

Published in the cause of the Abundant Life
by the First Baptist Church, Delaware, Ohio

James B. Stephenson, pastor

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I am writing these lines Wednesday, February 20, which is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Lent is the season of forty days preceding Easter, not counting Sundays. The word is from the Anglo-Saxon Lencten, meaning spring. It is a period of fasting and penitence observed in the Church from very early times. By using these days for deepening the spiritual life the Christian is better prepared to enter the sufferings of Christ during Holy Week and then experience the joyous triumph of Easter.

Bishop Kenneth J. Povish keeps a journal during Lent. The following is quoted from it and I think it really sets the tone and purpose for the season:

Tuesday. Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday, Lent begins and I must preach in the cathedral. Got an idea from yesterday's paper. The Twins (a baseball team) began spring training in Florida yesterday. Lent is like spring training! The athletes fall out of shape, get overweight, need limbering up after the winter. Spring training makes pitching, batting, fielding smooth and sharp again. Christians have had 'spring training' since about the 5th century. We call it Lent.

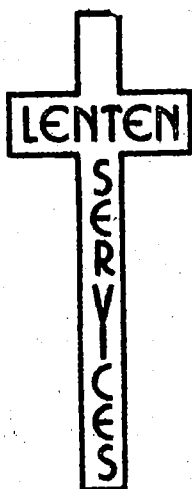
Wednesday. The cathedral was packed tonight. Told them we needed Lent just as the Twins need spring drills down in Orlando, because human nature tends to get sluggish, we get into spiritual ruts, most of us are overweight with self-indulgence."

Like it? Want to turn your Lent into spring training? Want to experiment a bit with the Bishop's idea? So do I and so we shall!

The title of my Message for the first Sunday in Lent is SPRING TRAINING. And I make my own the prayer Bishop Povish recorded in his journal - "Lord, help me to practice in my own life what I preach to these wonderful people!"

(Steve)

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Our theme for Lent is "Training for the Life of the Spirit." All the messages will be practical and Biblical. Scripture readings will be given in advance to enable you to do some additional study on your own. (Reading for Feb. 23 is Matthew 3:1-4:11; for March 2, Genesis 22:1-19)

I hope to organize some classes to apply and implement what we study on Sunday morning and I'd like to hear from you if you are interested. They can be scheduled at your convenience, night or day.

Your Healing Group will sponsor a healing service during March, date to be announced.

Your choir will present music intended to inspire you to enter into a deeper experience of God.

Next newsletter will carry data concerning our plans for Holy Week and Easter. Call the office if you have any questions or suggestions!

LENTEN BREAKFASTS SCHEDULED EACH WEDNESDAY

The Kiwanis clubs are sponsoring the annual lay breakfasts during Lent. They are held at the Holiday Inn each Wednesday at 7:30am. Wilbur Wickum is a member of the committee in charge. Speakers will be Jean Wickum, Robert Whiteside, David Eckman, Ruth Rabby, and Kenneth Kunkel. The final breakfast will be a special program which will be announced later. They are open to all.

REPORT FROM CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Be sure and collect clothing for Church World Service during February. New or good used clothing is desperately needed. Bring to church and put in marked boxes. It must be turned into Asbury Church collection depot Tuesday, March 4, or Wednesday, March 5, from 9am to 4:30pm. Let's surprise Bertha McTaggart and get more pounds than last year. Last September we had 3200 lbs. of clothing from the county and were 12th in area one of our state which included the cities of Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton, and Toledo.

Baby blankets could be knitted or crocheted. Call me for sheets of directions. Blanket Sundays in 1980 will be February 17 and Sept. 7.

World day of Prayer will be held March 7 at 9:30am at Grace United Methodist Church.

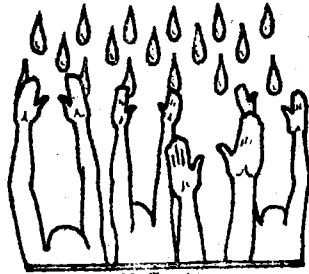
Thanks to the substitute acting chairperson for Delaware County.
Carolyn White

* Yesterday is a cancelled check: Tomorrow is a promissory note: But *
* today is ready cash. Spend it wisely. *
* * * * *
* Anyone can count the apples on a tree, but it takes someone with vision *
* to count the trees in an apple. *
* * * * *
* from CINCINNATI UNITY *
* * * * *

HUNGER DINNER AND SEWING DAY

Our meatless potluck dinner was held Feb. 10 with 25-30 people present, which was a good group considering the flu that had a lot of our fellow members down. We had an interesting array of meatless dishes. The favorite was Pam Faulk's cheese lasagna. Pam received a towel set and was named cook for the day. We raised \$45.30 for World Hunger. If you would like to make a donation please give to Beth Trigg. We hope to have another dinner sometime in the future if response is good. Thanks to those who attended.

Our sewing day will be Feb. 26 in the Youth Room, 9am to 3pm. Bring your own sack lunch. We need to sort through a stack of materials and sheets and decide what is usable. Bring your quilt blocks, needle, thread and scissors. We will make cancer pads. Plan to attend.



