

Good News Letter

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ON THE JOURNEY

The primary way of telling the story of Jesus in the Bible is a journey. You can see this in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. In Mark's gospel, Jesus is always on the way to somewhere else. He tells the story of Jesus with a breathless tempo.

Immediately is one of Mark's favorite words. He says that Jesus does something and then *immediately* he goes somewhere else.

The image we get of Jesus' followers, in a gospel like Mark's, is of a group who are always just one step behind Jesus as he moves on to *somewhere else*. The gospel begins with Jesus calling his disciples. A couple of fishermen were at work one day, bent over their nets, and Jesus interrupts their routine to extend a call to follow him into a new life.

He called them saying, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." (Mark 1:17) Mark tells us that they stopped everything they were doing and went with Jesus. One would think they might have asked, "Fine, but where are we going?" However, they didn't ask that. They just followed Jesus.

Isn't that the way it is with us. We are aware of God's call in our lives and then we find ourselves saying "Yes" to Christ's invitation to journey with him. In fact, in Mark's gospel, that is the image we get of discipleship. Discipleship is following Jesus on a journey without ever knowing precisely where he will lead us.

[Come to worship on May 17 to hear more about this.]

The disciples in Mark's gospel learned, in their everyday experience, who Jesus was by listening to his words and observing his actions. We contemporary disciples journey in a similar manner. We follow and,

as we go, the Lord gradually unfolds his transforming truth in our lives. We are simply called to trust and be faithful to his calling in our lives.

There are some who think that

once we decide to become a Christian that the goal has been reached. Nothing could be further from the truth! Saying "Yes" to Jesus is the beginning and not the end of our journey of discipleship.

Faithfulness to Jesus requires willingness to learn, an expectation that there will be twists and turns along the way, and all kinds of surprises. At the conclusion of our journey, the faithful look back with *amazement* (another one of Mark's favorite words) and, like the first disciples, see that God has produced a rich tapestry of fulfillment in our lives and blessing in the lives of others.

Let's continue to be on the go with Jesus *to somewhere else!*



Pastor Ellen



Summer Hours

On May 24 we will begin summer hours for Sunday worship. There will be no Sunday school until September and the worship service will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Summer Fellowship Time

During the summer months, we will be having a time of fellowship immediately following worship each Sunday, which we are calling **Lemonade in the Shade**. It will be held outside in front of the church as often as the weather permits. (When it rains, we will have it in the Gathering Room.)

This will give us an opportunity to greet one another in an informal setting while enjoying a cool drink and a small bite to eat. It will also provide an opportunity for the community to see us outside!

The church will supply the lemonade, iced tea and paper goods. However, we need individuals, couples or families to sign up for a Sunday in June, July or August. Since the main purpose is for fellowship, we want to keep it as simple as possible. You would be asked to supply baked goods only (i.e. cookies, brownies, rice krispie bars, etc.) — homemade or store bought is your choice.

There will be more information in the coming weeks about how and when to sign up. In the meantime, look at your calendars and plan to sign up for a **Summer Sunday Lemonade in the Shade**.

Youth Sunday Service and Cook-Out

On May 17 we will celebrate Youth Sunday. All our youth will be participating in the worship service in some way. We will also be presenting Bibles to children who have finished the second grade. This will be the last Sunday for Sunday school and for Kid Connection until September.

After the worship service we will be having an all-church cookout at the church. Meat and buns, condiments, table service, and beverages will be provided. We ask the congregation to bring side dishes or desserts, lawn chairs, and yard games.

News About Jeni Pedzinski

We have received good news from Jeni Pedzinski. Jeni has reached 100% of her financial support goal! She was ordained as a minister of the gospel and commissioned as an American Baptist missionary on April 12. First Baptist is part of Jeni's Mission Partnership Network as we support her financially and as prayer partners. We should soon be hearing of her departure to begin language study and her ministry with the women at the New Life Center in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Please continue to pray for her as she takes this next big step.

Volunteers For May

Leaders for Sunday school opening are the following:

- May 3 Pam Shears
- May 10 Ellen Brown
- May 17 Pat Gosser (last day for Sunday school)

Leaders for Kid Connection are the following:

- May 3 Erin Faulk and Bowen Nace
- May 10 Jennifer Turner and Claire Turner
- May 17 Pat Gosser and Will Fogle if necessary (Youth Sunday)

Thank You

Recently, we received the following thank you note from our neighbors, the Women's City Club, in response to the \$1000 check we sent them in memory of Jean Wickum.

