

Good News Letter

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March will begin with the baptism of Aidan Ferguson, who has expressed his desire to profess faith in Jesus Christ. What better way to begin the season of Lent?

On the same day at 5:30, we will meet for a pizza dinner to kick off the Lenten Bible Study, an examination of the, "I Am," sayings in the Gospel of John. After the meal on the 5th the Bible study will begin at 6:30 which will be the start time throughout the month of March.

The focal text for the first meeting is John 8:58, in which Jesus says, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was, I Am," a statement provocative enough that his audience began to stone him. It certainly is an interesting thing to say and offers reflections about God's nature, about the doctrine of the Incarnation, and about our relationship with God.

Over the next three Sundays attention will be given to the other seven sayings:

"I am the Bread of Life," in John 6:35 and 48;

"I am the Light of the World," in 8:12 and 9:5;

"I am the Door," in 10:9

"I am the Good Shepherd," in 10:11

"I am the Resurrection and the Life," in 11:25;

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life," in 14:6 and

"I am the True Vine," in 15:1.

As Passion and Easter draw near, I hope each person will have the

opportunity to deepen their understanding of biblical faith. I look forward to seeing everyone there.



Remember that the missions emphasis for the month of March is the "America for Christ" Offering, the American Baptist offering for Home Missions which supports ministries around the country. Our goal is \$700. I am sure of your prayerful support.

Lent is a time of sacrifice and dedication as we re-examine our own faith commitments in view of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf. It is a time of prayerful reflection about God's grace that has been abundantly given to each of us and that when received in faith produces an assurance of forgiveness as well as a sense of purpose and fulfillment as we await the completion of our salvation. We have the opportunity to be inspired by new faith, informed by the study of the scriptures and challenged by opportunities to serve and give as we seek an enriched experience of Christ's passion, and of Easter.

Blessing to all,

-Mark

From Our Pastoral Intern

Good morning, First Baptist family! As we stand on the eve of a new Lenten season and many of us finalize our internal debates regarding what we will choose to "give up" or "add on" over those forty days, I am thinking about the meaning of these forty days in the life of the church. Over forty days, we will walk together and follow Jesus as He sets his face towards Jerusalem. Over forty days, we will watch and witness Jesus' preaching and teaching, and the growing conspiracy to silence His message. Over forty days, we will journey together and listen to the message of the coming kingdom, and prepare ourselves for its arrival. Lent is the time in which not only do we voluntarily change our lifestyle, but we intentionally call ourselves to a place and state of reflection.

During the month of March, the youth will participate in a Lenten Bible study in conjunction with the adult Bible study. Meeting in the youth group room during the first three Sunday evenings in the month, the youth will quickly walk through the writings of Paul. The youth, on the fourth Sunday, will continue their conversation on ecumenism by visiting and worshipping at First Presbyterian Church.

Looking forward to the upcoming Lenten season!

-David L. Harris, Jr.

America For Christ

Our mission focus for March is the America for Christ offering. The theme this year is **"Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities."**

During the month of March you will be reading about this special offering in inserts in the church bulletins. Please read these thoughtfully and give generously. Our goal is \$700.

Change For Change

I know it does not seem that long ago that we changed our clocks back, but this month on March 12, we will "spring forward" to Daylight Saving Time. Hopefully by now, you know what that means. It means that on Sunday, March 12, we will be collecting all your loose change during the morning worship service. This money will go to Andrews House to help defray the expenses of the Delaware Summer Lunch Program for children. Bring your change to make a change in our community. No coin is too small.

-Pam Faulk

**Tuesday
Pancake Supper**

Our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper is this Tuesday the 28th 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited. Bring a friend. See you there.