My Teaching
Shall Fall Like Drops of Rain
Deuteronomy 32:1-2
AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING

The theme of the 1980 America for Christ Offering is "My Teaching Shall Fall Like Drops of Rain." It evokes a wide variety of images of church work. When one thinks of God's rain nurturing the grass and the young plants, one can also think of the American Baptist organization and the churches within it as the landscapers and gardeners of God's World.

Your support of the America for Christ Offering can indeed help God's rain to touch all of us, and we ask for your continued generous help this year. This offering will be taken Sunday, March 2, 1980.

Helen Aleshire, Miss. Chr.

 Like Martha
 reason is troubled
 and complains
 of many things;
 like Mary
 faith sits silent
 and listens
 at the feet of love.
 Edward A. Gloegler

 As I behold the beauty of God's world,
 The vastness of His great domain,
 I stand in awe
 To think that I am one with all
 there is,
 An idea in the great Universal Mind,
 Expressing itself as me!
 from DAILY WORD

LETTERS TO THE CHURCH FAMILY

On Friday, Dec. 21, a group of carolers met for hot chocolate before having a great time spreading the joy of Christmas to those people we don't get to see very often. It was a good chance to have a short visit (in my case, to meet someone). The Christmas songs seemed to be greatly appreciated. Hope to see you singing with us next year! And thanks to the VanBrimmers for making hot chocolate.

I want to express my sincere thanks to the choir for helping to make the Christmas cantata an enjoyable experience for me. Also thanks for the Christmas candle. I will think of you each year as I light it!

And to the children's choir - HOORAH! Each of you sang very well on Dec. 23. It helped to get each of us in the Christmas spirit.
Mary Lou Lovell, Co-Director

I'm doing well here at Miami Valley hospital...a lot of frustration, sometimes, with my utter helplessness to be able to heal some of my terminally ill patients. As hopeless as their situation may seem I yet find myself hoping and praying for a cure. And yet, through it all, I find myself continuing to trust in God's goodness and be thankful for my many blessings.

My many thanks to you, Sophie and Steve, for the loving kindness you have shown me, and I mean this also for the members of First Baptist.

I remember you in my prayers and hope to see you when warm weather comes.

Rev. Edna Darling, Chaplain

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY

Receipts:		Missions:	
January 6	\$663.17	Undesignated	\$125.00
13	471.78	Love gifts	15.23
20	344.21	Fund of Renewal	22.50
27	210.24	To Valley Forge	162.73
Special	150.00	Sesqui '76	22.50
	<u>\$1839.40</u>		<u>\$185.23</u>

Ruth J. Brown, Treasurer

CARE AND SHARE NEEDS CONTINUE

We are collecting for CARE AND SHARE. Bertha VanBrimmer suggests each woman bring an article to each meeting. Men may contribute too! Needed are:

Any good used or new clothing, especially for children.

Sewing supplies - needles, thread, yard goods, elastic, buttons, etc.

Paper goods - tissues, paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, etc.

School supplies - pencils, tablets, notebooks, pens, chalk, crayons, rulers, etc.

Personal items: - toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, towels, wash-cloths, etc.

Linens - sheets, pillowcases, blankets, lap robes, quilts, etc.

ADULT SOCIAL SCHEDULED

Save Saturday, March 29, for an enjoyable evening of adult fellowship. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Mansfield will present a program about their visit with daughter Merry, who is a missionary in Ecuador. There will be slides, friendly talk, and refreshments. Come to the Youth Room downstairs at 7:00pm on March 29. Thank you!

Karen Stoner, Adult Chairperson

 * Prayer is a way of thought, yet more than a way of thought. Prayer *
 * focuses thought on God the way a compass keeps its needle turned on *
 * north. If I am a traveler, I carry the compass with me, so that no *
 * matter where I have to go, I can find the way. With my thought God *
 * centered, I can go in any direction from that center and not be *
 * lost. Though I may not see my destination, I can find my way. *
 * James Dillet Freeman *

PEOPLE MAKING NEWS . . .

DONICA JO HEDGES, seven and a half month old daughter of DALE and DIANNA HEDGES passed away at Children's Hospital, Columbus. Our sympathy goes out to parents and the family. JOE and JEAN BROWER are the maternal grandparents.

MARY MCKEAN and MYRTLE GABRIEL were recent patients at Grady Hospital.

MRS. JESSE VAFLO, wife of REV. JESSE VAFLO of Ostrander, had open heart surgery in Cleveland. Watch bulletin board for current address.

MICAH STONER was taken to Grady Hospital emergency room but was not admitted and is doing fine.

MARK FAULK and NANCY PURVIS were married Jan. 26 at the Methodist Church at Somerset, Ohio. They reside in Jerome with Angie and Teresa.

HELEN ALESHIRE showed her slides of Italy and Russia at a recent Adult Social.

JAMES B. STEPHENSON and REV. TED D. STEPHENSON of Indianapolis attended the Ohio Pastors Convocation in Columbus.

DR. RICK LEE, professor of entomology at the University of Houston, is at Palmer Station, South Pole, where he is studying wingless flies and springtail fleas. He returns to Texas in March.