Dear First Baptist Church,

Thank you for your wonderful gesture to our mission...helping women in need. The Women's City Club works endlessly to provide funds to keep our lovely home in operation and to provide a basic need for the girls...housing.

Once again, thank you for thinking of us, we will put the funds to good use.

Sincerely,

– Denise Albert

Teachers Wanted

I am currently seeking teachers and substitute teachers for next year. Please speak to me if this is something that you can help with.

– Pam Faulk

Wonderful Easter Music

If you were in church Easter Sunday, you experienced a lot of beautiful music. It was such a pleasure. The service started with Peter White playing many familiar Easter songs on the piano. We heard Aidan and Colin Ferguson play their violins, the choir sang a beautiful anthem, Pastor Ellen played a CD of a beautiful song by Sandi Patti, and Claire Turner brought tears to our eyes when she sang "The Holy City." A big thank you to all of you! It was wonderful.

– Pam Faulk

Mission Focus

Our mission focus for May will be Helpline. We heard about Helpline during our worship service on April 26.

Don Eliot

Former member Don Eliot, age 77 of Columbus and Grandview Heights, died on April 14 from pancreatic cancer.

Longtime members will remember his parents, Claudia and Charles Eliot, who were members of our church for many years. Don was baptized in our church and his sister Sally Williams is a member.

His full obituary can be found at: <http://www.schoedinger.com>

We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

Youth Group

This month the Youth Group has met and had great fellowship. They had a fun game of Bible Trivia (thanks to Randy Turner!). They also did a community outreach project of baking cookies and walking them to the Delaware City Fire Department along with handmade "thank you" cards. The firefighters had a tough day that Sunday and they were very thankful for the warm, home baked cookies! Great job youth!

In May, we will NOT be meeting on Mother's Day, but we will meet on the last Sunday in May (May 31st) with the all ages youth group for a fun, outside (depending on the weather) activity! Remember to remind your parents about the volunteering class at the Humane Society, if you are still interested in doing that as a community outreach!

– Debbie Lovell

Summer Youth Camp

Camp Kirkwood is an American Baptist summer camp located at Wilmington, Ohio. They offer summer camp activities for all ages of youth. The week of June 14-19 is Junior High Camp for grades 7-9. Junior Missions Camp for grades 4-6 will be held from June 21-26. Senior High Camp for grades 9-12 is the week of June 28-July 3. New Adventure Camp is for grades 3-4 and will be held from June 28-July 1. There

is a Beginners' Camp for grades K-2 which is held on July 10-11.

There are discounts available for first-time campers, bring-a-friend campers, and family discounts. In addition there are funds available from our church to help with the cost. Please speak to Pam Faulk if you are interested in summer camp.

Sanctuary Art

The wall hanging that is currently in the sanctuary was created by former member Jeff Reed and was presented to the church as a gift. The wooden cross in the baptistry was made and given to the church by Larry Faulk.

Save The Date

We have another star in our midst. Aidan Ferguson has the role of Christopher Robin in the musical production of Winnie the Pooh at Willis Intermediate.

Performances are Friday, May 8 from 6:30-7:30 and Saturday, May 9 from 11:00-noon. Tickets can be purchased at the door and are \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students and seniors. We encourage our church family to support Aidan by attending one of these performances.

Miss a Sunday? Catch Up!

If you missed a Sunday, but wanted to hear the worship service or the sermon, you are in luck. Just go to our website, and click on the link "Recent Services" to listen to an audio recording of the service. If you want to just hear the scripture and sermon, click on "Recent Sermons".

Mission and Outreach Team News

The Mission and Outreach Team met on Sunday, March 8 and Sunday, April 17, 2015. The team has been exploring ways to show God's love through reaching out to others globally and locally.

During the first meeting we had two discussion groups that focused on

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
	Sally Williams & Family	Condolences on death of Sally's brother Don Eliot
	Carol Serviss	Surgery recovery
	Ken Frische	Surgery recovery
	Christina Kilhefner	Transplant recovery
	Penny Hagaman	Health issues
	Steve Baker	Health issues
The Faulks	Bora Porter (Janet's daughter)	Health issues
	Betty Porter	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!

welcoming visitors to our church, special mission offerings and missionaries, and outreach ideas to the community.