Volunteers For March

Kid Connection

Mar 5 - Beth Trigg / Will Fogle
 Mar 12 - Deb Nace / Bowen Nace
 Mar 19 - Pam Shears / Aidan Ferguson
 Mar 26 - Candy Lee / Gabe Fogle

Fellowship Time

Mar 5 - Shears
 Mar 12 - Chambers
 Mar 19 - Sally Williams
 Mar 26 - Lees

Transportation For David Harris

Mar 5 - Open - Please sign up
 Mar 12 - Open - Please sign up
 Mar 19 - Open - Please sign up
 Mar 26 - Open - Please sign up

Panera Pick-Up

Mar 5 - Gossers
 Mar 12 - Faulks
 Mar 19 - Open - Please sign up
 Mar 26 - Open - Please sign up

**Thank you all for volunteering
your time and talents!**

Personals

- Will Fogle was pictured in the February 4 Delaware Gazette as a participant in a Hayes trivia contest after school.
- Colin Ferguson and Brianna Showalter made the Hayes Honor Roll for the 2nd quarter and Will Fogle made the Merit Roll. Congratulations!
- Jeff and Laurie Faulk and family visited in February. They were here for a celebration of Evoleno Cole's 95th birthday. Mrs. Cole is Pam Faulk's mother.
- Samuel Allison visited on February 19.
-Pam Faulk, personals editor

General Fund Shortfall

As we begin the new year and I begin a new responsibility as your treasurer, I would like to keep you informed financially. While we regularly receive contributions to missions, capital improvements, memorials, and our general offerings, we are experiencing a shortfall in our general operating funds.

During the first 7 weeks of the new year, our general fund expenses were \$3,100 more than our income. This represents an average deficit of about \$450 per week. The only "large" non monthly bill was the property tax bill. There have been no other unusual expenses and with the mild winter thus far, I do not anticipate any high utility bills soon.

We will continue to review our expenses and be conservative with purchases. Your prayerful financial response is appreciated.

-Larry Faulk, treasurer

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 (lfault01@aol.com).

Name	Reason for Prayer
Dan and Sherry Chambers	Condolences on the death of Dan's Mother
Alvin Cox	Health Issues
Dr. Ernest Jones	Health Issues
Richard Lovell	Health Issues
Sophia Stephenson and Family	Condolences on the death of Jim Stephenson

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

Birthdays and Anniversaries



March

- 5 Mike Showalter
Ben Turner
- 6 Nancy Via Summers
- 7 Robert Foor
- 11 Rick & Sandy VanBrimmer
- 12 Evan Trigg
- 13 Amy Pfarr
- 18 Dave Lovell

Please report any errors.

Mission/Outreach News

Thanks To:

• **All those who brought items** to fill baggies to give to the men who stayed at the "Place of Warmth" at Zion UCC Church. The baggies contain a variety of some of the following items to help the men throughout the day: granola bar or cheese crackers, raisins, applesauce, hot chocolate mix, soup mix, beef stick, fruit chews, pudding, peanut butter crackers, and a gift card to use at a local restaurant (such as Mac Donalds). 70 baggies have been donated! WOW!!!!!!

• **Pam Faulk** for assembling the bags and Dr. Allison for delivering them.

• **All who came and had fun** playing games on GAME NIGHT held Feb. 4th! Many people learned how to play a new game. The adults and young people had a great time of fellowship, laughs and snacks. If you didn't get to come to this one, come to the next one!

• **Everyone who has brought items** for the Salvation Army Guest House (for trafficked victims) and items to be given to those recovering from being trafficked to set up their own apartment and begin a new life. We have many items to give: a set of dishes, a set of frying pans, a set of glasses, dish towels, dish soap, and shampoo. **Thanks for your generosity in helping those in our community to have a new start.**

• **All who attended the Delaware Community Coalition** event on Sunday, Jan. 29th at the Vineyard Church. They enjoyed a dinner with others in the community, a time of singing with those from other churches, and a worship service which ended with communion.

Mark your calendars for the next Coalition event at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 30th.

Piecemakers Workday

Delaware Piecemakers Quilt Guild will hold a workday, Sat. Mar. 18th, 10-3.

