

# Good News Letter

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## Rev. Ellen Brown Selected as Interim Pastor

The board of deacons is pleased to announce the selection of the Reverend Ellen Brown as our interim pastor to serve FBC in this time of transition between pastor Chesser's retirement and the calling of our next full-time pastor.

Rev. Ellen Brown grew up in the home of an American Baptist pastor. She is a graduate of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (now Palmer Seminary) and has been involved in professional ministry her entire adult life including all areas of Christian education, discipleship training, leadership training, Bible study leader, curriculum designing, writing, missions, and pastoral ministry.

With an undergraduate degree in elementary education, Ellen directed five Christian weekday early childhood development programs in three states, served with her husband as an American Baptist missionary in Eastern Europe, and was the first Director of MK (Missionary Kid) Care for American Baptist International Ministries. She also served on the staff of the First Baptist Church of Glendale, California as the Discipleship & Missions Pastor and as Interim Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Newark, Ohio and at the First Baptist Church of Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

She and her husband, David, a retired American Baptist pastor, live in Pickerington, Ohio. They have two adult sons both of whom are

married and serving in ministry. The Browns also have three grandchildren.



Rev. Browns first Sunday with us will be June 1st. We look forward to her ministry with us.

– Larry Faulk, Board of Deacons

### **From Our Interim Pastor...**

### **Enjoy the Journey and Celebrate the Adventure!**

Our journey in the Christian life should be an adventure. I know mine sure has been and what a great ride it's been! I have had the privilege of serving in many different places, capacities and circumstances as God has used my gifts, education and experience. So, I was thrilled when the Interim Search Committee of the church asked if I would prayerfully consider being your Interim Pastor for this time of transition. God has clearly showed me that this is where He can use me right now.

As a former missionary, I understand the need to learn the culture of a new place (and every organization has its own culture). That is to say that my first order of business will be to get acquainted with the congregation, discover more of the history of the church, learn how your board system operates, meet with leaders and members, and, most importantly, listen to your assessment of where you are, what you need, and how I can best be of service to you.

I see interim ministry as a very intentional time in the life of a church. The responsibility of an interim pastor is to see that the programs of the church are maintained and that the ministries continue to function. The congregation needs visible leadership and pastoral care during the coming months. So, I will be leading worship and Bible studies and be present at Board, Committee and congregational meetings. I will visit members in their homes [when invited], and pray with you in your hospital beds. In every way, I will help you maintain your ministries and project a stable environment during this "between-pastor season."

Another one of my responsibilities will be to encourage you to utilize your gifts for ministry, and to energetically and creatively help you seek new ways to fulfill your calling. And because this is an "unusual" time in the life of the church, we'll be able to experiment with new ministries or try doing things in a different way without the pressure of permanence.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



- June 2 Jerry & Lana Palmer  
Eric & Sarah De Vaughn
- 4 Patricia Foor
- 8 Pam Faulk  
Carol Serviss
- 10 David & Mary Lou Lovell  
Aidan Ferguson
- 11 Randy & Jennifer Turner
- 12 Sam & Lindley Chesser
- 16 Bud & Becky Sykes  
Chad Gosser
- 17 Matthew & Marci Cooper
- 19 Wyatt Cramer
- 21 Dan & Sherry Chambers
- 22 June Grubbs
- 24 Beth Trigg
- 25 Kenneth Frische &  
Phyllis Beasley
- 28 Jami Riedmiller  
Hannah McKendrick

*Please report any errors or omissions to Jim Stephenson.*

I will also help the church wrestle with issues, conflicts, or problems it may be facing, which should be tackled during the interim season, because, if left unattended, they could easily jeopardize the ministry of your next pastor. I will listen to congregational needs, respond to requests by leaders and church members for ways I can be helpful, and initiate conversations around areas of concern that, from my perspective, seem to be affecting the church's health. And if together we feel that change has to happen, I will serve as a stable, "non-anxious" presence, by gently introducing and guiding the church through these potentially upsetting waters.