MRS. CHARLES (ELLA) LEE, formerly of Mt. Gilead, Ohio, is now making her home with DICK and EVELYN and sons. We welcome her to our church and community! It will be nice having her in our fellowship!

MR. & MRS. CARL MANSFIELD are home after more than 4 months in Denver. They were helping daughter BARBARA care for baby HOLLY ANNETTE who was born 3 months prematurely. She weighed 1½ lb. at birth. She had major heart surgery, three attacks of pneumonia, and other complications but is now healthy, alert, and gaining daily. The family credits her life to the many prayer groups which supported her.

BIBLES GIVEN TO CHURCH

One hundred Bibles for use in the sanctuary were presented to our church as an anonymous gift from a church family. They are published by the American Bible Society and are in the Revised Standard Version.

MEMORIAL PLANNED FOR HELEN CRANE

A memorial for Mrs. Helen Crane is being considered by a special committee appointed by Moderator Betty Porter and chaired by Evelyn Lee. Persons having suggestions are asked to contact Evelyn at 362-9107; or 259 S. Section Line Road.

TO ME, EVERY HOUR OF THE DAY AND NIGHT IS AN UNSPEAKABLE PERFECT MIRACLE.

- Walt Whitman

THESE ARE YOUR HELPERS

The annual meeting of the fellowship was held January 23, 1980. After the covered dish dinner the business was conducted including the election of officers. Reports are available on the table in the vestibule. Be sure and get your copy. Following is listed the slate of officers elected and those who continued in office. By each name is the year the term expires.

Moderator, Betty Porter (1980)
 Asst. Moderator, Steve Stoner (1980)
 Clerk, Marjorie Adams (1980)
 Treasurer, Ruth Brown (1980)
 Asst. Treasurer, Betty Porter (1980)
 Financial Secretary, Richard Lee (1980)
 Finance Chairperson, James VanBrimmer (1982)
 Church School Supt. (vacant)
 Church School Clerk, Pam Faulk (1980)

Deacons and Deaconesses

Willard Fogle (1980)
 W. C. Wickum (1980)
 Polly Focke (1981)
 Marjorie Smale, (1981)
 Ernestine Frost (1982)
 Larry Faulk (1982)

Trustees

George Young (1980)
 James Brown (1981)
 Paul Cagwin (1981)
 David Lovell (1982)
 Peter White (1982)

Board of Christian Education

Children, Sandra Cagwin (1980)
 Adult, Karen Stoner (1980)
 Chairperson, Carol Grubbs (1981)
 Missions, James VanBrimmer (1981)
 Youth, Linda White (1982)
 Leadership, Carolyn White (1982)

AND ON THIS FOUNDATION THEY WILL HELP YOU BUILD CHRIST'S CHURCH

After this Jesus rose from death early on Sunday and he appeared first to Mary Magdalene from whom he had driven out seven demons. After this Jesus appeared in a different manner to two of them while they were on their way to the country. Last of all, Jesus appeared to the eleven disciples as they were eating.

After this, Jesus himself sent out through his disciples from the east to the west the sacred and everliving message of eternal salvation.

Mark 16:9,12,14a,10

AND I WILL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE END OF THE AGE. (Matthew 28:20b)

A GUIDEPOST TO BETTER HEALTH

A health insurance company has evaluated the recommendation for surgery for 1500 people and found that in the opinion of a second examining physician, 27 percent of the patients did not need surgery. This does not necessarily mean that the second opinion was always correct, but it does tell you that it is not always advisable to rush into surgery. Most of the differences of opinions among surgeons were in gynecological and orthopedic cases. (Just as an asidd, hysterectomies are performed four times more frequently in the United States than in Great Britain.) Some people feel that they may offend their doctor if they seek a second opinion. I think that is an irrelevant consideration. There is no such thing as a minor operation if a major portion of your anatomy has to be opened.

Dr. Daniel G. Miller, M.D.
from March Guideposts

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR CHILDREN

Mary Lou Lovell has an excellent musical program for the children of our fellowship. A Children's Choir is meeting each Saturday at the church at 11:00am. Your children are welcome!

* When everything is pleasant and bright *
* And the things we do turn out just right, *
* We feel without question that God is real, *
* For, when we are happy, how good we feel. . . *
* But when the tides turn and gone is the song *
* And misfortune comes and our plans go wrong, *
* Doubt creeps in and we start to wonder *
* And our thoughts about God are torn asunder - *
* For we feel deserted in time of deep stress, *
* Without God's presence to assure us and bless. . . *
* And it is then when our senses are reeling *
* We realize clearly it's Faith and not Feeling - *
* For it takes Great Faith to patiently wait, *
* Believing "God comes not too soon or too late." *
* Helen Stainer Rice *

AND A FINAL WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR/EDITOR

This paragraph closes your newsletter for Lent, 1980. It is a collection of poems, ideas, announcements, news, letters, bits and pieces all given to make this season one of renewal and growth for each of us. It can be of great help if you will let it . . . just as your church can be of great help if you cooperate with it. An Easter flower blooms if the conditions are right. You will not bloom that easily. You must will to grow. The prodigal son gets to his feet and starts to return. You must stand up and let the grace, love and power of Jesus flow into and through you. That's the way it is, and that's what you have to do!