Since the first meeting we have new signs on the lawn which display out worship time. We have done yard work and painting at Andrews House.

A meal has been served at the Family Promise House.

We have planned a meal and will serve it on April 20th for the Stepping Up/Getting Ahead class participants at William St. Church.

We have had contact with two Principals at local elementary schools as to ways we can provide assistance for students.

We have been in contact with Andrews House about the Summer Lunch Program held at Woodward School.

Andrews House offers three free community meals: 2nd Friday, 3rd Monday, and 3rd Thursday. We are looking into ways to assist with meals and bakery donations. We discussed the four Special offerings

and have a monthly emphasis on missions:

May – People in Need (non-perishable item donations), Blanket Sunday, and Helpline

June – Tools of Hope, One Great Hour of Sharing

July – School supplies for an elementary school

August – Common Ground

We discussed participating in First Friday events, the possibility of helping the Salvation Army with their aid in helping those that have been involved with Human Trafficking, and to Turning Point.

For the Second Friday Meal on May 8th, Larry Faulk is looking for volunteers to help. Please let him know if you can help. 740-362-8637.

The church members are providing a meal for Stepping Up/Getting Ahead class participants on May 20th. If you would like to provide food, give a donation toward a food purchase for the meal and /or help to serve, there will be a sign up sheet in the Gathering Room on the bulletin board.

We would like to have everyone's ideas to move forward in being in service to others. Come join us for our May meeting!

– Mary Lou Lovell

Pastoral Search Committee Update

The search committee continues to be in conversation with some candidates that were interviewed at the "Face to Face" event. We have also received the results of another ABC search and have selected more candidates to explore their interest and potential.

– Larry Faulk
Pastoral Search Committee

Core Values

As a result of our November "Core Values Meeting", the search committee focused on the following areas of Core Values: Worship, Education - Learning and Thinking, Jesus as the center, Fellowship, History / Tradition, and Mission. A copy of the profile is available in the Gathering Area for your review.

– Larry Faulk
Pastoral Search Committee

Calling All Women

from First Baptist Church to attend Church Women United Annual Meeting

When: May 1 at 11:30 a.m. Luncheon (Bring a dish to share and your own table service)

Bring: coins for the "Least Coin Offering"

What: Program — 12:15 p.m. "A Legend and a Legacy: Shanti Solomon and the Fellowship of the Least Coin."

Where: Asbury United Methodist Church

Let's have a group of women attend this Ecumenical Meeting! Call Mary Lou at 740-369-6041 to let her know if you plan to come.

1 Year Ago

May 2014 Newsletter

Rev. Chesser will be retiring May 18.

The old parsonage was demolished.

5 Years Ago

May 2010 Newsletter

New tables were put in the fellowship hall.

A bridal shower was held for Lindley Fischer and Sam Chesser.

10 Years Ago

May 2005 Newsletter

Pam Faulk recovered from her coma and was transferred from Riverside Hospital to a physical therapy facility.

15 Years Ago

May 2000 Newsletter

Church member Anne Linn, 72, the mother of Beth Trigg, died unexpectedly at her home.

If we would like to host this meeting next year, we need to offer that on May 1st.

May Mission Opportunities

Our Mission Emphasis for the month of May will be Helpline. Sue Hanson will present the Mission Moment on April 26th to tell us about Helpline.

Blanket Sunday - May 10th

Remember to honor your mother or special woman in your life on Mother's Day! Fill out a form designating the woman you are honoring with your donation and pin it to the blanket on Mother's Day. The donations will be given to Church World Service. This is the first of 3 activities each year to raise money for their mission work worldwide. Last year \$345.00 was given. Let's top that!

Birthdays and Anniversaries



- May 3 Rick 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
17 Ellen & David Brown
24 Sharon & Steve Baker
27 Lisa Lawrence
30 Ken Peterson

Please report any errors or omissions to Jim Stephenson.

May Sermon Titles and Scripture

May 3 - Communion
Backward Communion
Luke 22:14-19

May 10 - Mother's Day
Five Mothers
Deuteronomy 6:5-9

May 17 - Youth Sunday
Whatever Happens
Philippians 4:11b-13

May 24
What's Your Name?
Judges 6:11-16

May 31 - Pentecost Sunday
Dangerously Christian
Acts 2:44-47

People In Need CAN-PAIGN!