And finally, it is my responsibility to help prepare you in a positive way for the arrival of your new pastor. Taken as a whole, when approached intentionally, the interim period can be a very positive, energetic,

freeing, and fun chapter in the church's history. Indeed, it can transform the church and prepare you for a wonderfully hopeful and exciting future.

Every congregation has its own history, culture, worship style, and ways of "doing" ministry. Each has its own personality, "corporate identity," and usual business practices. Thus, you can expect me to grow in my appreciation of and love for your church, the variety of personalities and gifts of your individual members, and the contextualized ways you carry out your work for the kingdom.

Because First Baptist Delaware is different from every other congregation, I do not come with a pre-determined agenda. Instead, I will spend time in uncritical listening, observing, and assessing what goes on in the life of the congregation. I will keep my eyes and ears open when we hold business meetings, gather for social events, engage in ministries and relationships, and participate in corporate worship. I want to get to know you as the unique congregation that you are, then, once I begin to get a "feel" for

who you are; we'll begin to move ahead with greater intentionality.

I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get down to doing ministry together as the Lord leads First Baptist into a healthy future!

*– Rev. Ellen Brown  
Interim Pastor*

### Meet Rev. Brown at our Ice Cream Social and Town Hall Meeting

Please plan to join us for fellowship time, Sunday, June 1st after worship in the Fellowship Hall for ice cream and fellowship. This will also be an



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

opportunity to welcome and get to know Rev. Brown.

During this time, Rev. Brown will share her first "Town Hall Meeting" with us. This will be an informal open discussion time to share thoughts, opinions, and ask questions. It is not a business meeting, no decisions or votes will be taken.

Come, share, and enjoy!

– Larry Faulk, Board of Deacons

## Sign Up for Email (or Phone) Announcements

The board of deacons is seeking to create an "email announcement list" in addition to our email prayer list. While our email prayer list is reserved for requested notices of concern within our fellowship, the "email announcement list" would be for more general notices such as meeting and event promotions and reminders.



If you would like to be included in the list, please email me at [lfaulk01@aol.com](mailto:lfaulk01@aol.com).

If you would like to receive a phone call announcement instead, call me at 614-204-1098.

– Larry Faulk, Board of Deacons

## Pastoral Search Process

As Rev. Brown begins her interim ministry with us, she will assist us as we begin the pastoral search process. In cooperation with our area minister, Jane Gibbons, and our executive minister, Dr. Larry Swain, we will embark on the very deliberate journey of planning and preparing for our next permanent pastor. In the next couple of months, the "Pastoral Search Committee" will be formed according to our constitution which says that each of the following shall

select a representative: "Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees, Board of Christian Education, American Baptist Women (ABW), American Baptist Men (ABM), and the American Baptist Youth (ABY)." We ask for your prayers and support as this process begins.

– Larry Faulk, Board of Deacons

## From the Chessers

Dear FBC family:

What a whirlwind couple of weeks. Please accept this extended thank you for the last 15 days. Saturday, May 3, was the open house at Andrews House for church and community. In those two hours there I shook a lot of hands and answered a lot of questions. Thanks to Liz Bowman, Jennifer Turner, and all who helped them put on that day. It was a wonderful opportunity to share with all the church members who came by as well as clergy colleagues and community members.

Two weeks later May 17 rolled around with a dinner at the church. In addition to the church family we were able to welcome our son Donald and his family as well as friends from our first full time church in Indianapolis. In addition to Donald's twins we were graced with the presence of Matt and Marcy and their twins. The food was great. Thanks Pam for the addition of hush puppies. The gift of the memorial quilt was moving. So many memories tied up in each of the quilt squares. Thanks Jeanne for putting it all together. Our own



copy of the memorial photograph already graces a shelf in our sun room. The laughter and tears of the night were simply an added bonus.

