

# Good News Letter

Published in the Cause of the Abundant Life by the First Baptist Church  
101 North Franklin Street, Delaware, OH 43015•740-363-7021•www.FBCDelaware.org

It isn't often that the Song of Songs is the subject of sermons or quotes in monthly newsletter articles. This article is, nevertheless, an exception, "See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come (Song of Songs 2:11-12)." I'm sure that by the time May arrives along with this newsletter, such will be the case here in Ohio.

May is for Mother's Day and graduation, among other things. This year I will be out of town on Mother's Day because my oldest son Evan is graduating from the University of Missouri with a Masters Degree in Chemical Engineering. There are others in our church family who will also graduate; Colin Ferguson from Hayes High School and David Harris Jr. from MTSO with a Master of Divinity and a Master of Theological Studies.

Graduation is both a time to celebrate the achievement of an education that required patience and hard work, and a time to look forward to new life opportunities afforded by that education. We pray for and wish Evan, Colin, and David well.

It is worth taking the space to offer thanks and encouragement to the mothers in our church family, as well as to all moms in general. Parenting is a part of life, and for believers it is an important part of the spiritual life. Motherhood is a sacrifice given in



love, which makes it resemble God's sacrifice, so for those who have given their lives to it, may God bless and keep you.

Pentecost also comes in May, a Jewish holiday to celebrate the spring grain harvest. Sometimes it has been called the Feast of Weeks, and it gets its name because it was observed 50 days after Passover. For Christians, it means the coming of the Holy Spirit with tongues of fire enabling the early believers to share the gospel story with all the pilgrims who were in town for the feast in their own language. It also means the end of the season of Easter and the beginning of the time after Pentecost, which means, "life in the spirit."

The spiritual life addresses every facet of human experience; family, personal piety, vocation, citizenship, psychological and physical health, Christian character and fellowship. We enter into this season of the Spirit in the full awareness of God's sacrifice of His Son on the cross and of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The winter is past; and even if there are some rains hanging around, the flowers have appeared. It is the season of singing. Let us be strengthened, enlightened, and encouraged in everything, whether there is a graduation to celebrate or any other of life's major events. God is always present. Life is a precious gift; in everything be thankful.

Blessings,  
-Mark

## ***From Our Pastoral Intern***

This has been one excitement-filled church year, to say the least! Through various times of transition of both loss and addition to our church community, we have made it to the "end" of the Sunday School year. As we prepare to enter into the summer months and fill up our itineraries with vacations and times of rejuvenation, I just want to take this time to also reflect on the work and energy of the youth since September.

Although the primary activity of the youth has been the ecumenical excursion (which I continue to hear positive feedback from), the youth have also deeply engaged with the life of the church and how they envision the church community in the years to come. Whether through thinking about the practical aspects of the church life or their own theological formations and faith journeys, the youth have grown in many ways

over these past months and over the past 2 years. While much of our time was spent laughing and brainstorming many unfeasible ideas, many ideas that were brainstormed have some potential and possibility to be inserted into the church community.

In May, I am humbled to be able to preach in Pastor Mark's absence for worship on Mother's Day. I am also eagerly excited for the worship service being constructed by the youth group for Youth Sunday on May 20<sup>th</sup>, during which I will also be preaching. On a personal note, I am also excited to be graduating from MTSO that following Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> (what a week that will be!). Since many have asked what my formal degrees will be once I walk across the stage, I am graduating with a Masters in Divinity with a Specialization in Black Church and African Diaspora Studies, and a Masters of Theological Studies with a Specialization in Biblical Studies. I look forward to the month of celebration that awaits us in May!

Blessings and Peace,  
**-David L. Harris, Jr.**

### **Mission / Outreach News:**

On April 11th Genevieve Peterson, Linda White, Pam Faulk, Larry Faulk, Jeanne Ekelberry, Pat Gosser, and Candy Lee provided food for the Stepping Up Meal class participants. Linda, Jeanne, and Larry served the meal and cleaned up after the meal. The meal was enjoyed and there was enough to send take home boxes with class participants.

We will be making and delivering Teacher Appreciation Bags to Conger Elementary School in May.

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**



### **May**

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

*Please report any errors.*

In March we collected \$635 for the America for Christ offering.

In June we will be taking the Tools of Hope Offering and the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Mark your calendar for Family Day Block Party on Sat., July 14th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will again provide and supervise lawn games.

Come join us and bring your ideas to the next Mission/ Outreach Meeting at 11:15 on May 27th.

### **Getting Ahead Thank You**

Thank you all so much for the wonderful meal you prepared and served to our Getting Ahead class! Everything was delicious and I know how much they all

look forward to a home-cooked meal before class.

It was especially nice that Linda White was there to see Jerry Miller, who worked with both of us at Willis many years ago. Such a small world!

Again, thank you for your continued support of our program. We couldn't do it without you!!

Blessings,  
 Nancy Miller

### **Brothers All**

The Brothers All have sung for Maundy Thursday service and on Sunday, April 15th. All men are welcome to lift their voices in song for the Lord! Come and join us. Rehearsal on May 6th at 1:30.

### **Volunteers For May**

#### **Kid Connection**

- May 6 Pam Faulk
- May 13 Candy Lee /  
Gabe Fogle
- May 20 Youth Sunday
- May 27 No Kid Connection  
during summer hours

#### **Fellowship Time**

- May 6 Jeanne Ekelberry
- May 13 Pam Shears
- May 20 Church Picnic
- May 27 Carol Grubbs

#### **Panera Pick-Up**

- May 3 Chambers
- May 10 Grubbs
- May 17 Volunteer Needed
- May 24 Faulk
- May 31 Fogle

There are new sign-up sheets in the Gathering Place for Fellowship Time and Panera Pick-up for the summer months.

