

Good News Letter

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Happy Easter! As I sit writing this article the sun is shining, and it is warm outside, reminding me how the warmth and growth of spring serves as an illustration of resurrection played out before our eyes each year. It also reminds me that summer is near. But before summer, May intervenes.

In May we look forward to the end of another school year. There will be concerts and plays, graduations and promotions, and we will acknowledge the passing of another year of Bible study with Youth Sunday on May 21. In the middle is Mother's Day, which is more than a celebration of motherhood, the role our moms play in our lives; it is also an acknowledgment of our spiritual family in Christ, that we have received 100-fold brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, fathers and, of course, mothers, because of our allegiance to Christ.

Let us be thankful for this family in Christ. It is a gift from God we ought never take for granted. And it is a source of community sadly lacking in the world around us.. Every day I am reminded of the things that divide people from one another, people who might otherwise be neighbors and friends. While it seems like the things that divide are stronger right now in the world, than the things that unite, I take encouragement in the ways people are reaching out for stronger community, expressing a desire for what is dearly missed.



Sometimes we do not experience this spiritual kinship with one another, but when we do, let us be thankful.

And let us seek it, kinship in Christ is what we are about; it gives meaning to everything we do; Mother's day, graduations, promotions, youth days, Bible studies and worship, and all the summertime activities. The kinship we share is made possible by the resurrection of Jesus that we celebrate in this Easter season; the springtime of hope and warmth, the reclaiming of death by life.

Blessings

-Mark

From Our Pastoral Intern

I can't believe this year has flown by! It really does feel like yesterday I was beginning my field education placement and it was the summer months. Through all of these months, I have grown in worship and in fellowship with all of you, learning and experiencing ministry in a variety of new and interesting ways. As we continue along in this Easter season and march through May in preparation for Pentecost, I am always mindful of the importance of this post-Easter season. Churches are beginning to think about the summer and fall

while congregation members are in the midst of travel and vacation plans. May is full of graduations, celebrations, and holiday observances. But in the midst of all of this, May is also a time where we connect deeply with the resurrected Christ. Just as we walked with Christ through Lent, May is a time where we can walk and reflect on what Christ continues to share with us.

As I type these words, the youth are about to meet up to discuss our visit to Saint Mary Catholic Church as well as plan the upcoming Youth Sunday worship, so there is a lot of activity going on among the youth. As May is a month full of celebration and travel, there will be no ecumenical church visit or Sunday evening youth group planned for this upcoming month. However, the youth are excited about helping to construct and lead worship on May 21st as we culminate the end of the Sunday School year as well as celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of the youth in our church. I have been given the task of providing the preached word on that Sunday, so I look forward to sharing the Word with you on that day of celebration.

As we continue to live in the spring season and anticipate the summer months, let us all enjoy the gift of the Son who rose so that we might experience the beauty of life eternal.

Blessings and Peace,

-David L. Harris, Jr.

Volunteers For May

Kid Connection

May 7 - Deb Fogle/Gabe Fogle
May 14- Deb Nace/Hannah Nace
May 21- Youth Sunday

There will be no Kid Connection during the summer. It will resume on Rally Day in September.

Fellowship Time

May 7 - Jeanne Ekelberry
May 14- Gossers
May 21- Church Picnic
May 28- Lees/Gossers

Rides For David Harris

May 7- Scott Nace
May 14- Open
May 21- Open
May 28- Scott Nace

Panera Pick-Up

May 4 - Lovells
May 11- Open (Please Volunteer)
May 18- Naces
May 25- Faulks

Thank you all for volunteering

Sunday School Ends for the Year on Youth Sunday

On May 21 we will celebrate Youth Sunday. David Harris will be working with our youth to coordinate the worship service. We will be presenting Bibles and honoring our graduates during the service.

This is also the last day for Sunday school classes until the fall. After the worship service we will have our annual church picnic in the Fellowship Hall, sponsored by the Board of Christian Education. All are invited to stay. Meat, buns,

condiments, beverages, and table service will be provided. The board is asking others to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Summer Hours

On Sunday, May 28, we will begin our summer hours. There will be no Sunday school until September. The worship service will begin at 10:00.

Change For Change

This is just a reminder that if you don't want to store your loose change at home, you can bring it to church and leave it in the plastic jug on the table in the Welcome Center. I will empty it and keep the change until November when we collect it again.

-Pam Faulk

Personals

The Lovells vacationed in California, visiting their son Matthew.

On Sunday, March 23, our fellowship celebrated with the Kilhefners with a "card" shower after church.

Beth and Archie Trigg have invited our fellowship to a graduation party for Brianna Showalter at their house from 6-8 on May 27. Brianna will graduate from Hayes this month. She has received a scholarship from Ashland University for the fall. Brianna is the daughter of Mike and Emilie Showalter. Congratulations Brianna!

Ian Ferguson will graduate on May 15 from the College of Wooster with a BA in history and an education minor. Congratulations Ian!