Sunday, May 18, dawned bright and clear. After a wide ranging discussion in Sunday school we moved on to the morning worship service. As people began to arrive I was pleasantly surprised by friends who showed up unexpectedly. We were also please to have several friends with us as well as family. How can we say thank you for the awesome gift of four days in New York City. We are overwhelmed by your generosity. We promise to have a blow out time there. Thank you for knowing us so well that you could pick out the perfect retirement gift.

Kathy and I have been blessed in our almost thirteen years here. Thank you for the wonderful send off into retirement. Be assured that no Whit's coupon will go unused.

The retired couple,

– Tim and Kathy

## Children's Day

The Board of Christian Education will observe Children's Day on Sunday, June 8. After the church service, we will gather in the fellowship hall for a potluck lunch.

– Pam Shears

## Mission Moment

Last month you were alerted to the up-coming One Great Hour of Sharing promotion. Now, I'd like to give you a little history of this offering.

It began sixty-five years ago in response to the devastation of World War II. In March 1949, a national broadcast on a Saturday evening asked Americans to give generously the next morning in their churches. With many national leaders and celebrities giving their efforts to the broadcast, more than 75,000 churches responded the next day.

## Blanket Sunday

We honored the women of our lives on Mother's day, raising \$345.00 (\$85.00 increase over last year) for Church World Service. Thank you First Baptist! This is the first of three activities each year to raise money for Church World Service and the mission work they do worldwide. We will honor the men of our lives on Father's Day, followed by the CROP walk this fall. Thanks again for your wonderful support of Church World Service!

– Randy Turner, Financial Secretary

Giver	In Honor/Memory
Sue Bauer	In Memory of: Mrs. Clara Belle Williams Mrs. Claudia S. Eliot
Jim and Ann Brown	In Honor of: Liz Bowman Carol Grubbs
Kathy Chesser	In Memory of: Jessie Street
Tim Chesser	In Memory of: Hazel Chesser
Jeanne Ekelberry	In Memory of: Ethel Trogdon
Erin and Larry Faulk	In Honor of: Pam Faulk
Pam and Larry Faulk	In Honor of: Florence Faulk Evolena Cole Erin Faulk Laurie Faulk Jodi Mustard Pat Rose Donna Mann Mary Anderson
Debbie, Will and Gabe Fogle	In Memory of: Jean Wickum In Honor of: Mary Lou Lovell Carol Serviss Barbara Smith
Gabe Fogle	In Memory of: Ida Morby
Will Fogle	In Honor of: Debbie Fogle
Pat Gosser	In Honor of: Debbie Fogle
Lisa Lawrence	In Honor of: Jean Scott
Dave Lovell	In Honor of: Marge Matthews Mary Lou Lovell Debbie Fogle Barbara Smith
Mary Lou Lovell	In Memory of: Jennie M. Lovell In Memory of: Margaret Morby Rose Verespij Jennie Lovell
Jerry and Lana Palmer	In Memory of: Ben and Bernice Turney C. W. and Mary Helen Palmer
Ken and Genevieve Peterson	In Memory of: Jessie Peterson Amanda Mac Neill Corinne Potter
Betty Porter	In Honor of: Janet Porter Jennifer Cramer
Randy and Jennifer Turner	In Honor of: Jane Moore Tonabell Turner Melissa Mercer
Rick and Sandy VanBrimmer	In Memory of: Willa Corder In Honor of: Bertha VanBrimmer In Memory of: Doris Stone

Today, this program serves people in over 80 countries around the world. It is sponsored by nine Christian U.S. denominations and Church World Service. One Great Hour of Sharing makes sure that we can respond to the needs as soon as they happen and that tens of thousands of people receive support for ongoing relief, rehabilitation, and development.

Each request for funds is carefully reviewed by The World Relief Committee of the American Baptist Board of General Ministries. Help flowed around the world, and also here at home. From fire relief in Colorado to blizzard relief in South Dakota; from cyclone relief in India to flood relief in Thailand. The monies we give here in Delaware, Ohio are added to those from other churches around the country. By giving, we are showing love and compassion. Those are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive.