We invite you to share in all our Lenten and Easter activities and bring a friend. And I promise you - GOD HAS SOMETHING GOOD FOR YOU!

First Baptist Church
101 N. Franklin St.
Delaware, Oh. 43015

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

James B Stephenson
Pastor
363-7021

Published in the cause of the Abundant Life

(September)

Vol. 11, No. 1

I have a wall hanging in my office which carries the following message: GOD GRANT ME PATIENCE...AND I WANT IT RIGHT NOW!!! It is a gift from one of my sons and it indicates that he knows Dad pretty well! Or, we might say, he knows human nature as it is revealed in most of us most of the time. Right? The Master Jesus provided a three year training experience for his apostles. His teachings require understanding and practice for they involve the reeducation of the mind. Not simply adding facts to our storehouse of knowledge but the training of our thought processes so that we may have the "Mind that was in Christ Jesus." Your church is a learning, practicing, witnessing community. Its end purpose is to see the transformation of human life in its physical, mental, and spiritual modes. This takes time. I see a new you and I want you to see it also and I want you to work with me in learning, training, and practicing the Art of the Christ-life. GOD GRANT ME A NEW LIFE HERE AND NOW...AND THE PATIENCE TO WORK FOR IT FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES!
(JBS)

PROTECTIVE WINDOWS TO BE INSTALLED

At a special business meeting held Aug. 24, the church accepted the Trustees' proposal that protective storm windows be installed by the Franklin Art Glass Co. of Columbus. All stained glass windows will be covered and work will be, for the most part, done in the spring. Total cost is \$11,726 with a down payment of \$3000 which is due. Contributions and/or loans toward the down payment may be given to Dick Lee, David Lovell, or Jim VanBrimmer. The Finance Committee will conduct a capital funds enlistment for the entire amount as a part of our annual enlistment. Opportunity will be provided for individuals or groups to assume responsibility for specific windows. Permanent memorial identifications would be arranged by the donors if desired. Check the data on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

CHURCH SCHOOL OPENS WITH FULL PROGRAM

Church School classes for all ages opened Sunday, Sept. 14. We have a fine staff of trained and experienced teachers and a program for crib room through adult. You owe

it to yourself and your children to take advantage of this opportunity in Christian development. Teachers are Evelyn Lee, crib room; Kindergarten, Sue Elfner; Primary, Marge Smale; Carol Grubbs, Middler; Jean Wickum, Juniors; Junior High, Linda White; Senior High, Larry Faulk; Adults, Jim VanBrimmer and Helen Aleshire. School begins at 9:15am with a worship service in the Assembly Room. Classes end at 10:30. Jeanne Ekelberry is superintendent.

The first activity of the new year was a breakfast served in the Fellowship Hall. The classes sat together at designated tables with the adults mixing with the children. Everyone enjoyed the song service which followed.

Carol Grubbs, Chr. Board
of Christian Education.

WORLD FELLOWSHIP OFFERING SCHEDULED

The World Fellowship Offering will be received Sunday, Oct. 5, as a part of our celebration of World Wide Communion. The theme this year is "Building God's House." With your help God's House is being built in the world as our International Minis-

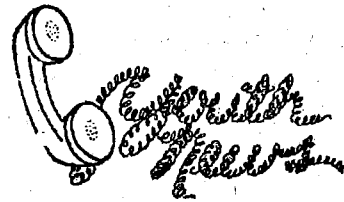
tries carries out its work and witness in a ministry that reaches out to 30 different geographical areas overseas. The goal of the 1980 World Fellowship Offering is two and a half million dollars. All of the money which you give will be used to support our American Baptist World Mission outreach. This is the one special annual appeal for support of our overseas witness and work. Give generously.

Helen Aleshire, Chr. Missionary Education

Dear Jim: It was great to be with you, Sophia and your folks last weekend for the family-centered spiritual life retreat at Judson Hills! The reception I experienced and the inclusion in your church family which was evident, was a significant blessing to me. I am grateful for the opportunity which the retreat presented to be a part of your "family of God." In Christian friendship,
Ralph Lamb

What a pleasant surprise God is to me.
I should take Him for granted by now,
you see, but
He never stops amazing me.
What a pleasant surprise He continues
to be!

Willa R. Jackson



MEMORIES OF OUR ANNUAL RETREAT

Our annual retreat was held Sept. 5-7 at Judson Hills with Ralph Lamb as our leader. Ralph is our OBC minister of camping, youth and Christian Education. The retreat was intergenerational and we all enjoyed being one family together in the Lord. We hope that many of the retreatants (there were about 35 present) will put their feelings into words and share their experiences with all of us via the newsletter. Below we have reactions from two: first from Jeanne Ekelberry, and second, from Ralph Lamb in a letter to Steve.

"The first weekend in September - beautiful weather - boating, hiking, good food and sharing with our friends and Dr. Lamb. Judson Hills is the place to go with your family and church family, and we missed you. Just in case you're keeping track of the exclusive club, 'The Canoe Tippers Assoc.', there are several new members this year. Janet Porter and Steve Stoner. Last year's members were Dave Lovell, Paul Cagwin, and Marge Smale. All you have to do to join is to come to Judson Hills next year, go out in the boat, and have a slight accident before you get back to the dock. See you next year! And a big thank you to Carol for setting up the retreat and leading us in such a great time!