The first two weeks of May we will focus on bringing food and nonperishable items for P.I.N. Mrs. Shears and Mrs. Fogle's Sunday School class had a CAN DO activity in which they earned 87 items to P.I.N.! Wow! That

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was great! If everyone brings 1 item to church the first Sunday, May 3, that could be 30 items or more! If we do this on May 10th as well, that would be at least 30 more, for a total of 60! I think that we could top the Sunday School class. Let's see if we can get 100 cans! Please put this list on your refrigerator and circle the things you will bring on May 3rd and May 10th.

Food & taxable Items most needed in the food pantry

Beef Stew
Boxed Dinners
Boxed/Instant
Cake Mixes
Canned Fruit
Canned Fruit Juices
Canned Meats/Fish
Canned Pasta
Canned Vegetables
Cereal
Cooked/Dry
Crackers
Dry Milk
Flavored Gelatin
Frosting Mixes
Graham Crackers
Hot Chocolate Mix
Jelly
Macaroni & Cheese
Muffin Mixes
Noodles/Macaroni
Peanut Butter
Potatoes
Pudding Mixes
Saltines
Shelf Stable Milk
Soups
Spaghetti
Spaghetti Sauce
Syrup
Tea Bags

In order to promote a healthier diet for all Delaware County residents please consider donating items that are whole grain products, are lower in sodium, or reduced sugar.

The following Items are not available with the Ohio Direction Benefit Card.

Bar Soap
Diapers (medium & large)
Dish Soap
Facial Tissue

Feminine Hygiene Products
Shaving Cream
Laundry Detergent
Razors
Shampoo
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Toilet Paper

Getting Ahead Classes

On April 20th several women are preparing and serving a meal for the participants and families of the "Getting Ahead"(Stepping Up) classes held at William St. Church. The participants of the classes are learning how to get out of poverty and are in a mentoring program.

We need your help for the May 20th meal. Food is to be taken to William St. Church by 4:30 p.m. on May 20th. Those serving remain until about 6:30 p.m. If you would like to make food for the meal and/or come and serve on May 20th, please let Mary Lou Lovell (740-360-6041) know by May 2nd.

Meals for Family Promise

On Thursday, April 9, Pam Faulk and I prepared and served a meal for the Family Promise residents. Pam and I were greeted by a 9 year old who opened the door and asked if there was anything he could do to help us. Many of the residents asked how they could help in preparation for serving the meal. We enjoyed meeting the women and children. We talked, laughed, discovered things in common, helped with the children and played a game. The residents thanked us for bringing the meal and were very appreciative. We would like to go again. We are hoping that others will join us. I will keep you updated as to when we are asked to provide a meal again.

– Mary Lou Lovell

Thank you for the pies!

Through the generosity of the members of First Baptist Church we were able to provide 10 apple pies for Andrews House Second Friday meal. Thanks to all who donated for the purchase of the pies. Because

the pies were on sale, we have \$5.10 to put toward the purchase of the next dessert we will provide.

– Mary Lou Lovell

Personals

- Claire Turner recently visited New York City with the Hayes High School choir. She thanks you all for your support this year.
- Alvin and Bev Cox's granddaughter Anna Cox recently had her last chemo treatment and is now in remission. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Phil, Melissa, and Jane Mercer recently took a trip to New York City.
- Debbie, Will, and Gabe Fogle visited Debbie's brother Matt in California over spring break.
- Jeanne Ekelberry has undergone her second eye surgery and had some complications but is healing. She thanks all who have supplied transportation for her.
- Larry, Pam, and Erin Faulk took a cruise to Key West, Honduras, Guatemala, and Costa Maya, Mexico over spring break.
- Will Fogle recently participated in a music competition and received two scores of 1 for his violin pieces.
- Ken and Genevieve Peterson were featured with a picture in the April 20 edition of the Delaware Gazette. They recently received the highest tribute, the Gift of Love Award from Willow Brook of Delaware Run for their voluntary service at Willow Brook.
- Sam and Lindley Chesser are proud parents of Spencer Avery Chesser, born at 11:12 pm on April 20. He was 6 lb 2 oz and 20 inches. Mother and child are doing well.