– Jane Moore

## "Can-Paign" SUCCESS!

The FBC kids raised over 85 cans of food which totaled over 57 pounds of food. They worked really hard at home and at church to help others as a mission! What an amazing job they did!! Some helpers prayed for others, helped with dishes, held the doors, helped in the church and church worship service and all of the children helped in many, many ways!! By earning their "can-do's" with their "can-do attitudes," they showed what wonderful things can happen when we pass on God's love to others through helpfulness and caring. We remembered the scripture: "I can do all things through Christ, who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13 There's no telling how many lives they touched! GREAT JOB!!!!

– Debbie Fogle

## Thank Your Teachers

Please take some time in the next few weeks to thank our Sunday school teachers and substitute teachers from this past year. They all did a great job. They were Tim and Kathy Chesser, Jerry and Lana Palmer, Larry and Pam Faulk, Randy Turner, Debbie Fogle, Pam Shears, Ann Brown, MaryLou Lovell, and Liz Bowman.

– Pam Faulk



## Teachers Needed

I am currently working on next year's Sunday school classes. We have a need for teachers and substitute teachers. If you wish to volunteer, please see me.

– Pam Faulk

## Thank You

Dear friends,

What a wonderful surprise to find your generous check in the mail today. We are so grateful for that "windfall" from First Baptist.

Our deepest thanks for helping us to help our less-than-fortunate neighbors.

Sincerely,

– Beth Trigg and Staff  
Family Promise

## Church Covered-Dish Lunch

On Children's Day, Sunday, June 8, we will have a covered-dish lunch for our church fellowship. It will be after the church service at approximately 11:15 in the fellowship hall. We started this last year to replace the annual church picnic because we had better attendance if we stayed at church. Please bring your own table service and beverage and a dish to share.

– Pam Faulk



## Andrews House Fundraiser

You are invited to join us at our Blues Barbeque Benefit for Andrews House on Saturday, June 21st from 5:30 -11:00 pm. at the Delaware County Fairgrounds, Merchant Building.

Live Blues Music:

- The Nicely Brothers & Friends
- The Crazy Gringos
- Pett Crow

Tickets are available at [andrewshouse.org](http://andrewshouse.org) or call 740-369-4520. Dinner tickets must be purchased by June 13th.

\$35 dinner and music  
(dinner served 6:00-7:00 pm)

\$20 music only  
(bands start at 7:15 pm)

## Personals

- Christina Kilhefner underwent a kidney/pancreas transplant at the Cleveland Clinic on May 5 and is currently recovering. The surgery went quite well. She is now recovering at home.
- Jerry Palmer had knee replacement surgery on May 19 in Marion.

• Ken Frische was in the hospital with complications from surgery, but has now returned home from rehab.

• Janet Lathrop fell and broke her hand.

• Phil Mercer's father was in the hospital with some ongoing medical problems.

• Betty Porter's granddaughter Bora was recently in the hospital. She thanks everyone for their prayers.

• Jane Moore took a two-week trip to England along with Jimmie's brother Dale and his wife from Texas.

• We offer condolences to Kathy and Tim Chesser on the death of Kathy's favorite aunt.

• Randy Turner was named to a position on the executive board of the Ohio Education Association.

• Lana Palmer and her daughter Jennifer attended the Women of Faith Conference in May.

• Phil Mercer and Melissa Neill performed in the Delaware Community Chorus's spring concert.

• Aidan Ferguson played the part of the prince in his school's production of Sleeping Beauty. Betty Porter's grandson Nick was also in the play.

• Tim Chesser turned 65, and Jeanne Ekelberry turned 80 in May. Happy Birthday!!!

• In the spring concert of the Hayes orchestras, Will Fogle and Aidan Ferguson performed in a young people's ensemble. Claire Turner is a member of the symphonic orchestra and also performed.

• Sally Williams was accompanied to church on Mother's Day by her two daughters, three granddaughters, and one great-granddaughter.

• Steve and Sharon Baker are celebrating 2 new great-grandchildren and another one on the way.

• Betty Porter's son John recently visited from Mexico.