Jeanne Ekelberry

K. J. Keltner and Betty Porter will soon be making plans to organize a Baptist Youth Fellowship for our young people. This will include both junior and senior high age groups. Watch the bulletin for an announcement of the date of a meeting to discuss organization. Both K. J. and Betty are hopeful that parents of these young people will encourage participation.

On Sept. 28 in Marion the youth of the association will be electing officers for the coming year. Janet Porter is running for the office of secretary.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council met on Monday, Sept. 15. Among the many things discussed was a clean-up week for the church. A committee will be appointed to coordinate this event. Please reserve the following dates in Oct.

CLEAN-UP WEEK October 12 thru Oct. 18.

(Be thinking about what area of the church you will sign up to be responsible for)

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING Oct. 8, 6:30pm

(Potluck dinner to be followed by business meeting, including adoption of budget for 1981)

Betty Porter, Moderator



OHIO BAPTIST COMMITTEE ON AGING MEETS

The OBC Aging Committee held its first meeting of the 1980-81 season on Wed., Sept. 17 in Granville, Polly Focke, a member of the committee, reported. This group established first by the OBC as a task force later became a committee and has as its purpose "to study aging as a process which involves all of us, to develop programs and ministries for the elderly which would stress their skills and independence, and to help Ohio Baptists come to a fuller understanding of and appreciation for the process of aging in their own lives." At the Wednesday meeting plans for the coming year were developed based partially on the results of the two successful mini-workshops held this past year in Columbus and Cincinnati. Older workers are an important asset both in the church and in the community. Marcia Ricketts, OBC staff member and coordinator of the committee, in an article **THE GIFT OF BEING OLD** writes, "Our greatest challenge as Christians is to take time to find the special gift within each person ... (and) when the gifts of all the children of God are used and treasured, the body of Christ will grow and flourish."

Carolyn White and Gene Schneeberger were united in marriage Monday, September 15, at 4:30pm. Steve performed the ceremony at the home of Peter and Linda White, 23 Woodland Avenue. The service was preceded by a number of piano selections by Peter. Our church family extends congratulations and best wishes to the new Mr. and Mrs. Schneeberger!

MARION ASSOCIATION'S TRUSTEES MEET

The Trustees of the Marion Association met in Sunbury on Tuesday, Sept. 2. Dr. Bob Ginn of Trinity Church in Marion was re-elected president and Bertha McTaggart was re-elected Chairperson of the Division of World Mission Support. Steve served as chairman of the nominating committee. The annual meeting of the association is set for Fite Memorial Church, Marion, on Sunday, Sept. 28. A very interesting program has been planned. There is no registration fee but registrations must be received by Sept. 22. The meeting opens at 2:30pm and ends at 8:45pm. A light supper will be served by the church. Attending the trustees meeting were Betty Porter, Bertha McTaggart, and Steve. Bertha's sister Marie was present as a guest.

Betty Porter, Moderator

TAPES OF MESSAGES AVAILABLE

The Sunday morning messages are now being taped and are available, along with a tape recorder, for any wishing to hear them. Call the office and arrangements will be made for you to hear them in your own home.
Marge Smale, Chr. Bd. of Deacons & Deaconesses

FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET

Jim VanBrimmer has called a meeting of the finance committee for Monday, Sept. 22, to begin work on the 1981 budget.

STATE CONVENTION TO MEET IN HAMILTON

The 155th meeting of the Ohio Baptist Convention will be held in Hamilton Oct. 22-24. See the bulletin board for the program. You may get more details by checking with the church office. The theme for the convention is **THE GROWING CHURCH**.

TIME TO REGISTER!!

It is important for church and state to be separated, but it is also important for church members to be vitally interested in the political process. One of the best ways to do this is to support the candidates and issues that express your beliefs and principles. This is a reminder that in order to vote on Nov. 4 you must be properly registered. If you need to register, reregister or make any changes in your voter registration (name, address, etc.) the deadline to do this is Oct. 6.

IT HAPPENED IN MICHIGAN!

An interesting incident happened to us this summer while vacationing in Michigan. We did not realize until too late that our Master Charge had expired. Consequently we found ourselves spending money on things we had intended to charge. Because of this we had to go to a bank to try to cash a check. I was sent to see the assistant manager. She indicated that their bank frowned on cashing out of state checks, especially on a Friday. I showed her my expired Master Charge card, my driver's license, social security card, school activity pass, etc. With each one she compared the name, address, and phone number with those on my check book. I showed her pictures of my family and even pointed them out through the window sitting in the car with the out of state license. I could tell she didn't really want to cash the check but she did want to help. She asked if I knew anyone personally at my bank or if I had a statement of my last deposit. Of course I did not. Things looked grim. She had been thumbing through my check book record when she snapped it closed and said, "We'll cash it." I looked a little surprised. The assistant manager explained, "I see you give regularly to the First Baptist Church. I'm Baptist too."