Dave Lovell's brother Richard visited our fellowship on May 23. Richard remains on our prayer list for his cancer treatment.

Ken Shears will be inducted into the Military Hall of Fame on May 5. Congratulations Ken!

Former member June Grubbs, mother of Fred Grubbs, passed away in April.

-Pam Faulk

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).

Name	Reason for Prayer
Alvin Cox	Health Issues
Dr. Ernest Jones	Health Issues
Richard Lovell	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!

**Birthdays
and
Anniversaries**



May

- 3 Rick VanBrimmer
- 5 Dave Brown
- 8 Will Fogle
- 9 Tim Chesser
- 10 Chris Byall
Anna Porter
Archie & Beth Trigg
- 12 Jeanne Ekelberry
- 15 Barbara Smith
- 16 Brianna Showalter
- 17 Dave & Ellen Brown
- 19 Scott Nace
- 24 Steve & Sharon Baker
- 27 Lisa Lawrence
- 30 Ken Peterson
- 31 Alvin Cox

Please report any errors.

Easter Offering

The Easter Offering was given to Common Ground Free Store.

**Teacher Appreciation Day
at Conger Elementary
School**

Thank you to all who brought items to fill a bag for each teacher at Conger Elementary School to show our appreciation for their dedication and hard work for their students.

A special thank you to Jeanne Ekelberry for spending many hours making potato bags(for

cooking baked potatoes in the microwave), soup dish pot holders and pot holders for hot dishes. Each one is different and colorful! The teachers will love this gift!

Bags will be assembled at the April 30th Mission/Outreach Meeting at 2 p.m.

Come and join us!

The bags will be delivered the second week in May.

**Stepping Up Class
Member Meals**

We will be providing a meal for the Stepping Up Class Members on May 10th and May 22nd.

At the April 30th Mission/ Outreach Meeting we will be setting the menu.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place for preparing food, serving the meal at William St. Church, or donating food for the meals.

Class members receive a gift card from Meijer or Kroger for \$25.00. If you would like to give money toward the purchase of a card or donate a card, see Mary Lou Lovell.

If you need to have prepared food taken to William St. Church, see Mary Lou Lovell (740-369-6041).

Thank you for helping to provide meals in the past. They are very appreciated.

**Blanket Sunday
May 14th - Mother's Day**

On Mother's Day, May 14, you can honor important women in your life by donating money that goes to Church World Service for the purpose of providing blankets, tents, and other shelter items to adults and children worldwide.

Panera Pick Up

Thanks to all who have picked up the unsold items from Panera on Thurs. night at 8:45 P.M., bagging them, and taking them to Andrews House on Friday morning at 8:30.

Mel, at Andrews House, is always so happy to see the bread and pastries come in to be given to the Food Pantry and those in need in our community.

The sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Place. It does not take a lot of time and helps those in our community so much.

See Pat Gosser if you have questions or want to help with any part of this ministry.

Fifth Sunday Service

The Delaware Community
Coalition Service
April 30th
5:45 meal / 6:30 worship
1st Presbyterian Church
All are invited and welcome

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

America For Christ Offering

We ended the America for Christ offering with a total of \$620, which was less than our \$700 goal. There is still time to help us meet our goal.

Thank You

We recently received the following thank you note:

Dear Members of First Baptist Church:

The Salvation Army Anti-Human Trafficking program wants to thank you for all of the donations you provided to us. You are helping change the lives of many victims through your donations.

Sincerely,
Malaya Thompson,
Regional Case Manager

Deficit Continues, But Improves

Our first quarter financial report indicates that while the deficit in our General Fund continues, we did not end the quarter as badly as expected. We spent \$2431 more than we received for general operations, which is a little over \$800 per month or about \$200 per week.

We continue to monitor expenses (which are well below budget). Contributions to missions, memorials, and capital improvements continue to meet expectations. Thank you.

Copies of the 1st Quarter Financial Report are available in the Welcome Center.

Trustees Notes

The major project on the outside of the north wall of the church has been completed by Quality Masonry of Marion.

The parapet wall was taken down level to the roof and the eaves were extended out over the wall to keep it dry. The new eaves match the rest of the 1898 style of the church. The existing eaves on the north side were repaired and painted.

New heavy duty "half round" gutters and downspouts were installed. The upper part of the wall was tuckpointed and water repellent was applied. This work will keep the wall dry and will stop the water damage which has been an ongoing

problem for decades, ruining plaster and paint inside. The total cost was almost \$40,000.

The local Ball Painting Company has been chosen to repair and paint the bad areas inside. This work would not have been possible without the memorial gifts and donations to the capital improvements fund over the years.

-Peter White,
Trustees Chairman

p.s. The stone cross that was on top of the wall was relocated to the planting area outside the double blue doors at the suggestion of the contractor. It fits well there.

Directory Update

OOPS!
Ken Shears
cell phone number is
wrong in the directory.
The correct number is
740-816-5374