afternoons. The baked items are picked up from Panera on Thursday night about 8:45. After wrapping, they are delivered to Andrews House on Friday morning about 8:30. One of the pick ups was 344 items. If you can help with this call Pat Gosser at (317) 442-7806.

Tell Pat "Thanks" for getting this started. What a great way to serve our community!

Debbie Fogle and Mary Lou Lovell served at Family Promise! The residents are so grateful to be there and appreciative of meals that are

brought in. It is great to spend time with the children and their families. They had fun blowing bubbles, playing cars, reading books, and doing puzzles with us. Thanks to Pat Gosser for providing fruit salad and Debbie Forgle for Rice Krispies Treats!

– Mary Lou Lovell

“Cathedral Windows” Wall Hanging

Last month’s article about the wall hanging in the sanctuary showed the wrong one (it was changed after the picture was taken). This is the correct one.



Woodward Summer Lunch Program

We currently have 9 volunteers going to Woodward on various days to help with serving lunch (11:45-1:15) Monday to Friday. Volunteers hand out milk, give hand sanitizer, take the lunch count, help with condiments, and help students with what they need. Some days still need volunteers.

If you are interested in helping with this, call me at (740) 369-6041.

Lana Palmer has been in contact with Samantha Hudson to learn how we might help Salvation Army provide to those that have been involved in Human Trafficking.

– Mary Lou Lovell

Sunday School Teachers Needed

We are currently seeking a Sunday school teacher and substitute teachers for this fall. Please speak to Pam Faulk about this.

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	Alvin Cox	Health issues
	Betty Porter	Recovery from oral surgery
	Christina Kilhefner	Transplant recovery
	Penny Hagaman	Health issues
	Steve Baker	Health issues
The Faulks	Bora Porter (Janet’s daughter)	Health issues
	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!

Summer Address For Claire Turner

Everyone is encouraged to drop Claire a card while she is working at camp this summer. Her address is as follows:

Claire Turner
c/o Marmon Valley Farms
7754 State Route 292 S
Zanesfield, OH 43306

– Pam Faulk

Common Ground Additional Needs for the August Mission Outreach

- shampoo
- soap
- tooth paste
- all sizes of baby diapers
- paper towels
- toilet paper

– Mary Lou Lovell

Volunteers Needed

As you read in the June newsletter, our church has taken on a mission to pick up the unsold bread and pastry items from Panera every Thursday evening. This mission is ongoing, and we need volunteers who will sign up to help with this. The items are picked up at 8:45 in

the evening and packaged and then taken to Andrews House the next day. If you are not able to take it during the day on Friday, you can take it to another volunteer who can. So we also need people who are available on Fridays to help out with that. Panera is very generous to do this, and this is an important mission for our church. Andrews House is able to distribute the bread and pastry to the people or organizations in Delaware who can really use it and often go hungry. Please see Pat Gosser to volunteer for this. There are plenty of slots open on the calendar.

– Pam Faulk

Thank You

We recently received a letter from the American Baptist Home Mission Society thanking us for our contribution to the America for Christ Offering this spring. We sent them contributions of \$311.89. The ABHMS receives two-thirds of this contribution, and our regional office receives one-third.

– Pam Faulk

Personals

• Betty Porter recently had extensive oral surgery and experienced some complications. We hope she is now on the mend.

• Emily Bowman recently fell down some steps and broke her nose and wrist and sustained a concussion. She has had surgery on her wrist.

• Randy Turner has retired from Hayes High School after teaching math for 33 years. Congratulations, Randy!

• Ken Peterson recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Congratulations, Ken!

• Pam Shears took a trip to San Francisco.

• The Lovells and the Fogles spent a week at Lakeside.

– Pam Faulk, Personals Editor

Card Sent to Charleston Church

In the wake of the church shooting in Charleston last week, those who were present in worship on June 21 signed a card on behalf of First Baptist that was sent to the Emanuel AME church letting them know of our thoughts and prayers.

Greeters & Hosts Needed

There are still some open slots for worship Greeters on July 26, August 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. Also some open slots for Lemonade in the Shade Hosts on July 19, August 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Sign up for either or both of these in the Gathering Room.

FBC T-shirts

FBC has T-shirts for sale which we can wear to promote FBC when we go on service projects such as Andrews House or Family Promise or “just out and about”. Shirts are available in men’s sizes S, M, L, XL, or XXL for \$8 each. There is one on display in the Gathering Place. See Larry Faulk to purchase one.

5 Years Ago

July 2010 Newsletter

Sam Chesser and Lindley Fischer were married

15 Years Ago

July 2000 Newsletter

A private memorial service was held for Bruce Lee.

“Aunt” Alice Osborne had heart bypass surgery at age 91.

20 Years Ago

July 1995 Newsletter

Pastor Jody Lynn Brummett will be in Guatemala for two weeks for a Habitat Work Camp.

40 Years Ago

July 1975 Newsletter

Carolyn White and Helen Aleshire will travel to Europe to attend the 13th Baptist World Congress in Sweden.

Jean Wickum became president of the Altrusa Club and will attend their conference in Arizona.

Edna Darling graduated from Methesco and will move to Dayton.

45 Years Ago

July 1970 Newsletter

Ernestine Frost retired from the phone company.

The pastors of First Baptist and Zion UCC will preach two sermons when the other is on vacation — at their own church and at the other church. This is possible since the churches meet at different times.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



- July 1 Robert & Patricia Foor
- 3 Phil Mercer
- 6 Sam Chesser
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

Names and dates are from the latest church directory.

July Sermon Titles

July 5

Free at Last!
Mark 5:24-34

July 12

Obedience Training
Psalm 25:4-10

July 19

Keep Looking Ahead
Philippians 3:8-14

July 26

Shine On!
Revelation 2:1-5