Pam Faulk

OUR SIGNUP SHEETS

Please note the signup sheet in the vestibule for volunteer janitors. Until we can employ someone for the job we will have to depend on our church family to take turns keeping the place clean.

Also, we need persons to stay with the crib room and nursery during morning worship. You will find a place to sign for this privilege in the educational building beside the secretary's table.

LIKE TO SING? HERE IS YOUR CHANCE!

The adult choir is now meeting each Wed. at 7:30pm. Directors Mary Lou and Wick invite you to join them if you enjoy making music with friends.

THE LORD'S TREASURY

July balance		\$149.70
August receipts:		
3	\$712.90	
10	332.00	
17	266.05	
24	393.85	
31	902.50	
from		
House		
Fund	297.73	
from		
Repair		
Fund	21.95	2926.98
		<u>3076.68</u>
August expenses		<u>2301.35</u>
Balance Aug. 31		\$ 775.33

MISSIONS

Undesignated	\$200.00
Judson College	200.00
Fund of Renewal	32.50
To Valley Forge	<u>432.50</u>
Sesqui '76	32.50
	<u>\$465.00</u>

Ruth J. Brown, Treasurer

A CHANCE TO LEARN, A CHANCE TO GROW

Your pastor is offering a number of opportunities for learning and growing in the spiritual life. See the registration form on the last page and hand it in as soon as possible.

1. HOW TO MEDITATE.

Both religion and medicine now agree that the body, mind, and spirit are interrelated and are affected by prayer and meditation. The course will have four sessions and is meant to teach you how to meditate; how to reduce tensions and fears; how to reduce pain and other physical symptoms; how to increase your creativity.

2. BIBLE STUDY.

We shall study the teachings of Jesus and their practical application to your daily living. Material to be used is the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) There will be six sessions.

NEWS FROM THE WOMEN'S MISSION SOCIETY

A sewing day is held each Tuesday from 9am until 2pm. Bring a sack lunch, any sewing materials you need, and join the fun!

The Society has sent 15 Health Kits, 16 School Kits, and 10 quilts to Church World Service.

The Marion Baptist Women will hold a Spiritual Retreat Sept. 25 at the Trinity Baptist Church in Marion beginning at 9am. A nursery will be provided and bring a sack lunch for the children. Lunch will be \$1.50. The theme is "Worthy of God's Calling" and Ralph Lamb will be the leader.

The Shepherd Circle meets Thursday, Sept. 25, with Myrtle Smith, at 7:30am. You may park at Smith's Services or in the Saunders lot.

The Project Group meets Wednesday, Sept. 25, at the church at 9:00am. Bring one item you wish to donate for the Christmas Bazaar. Also needed are ideas for projects for the coming year.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

JOHN McTAGGART is at home after double bypass surgery at Mt. Carmel Hospital. He is making an excellent recovery but visitation is limited. Please phone before making plans to drop in.

MARY McKEAN is able to be at church after several weeks at Grady where she experienced four operations relating to her pacemaker.

KIZZIE MAIN is a patient at the Park Care Nursing Center. She needs your cards and visits.

FRANCES JOHNSON has moved to 21 South Sandusky St., Apt. 2.

DAVID ADAMS has moved to Colorado. His address is 1050 16th Avenue, Apt. B 11, Longmont, Col. 90501. He is employed by a construction company which makes modular homes. We all appreciate the fine work he did as our custodian.

Persons winning awards at the Delaware

County Fair includ CAROL FOGLE, KAREN STONER, BERTHA VANBRIMMER, JEANNE EKELBERRY, SANDRA CAGWIN, and BRUCE LEE.

ELVIRA SMITH won a blue ribbon at the Ohio State Fair for a baby quilt.

Both JENNIFER and JANET PORTER were members of the Darts Swimming Team this past summer. It was Jennifer's first year in competition and she filled her bulletin board with ribbon and medals she won.

JANET PORTER enjoyed her 18 day stint at the Ohio State Fair as a member of the state fair band.

WOMEN of the church gave 360 cookies to the Bloodmobile.

JARROD TRIGG will be starting pre-school this year at JVS, three days per week.

The TRIGGS vacation consisted of a one day excursion to the zoo and zoo park. Evan stayed home with grandma so Jarrod had a real day of it.

ANNE, JOHN, EDDIE LINN along with CHRIS TREECE went on a three day trip to tour Gettysburg, Pa.

The EKELBERRYS did not take a regular vacation this year, just took a few days at a time. They went home to West Va. for two family reunions and two weddings. They won tickets to see Carol Lawrence in the Sound of Music at Vets Memorial. Went to Cincinnati with Dick to see two Reds games (they lost both!) and came back to the college football hall of fame the next day. And of course Judson Hills.

JEFF, SUSAN and CASEY LEONARD of Pennsylvania visited the VANBRIMMERS and STONERS during fair week.

DAVID and JEAN OSBORNE vacationed in Maine and Denver.

