

Good News Letter

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Dear FBC family:

When you receive this newsletter I will have three Sundays left until my retirement on May 18. A number of people have asked me about my continued involvement at First Baptist. At various times in the career of an ABCUSA minister a signed copy of the Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders of American Baptist Churches is placed in our personnel file. The local church usually has a copy and all clergy have a file at ABCOhio region headquarters. One part of that covenant pertains to leaving a place of service. It reads:

I will, upon my resignation or retirement, sever my ministerial leadership relations with my former constituents, and will not make ministerial contacts in the field of another ministerial leader without his/her request and/or consent.

In the weeks and months ahead you will be calling an interim pastor and new permanent pastor. They will be responsible for you. The reason that portion has been included in our code of ethics is because a clean break is needed. New leadership will mean new ways of relating and doing ministry. It does not mean that I will cease caring about you as individuals and wanting the best for the church. A new pastor or interim does not need the departing or old pastor being consulted or second guessing.

Often the departing pastor is leaving the area and the likelihood of continuing relations is diminished. Since we will continue

to make our home in Delaware we will not doubt continue to see many of you. You do not need to make any effort to avoid Kathy or me. You just need to remember that we will not be able to discuss church matters. As time goes by we will continue to fade in your memories and you will love, trust, and support your new pastor.

Celebrations of our ministry together are planned on May 3 and May 17. The May 3 celebration will be from 2:00 – 4:00 at Andrews House. All are welcome at this celebration and it is my hope that the day will work for many of my community friends as well as any church members who want to drop in. The May 17 meal at the church will be more church centered. However, we do have some out of town friends who are planning to attend. We also are expecting guests for our final Sunday with you. My one hug per year rule will be suspended for the last weeks in May.

We will join you in prayer as you seek leadership for the years ahead. Continue to invite others to share in our community of faith.

Your Pastor,



Pastor Chesser Retiring

The Rev. Tim Chesser will be retiring soon; his last Sunday will be May 18.

Born in 1949 in Atlanta, Georgia, Tim served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1968 to 1972 as an Electronics Technician.

He married his wife Kathryn in 1970, graduated from Mercer University in Atlanta in 1978, and graduated from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky in 1981.

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Birthdays & Anniversaries



- May 3 Rick Van Brimmer
- 7 Bertha Van Brimmer
- 8 Willard Fogle
- 9 Chris Riedmiller
Tim Chesser
- 10 Archie & Beth Trigg
Anna Kailyn Porter
- 12 Jeanne Ekelberry
- 15 Barbara Smith
Betty Porter
- 24 Sharon & Steve Baker
- 27 Lisa Lawrence
- 30 Ken Peterson

Please report any errors or omissions to Jim Stephenson.

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	Chesser family	Condolences
	Riedmiller family	Condolences
	Christina Kilhefner	Health issues
	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!

Tim accepted a direct commission as a 1LT in the U.S. Army reserves as a chaplain and saw active duty in Desert Storm in 1991. He left in 1993 with the rank of Captain.

Tim served in churches in Indiana, Wisconsin, and Oklahoma before coming to First Baptist in 2001.

While in Delaware he has performed 16 weddings (including both his sons), 32 funerals, has ushered three people through ordinations (Karen Stoner, Robert Russell and Sam Chesser). He has also served on the Pastoral Relations Committee and Scholarship Committee of the

Marion Association of American Baptist Churches, and has been active in the Delaware Ministerial Association.

He supported CROP Walk, keeping intact a 22 year period of walking in or being a part of the local organizing committee. He served as treasurer for the past two years and plans on continued involvement during his retirement.

He has served as a facilitator in connecting Legal Aid of Ohio and Andrews house, leading to the free Legal clinic at Andrews House. He has served on the Andrews House partner church committee, the Board of DelMor Housing for five years, and on the Board of Governors of the Sarah Moore Home for 8 years. And he's been a supporter of Delaware businesses, especially Amatos and Witts.

He and Kathryn have two sons — Donald, who lives in Delaware, and Sam who lives in Norwich, CT.

The Chessers plan to remain in Delaware during retirement.

First Baptist Church thanks Rev. Chesser for his service and wishes him and Kathy a happy retirement!