As part of our outreach, we will make Quilts for a Horse Ranch in Mt. Gilead that serves disadvantaged children for a week of summer camp.

Each cabin houses 8 children and an advisor. A quilt is placed on each twin bed and belongs to the child when they go home. Our Guild and others donate each year. They will need 300 quilts to have enough for the summer.

Last October we made 13 quilts and hope to increase that number in March. All time and fabric is donated.

Also:

We invite you to go to the Delaware Library after March 5th. We will be hanging between 30 and 40 Quilts on the second floor. **Look up and enjoy** them before you check out your books!

-Jeanne Ekelberry

Roof Renovation Begins

On Valentine's Day, Quality Masonry Company began work on a section of roof above the Gathering Place. By Sunday, Feb 19th, they had removed the portion of the wall that extends above the roofline and had repaired the mortar in the brickwork in the upper wall area.

The next work will be to extend the existing roof out over the wall to include a two foot overhang to protect the wall from further damage. The work will be completed with soffit and gutter repair.

Your generous contributions to memorials and our capital improvement fund have made this necessary repair possible.

Change for Change

We will collect your change on March 12 to give to the Delaware City Schools Summer Lunch Program

Getting Ahead Classes

Seven "Getting Ahead" classes have been offered with 48 graduates!

The "Getting Ahead" classes will be held at William St. Church on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning March 29th through May 24th. Hard-working, Low-income persons who are committed to transforming their lives are selected to become "investigators." - class participants. The deadline for being a participant in the class is **March 9th.**

Last year, our church provided one meal a month for those attending the classes. In March there will be sign up sheets so that we can provide a meal in April and one in May.

Opportunities to help with the meal are :

1. Donating food
2. Preparing food
3. Serving food at William St. Church
4. Being a childcare provider 5:30-8 p.m. See Mary Lou Lovell if interested.

Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop

Bridges Out of Poverty is a series of best practices and concrete tools that brings people from ALL economic classes together to address all causes of poverty in order to:

BUILD resources
IMPROVE job retention rates
REDUCE health inequities
IMPROVE outcome
And **SUPPORT** those who are moving out of poverty

A Bridges Out of Poverty 2-Day Workshop will be:

Bridges Out of Poverty 1
(Basic Concepts)
Friday, April 21st 5 p.m.-9 p.m.
(4:30 registration)

Bridges Our of Poverty 2
Saturday, April 22nd 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
(8:30 registration)

All are welcome to attend!

You can become an Ally (an intentional friend) to a participant in the Getting Ahead Program. Contact Bonnie Ristau at bristau7@gmail.com

The Second Annual Family Festival (block party)

will be
Saturday, July 15th
11am - 3pm
on Winter Street

FBC will again host a games area

Mark your calanders
Free Food - Free Fun

Pizza and Salad Supper

On the first Sunday of our Lenten Bible study, March 5, we will have a pizza and salad supper at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall to precede the Bible studies. All food will be provided by the Board of Christian Education. The supper is for both adults and our youth because both groups will be having Bible study at 6:30. All other Bible studies will begin at 6:30 without a supper before-hand.

Note: Early Deadline

Due to vacation plans, I will need info for the April newsletter early.

The deadline for submitting items for the April newsletter will be Friday, March 17th.

The newsletter will be available on Sunday, March 26th.

Newsletter Options

Did you know that the "Good News Letter" is available by email? If you would like to save the time and postage needed to mail it to you, please send me your request (lfauk01@aol.com) and I will make sure you are added to the list of those who receive it via email.

The newsletter is also available each month on our website: [www. FBCDelaware.org](http://www.FBCDelaware.org)

Email Change

Our email has changed to: fbcdelaware@midohio.twcbc.com

Church Directory Available

Copies of the 2017 Church Directory are available in the Welcome Center. Pick up your copy today. If you would like an electronic copy, please email me at lfauk01@aol.com