I would like to take the following course(s)

MEDITATION _____

BIBLE _____

Best days for class _____

NAME _____

(tear off and give to Steve or place on

First Baptist Church
101 N. Franklin St.
Delaware, Oh. 43015

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

James B. Stephenson
Pastor
363-7021

NOVEMBER, 1980

Vol. 11, No. 2

God always gives something extra. He isn't satisfied just to make things work, he makes them beautiful as well. Look at the autumn leaves and the blue October skies. An anonymous Hebrew poet wrote, "He makes everything beautiful in its season." If God wills to make the earth beautiful, how much more does He desire to give beauty to your life. You are His creation, the peak of the Creative Process. The seasons of your life should shine with the light of Health and Joy and Accomplishment! Trust the great Artist and relax in His love. Let His Power flow in and through you. You can be as bright and beautiful as the Holy Earth! (JBS)

PROGRESS REPORT ON PROTECTIVE WINDOWS

The Trustees report progress in raising money for the down payment on our storm windows. \$2940 is needed and \$2872 has been given or loaned leaving \$68 needed. The Finance Committee will conduct a capital funds enlistment for the entire amount as a part of our annual enlistment. Opportunity will be provided for individuals or groups to assume specific responsibility for specific windows. Memorial identification can be arranged. Total cost including the down payment is \$11,726. See the diagram on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

RETREAT REACTION

You missed it! You missed it! The best retreat ever! Judson Hills is always a great get-a-way for the whole family and this year was no exception! We had lots of good food, fellowship, and fun! Skit night always proves entertaining and seems to bring out another side of each person you never see on Sunday morning. Ralph Lamb is very inspiring and gave each of us special thoughts to take home. If you couldn't make it this year, start saving your quarters NOW for next year and join us! The Lovells

+ + + + +
Love one another, as I have loved you. (Jesus)

FINANCE COMMITTEE PLANS ENLISTMENT

Your Finance Committee, chaired by James VanBrimmer, is meeting to complete plans for our annual financial enlistment. The 1980 budget was prepared and adoption by the church fellowship took place at the October Quarterly Business Meeting. Details of enlistment will be announced shortly.

MISSION SUNDAY SET FOR NOVEMBER 9

The Board of Christian Education, Helen Aleshire, Chr of Missions, is sponsoring a special Mission Sunday for the fellowship November 9. Rev. George Calhoun, Minister of World Mission Support for the Ohio Baptist Convention, will speak on Latin America during Morning Worship. A covered dish dinner will follow at noon. George will remain after dinner to answer your questions. In keeping with the Latin American theme, you may wish to bring Mexican-Spanish style food for the dinner. Recipes are available from Helen Aleshire, Ernestine Frost, and Sophia Stephenson.

CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES AVAILABLE

The Church School maintains an active program for all ages including adults. The first, second, and third grade classes are now combined into an Intermediate Class with Marge Smale as teacher.

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER

Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner, sponsored by the the Women's Mission Society, is set for Sunday, Nov. 23, at 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will again have as our guests the folks from the SunnyVee Nursing Home. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more data.

COMING SOON! CHRISTMAS BAZAAR!

We only have four weeks left to fill a 7ft. table at the Christmas Bazaar at Mingo Park. Our church is participating in the event on Sat., Nov. 22, 10-6pm. It is sponsored by the Sons and Daughters Mothers Club. The Morning Project Group will be in charge of collecting items, pricing them and taking them to Mingo Park. We need your help to make Christmas items. Can you contribute a knitted item or two? How about something crocheted? Do you like to make Christmas ornaments? We need those too. We can use placemats, gift tags, Christmas decorations, pot holders, note cards, pillows, embroidered items, tote bags, blankets, laprobes, quilts, neck scarfs, macrame hanging planters, hand-made doll clothes, puppets, stuffed animals, handmade jewelry, baked goods, or anything you wish to make. All items must be new. We need to have all craft and sewn items by Wed., Nov. 19 so they can be priced. Please bring finished items to the church on or before this date. We would like each person to initial his or her own handiwork and put a suggested price on it. Also put a checkmark on item if you would like it back after the bazaar if it is not sold. Baked items should be brought to the church on Friday, Nov. 21, to be marked. Let's make this a big success as the money will go toward the storm windows to cover the stained glass.

Mary Lou Lovell, Jeanne Ekelberry

FROM THE TRUSTEES

Our major project is the protective windows. We are installing storm doors at the Franklin House. Signup sheets are in the vestibule and include the completion of the church cleanup and for volunteer janitor work prior to each Sunday. Thanks to those who have assisted us. We still need \$68 for the window down payment.

Davis Lovell, Chr.

MARION ASSOCIATION PULPIT EXCHANGE

Oct. 26 is the day for Marion Association ministers to exchange pulpits. Rev. Herschel Roper, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Richwood, is to be our speaker while Steve goes to the Sunbury Baptist Church.

CONVENTION HELD IN HAMILTON

The annual meeting of the Ohio Baptist Convention was held in Hamilton, Ohio, Oct. 22-24. Our congregation was represented by the Stephensons and Carolyn Schneeberger.

STUDY GROUPS TO MEET

The study groups on the Bible and Meditation are meeting at the office, Sunday, Oct. 26, at 7:30pm. Any wishing to join may come to the meeting. It is possible that the two groups will be combined. If you have registered but cannot be at this first session, please call Steve.