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

## Personals

• Ben Turner was hospitalized with a broken pelvis and other broken bones after a fall. After surgery on April 5, he is now recovering. He is staying at Jane and Jim Snyder's home in order to get around more easily. The Turner Family thanks you all for your prayers and cards. Their friend Margaret Thomson has set up a Meal Train for meals for them if you wish to help.

• Jane and Jim Snyder have been staying in Morgantown, West Virginia, where they are helping Jane's brother and sister-in-law, who have many health problems.

• Colin Ferguson was pictured and quoted in a recent edition of the Delaware Gazette in an article about students planting trees.

• Will Fogle has been mentioned several times recently in the Delaware Gazette about his contribution to the Hayes tennis team.

• Aidan Ferguson was named on the Distinguished Honor Roll and Colin Ferguson and Will Fogle were named on the Honor Roll for the third quarter at Hayes. Congratulations Guys!

## General Fund Update

Offerings to our General Fund for the first quarter of 2018 were over \$5,000 less than our expenses. We continue to look for ways to reduce our General Fund expenses, reducing or avoiding non-essential purchases. A review of our property insurance has resulted in a \$2,000 savings in premium costs. Shopping for approved, competitive natural gas suppliers has saved over \$200 per month this past winter.

*-Larry Faulk, treasurer*

## Church Women United

The Annual Church Women United Meeting will be held at Asbury United Methodist Church (McCoy Room 1) on Friday, May 4th at 11:30 a.m. for lunch.

Beverages and table settings will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. At 12:15 p.m., you will be invited to share in the program, "Memories and Expectations". What are your favorite memories of Church Women United? Where do we go from here? A host church for next year's meeting will be decided. The Fellowship of Least Coin will be collected.

If you can attend this meeting to fellowship with women from other churches, call Mary Lou Lovell (740-369-6041).

## Panera Pick Up

Thanks to all who have been able to pick up the unsold items from Panera on Thursday evenings at 8:45 p.m., bag them and deliver them to Andrews House on Friday morning. If the items are not picked up, they are thrown away. This is an easy way to help those who need food to eat. If you have not had the opportunity to try this, talk with Pam, Larry, Debbie, or Mary Lou. With summer coming,

many people will be on vacation, so please check the sign-up sheet to see if there is a night that you can help .

## Blanket Sunday May 13th - 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.

## Graduations

On May 13 Evan Allison will graduate from the University of Missouri with a Masters Degree in Chemical Engineering.

On May 26 Colin Ferguson will graduate from Rutherford Hayes High School. Colin plans to attend Bowling Green State University in the Fall.

On May 26 David Harris will graduate from MTSCO with Masters Degrees in Divinity and in Theological Studies.

**Congratulations to all these fine young men!**

## Prayer List

This list is prepared by the Deacons.  
Please send changes to Larry Faulk ([lfaulk01@aol.com](mailto:lfaulk01@aol.com)).

### Name

Alvin Cox  
Richard Lovell  
Ken Peterson  
Ben Geary  
Kilhefner Family  
Ben Turner

### Reason for Prayer

Health Issues  
Health Issues  
Health Issues  
Health Issues  
Brother's Health Issue  
Recovery and Rehab

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

## **Women's Fellowship**

The women met for a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall on April 14. We also invited the women from Second Baptist Church. Nine of our fellowship and four from Second Baptist attended. We had a great time.

Our May lunch will be on Saturday, May 12 at 11:30 at the Frisch's in Marysville. It is an easy drive straight west on Route 36. The Frisch's is on the right, just as you enter the Marysville area. It is before you cross Route 33. Feel free to call someone and invite them, offer to drive someone, carpool, call someone if you need a ride. Because Frisch's will not take reservations, I will have to call them that morning and give them a count.

Please let me know before then if you intend to go.

## **Sally Williams is Moving**

Sally Williams is moving to Westerville. Her new address is 1195 North St, Apt. 437, Westerville, OH 43081.

## **Pastor Buys Condo**

Our pastor, Dr. Mark Allison has been able to purchase the condo that he has been renting since arriving in Delaware. Welcome to home ownership in Delaware.

## **Summer Hours to Begin**

Youth Sunday will be the last Sunday for our regular hours with Sunday school. On Sunday, May 27 we will begin summer hours. There will be no Sunday school until September, and the worship service will begin at 10:00 a.m.

## **Youth Sunday and All-Church Picnic**

On Sunday, May 20, we will celebrate Youth Sunday. David Harris has been working with the youth to provide the worship service that morning. At that time we will also recognize graduates and present a Bible. After the service at 11:30 we will go to the Fellowship Hall for a potluck lunch. Hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages, and table service will be provided by the Board of Christian Education. We ask that you bring a side dish to share. We will also be celebrating David Harris with cake for dessert that day, since he will be leaving us soon. We hope you can all attend.

## **Thank a Teacher**

Please take a moment to thank our Sunday school teachers and substitutes from this year. They have done an excellent job.

Teachers were Pat Gosser, Mark Allison, Larry Faulk, and Pam Faulk. Substitutes were Jerry Palmer, Randy Turner, David Harris, and Candy Lee.