Celebration Dinner For The Chessers

Everyone in our church fellowship is invited to a celebration dinner honoring Tim and Kathy on Saturday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the church.

Please RSVP to Pam Faulk either by phone (740-362-8647) or e-mail (pfaulk01@aol.com) so that we know how many to plan for.

Retirement Open House Celebration

Please join us as we show our appreciation to Tim & Kathy for their years of service to the First Baptist Church and the Delaware Community.

Saturday, May 3rd
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Andrews House
39 W. Winter Street

No RSVP necessary. Please stop by and show your support!

— Liz Bowman and Jennifer Turner



Former Parsonage Demolished

On May 11 we'll remember the parsonage during morning worship and a brochure on its history will be distributed.

Our church's original parsonage has been demolished.

The house was built in the 1870s or 1880s, and was used as a private residence and boarding house until we purchased it in 1940 from Harriet Bartholomew.

Rev. Morgan Williams (father of the late Don Williams) and his wife lived in it for several years, and then Rev. James Stephenson and his family lived there.

The pastor's office was located in the parsonage until our Education Building was completed in 1963.

After a new parsonage was built on Congress Court, the old parsonage was rented to a series of tenants.

The church decided to demolish it due to the cost of needed repairs and the availability of a federal program which would pay for demolition costs.

During morning worship on Sunday, May 11, we will spend a few moments remembering the parsonage and how it served our church over the years.

A brochure will be distributed that Sunday which will discuss the history of the house. It will show photos of the pastors and their families who lived there, and photos of the house when it was used as a parsonage.



Demolition began on April 10 with the work done by Shrock Custom Construction of Loudonville, Ohio. They used a Komatsu hydraulic excavator. Water was sprayed to minimize the dust.

Heads Up

Imagine, if you will, a tornado — a flash flood — a raging wildfire. Imagine being displaced in your own homeland, such as many Syrians had to undergo last fall. We here in mid-Ohio haven't had to suffer those tragedies. But we have been a part of helping to alleviate the misery and helplessness of those affected.

Each year we promote the One Great Hour of Sharing offering during the month of June. Money we gave last year was already on hand to help those in America's Midwest following the devastating tornados. The fires out West, the mudslide in Washington state, those suffering Syrians who were displaced within their own country — all were helped in part by American Baptists.

Won't you please pray about your part in this on-going ministry of our denomination. We will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering during the month of June. Our goal is \$600, but let's see if we can double that amount! With God — all things are possible!

— Jane Moore

Children's Day

Looking ahead to next month, 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

Community Chorus Spring Concert

The chorus will present "Love Is in the Air", revealing how love has been expressed in words and music through the centuries from Gregorian chant to Broadway shows, including selections by Brahms, Gershwin, Berlin, Stephen Foster, and many others

There will be two performances — 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. — on Sunday, May 4 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 45 West Winter Street. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased from chorus members, at the door, or online at <http://delawarechorus.org>.

Church Women United

The women of Zion United Church of Christ invite your church women to join the Ecumenical Church Women United 2014 Annual Meeting at our church at 51 W. Central Ave. on Friday, May 2.

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be at 11:30 a.m. Beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and your table service.

After the luncheon, your Least Coins will be collected, dedicated and sent, thanks to Julia Foster, through Church Women United channels. At 12:20, there will be a program with a surprise speaker.

If your church would like to host next May, please issue the invitation at this luncheon.

— from Zion United Church of Christ

Summer Hours

Our last Sunday for Sunday school will be May 18. Summer hours will begin on May 25 with church beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School Party

On May 18, the last day for Sunday school, the Board of Christian Education will be having a party in the fellowship hall for the children's classes. There will be no regular classes for children that day. It would help if Sunday school teachers could help supervise the party along with the board members.

— Pam Faulk

Personals

- Emilie Trigg had a mass removed from her leg and is now recovering.
- Janet Lathrop recently suffered a case of shingles.
- Jeanne Ekelberry and Betty Porter recently spent time in the ER, due to repercussions from the stomach flu.
- Pat Gosser broke her arm.
- The Palmers took a trip to Williamsburg, Virginia.
- The Lovells, Debbie Fogle and her boys, Barbara Smith and her boys spent a week at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

— Pam Faulk, Personals' Editor