THE LORD'S TREASURY

Received	Sept. 7	\$569.25
	14	541.72
	21	284.66
	28	524.45
		<u>\$1920.08</u>

(\$619.25 represents transfers from other funds and retreat receipts)

Missions

Undesignated	\$105.
Love Gift	12.60
Ohio Forward Fund	140.
Fund for Renewal	5.
Sesqui '76	5.
	<u>\$267.60</u>

There are seven months to pay toward the Fund for Renewal and Sesqui '76.

Ruth J. Brown Treas.

+ + + + +

Commit your way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and he will bring it to pass.

Psalm 35:5

Lord, for all roads where I have gone
And for the road I am now on,
Thank you. I think upon my heart
You have inscribed a hidden chart,
For often lost and full of doubt
I have gone stumbling and come out
Across the mountain passes. Lord,
At the rivers I have found the ford,
And you have brought me up to here
By no road that I visioned clear.
Lord, I have faith that you will see
Me safe across eternity.

James Dillet Freeman

+ + + + +

HOSPITAL NOTES . . .

Karen Ellison was a patient at University Hospital.

John McTaggart is a patient at Mt. Carmel in Columbus. At the time of writing (Monday) he was not permitted visitors. Check with Bertha of Steve on present status. Both John and Bertha wish to thank you for your cards, letters, and inquiries.

FROM THE CHOIR

The Choir can use your voice to help make a joyful sound to the Lord! Come to rehearsal Wednesdays at 7:30pm. The Choir will present a Christmas Cantata in December. They recently took part in a community Choir festival at the 2nd Baptist Church.

SOME THANK YOUS . . .

To Larry Faulk for speaking in Steve's absence Oct. 12.

To the folks who planned and put on the Halloween party; Jeanne Ekelberry, Carol Grubbs, Donna Brown, Jim Stephenson, and others.

To all you who are always saying yes when a big or little need arises, and whose yes means a job undertaken, accomplished, often in anonymity.

SOME COMING EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

BONNIE CONSOLO will speak at the Senior Citizens Center, 38 S. Franklin St., Oct. 28, at 8:00pm.

THREE PLAYS will be presented at the Methodist Theological School Nov. 6-8 at 8pm in the Centrum. Tickets are \$1. See the poster on the bulletin board.

The motion picture JONI will be shown at the Strand Nov. 7-13. See the Gazette for times.

MEMBERS OF OUR FELLOWSHIP in college are Mike Everhart, Pam Lathrop, Allison Linn, Bob Stephenson, Jim Stephenson, Karen Stoner, Rick VanBrimmer at Ohio State, Teresa Grubbs at Columbus Technical Inst., and Doug Lee at the National Hardwood Grading School in Memphis, Tenn.

DAVID ADAMS address was incorrect in the last news letter. It is 1050 16th Ave., Apt. B 11, Longmont, Col. 80501.

K. J. Keltner has returned to Delaware where she is teaching while taking some additional work at Ohio State. She is assisting with our youth program so watch the bulletin for details.

A MEDITATION . . .

Do you ever wish that someone would tell you what to do, how to handle a difficult situation. Learn to listen to the one who can guide you, the Spirit of Truth within.

Do not indulge in worried talk or anxious action. Instead stop, be still, and listen. There is a path over every mountain, a way around every obstacle. You will find it. The answer will come to you.

As you turn within in prayer, concentrate on the words, "God has the answer I seek." Repeat them over and over.

First Baptist Church
101 N. Franklin St.
Delaware, Oh. 43015

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

James B. Stephenson
Pastor
363-7021

DECEMBER, 1980

Vo. 11, No. 3

ADVENT is the beginning of the Christian year. It includes the four Sundays before Christmas, and is the season of preparation for the coming of Christ into the world and into our lives. CHRISTMAS is the anniversary of Jesus' birth. No one knows the actual date, but the 25th of December has been celebrated since the third century. The word itself means the Mass of Christ. Mass is the ancient term used for the Holy Communion in which, according to the same ancient teaching, the symbols of Bread and Wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of our Lord.

We think that there is one Christmas, but there are actually three. One is the secular-social, and consists of parties, decorations, gifts, and general celebration. Another is the remembrance of the birth of Jesus. It looks back two thousand years and remembers the wonderful one who was born to be the Savior of the world. But there is a third Christmas. It has been called the Mystical Christmas, or the Spiritual Christmas, or the birth of Christ in our hearts. The meaning has been beautifully expressed by a man named Angelus Silesius who lived in the 17th century. He was a physician who followed the Lutheran faith until he became a Catholic, and finally was ordained to the priesthood. He caught the real meaning of Christmas and expressed it in brief poems which were collected by his friends and are still available to seekers. This is the heart of the real meaning of Christmas:

Should Christ be born a thousand times anew,
Despair O man, unless he's born in you!
Were Christ a thousand times reborn in Bethlehem's stall
And not in thee, thou still art lost beyond recall!

May Christ come to birth in you, and may your body and blood become the incarnate Christ. This is our ADVENT theme and the Christmas Eve Communion should be its culmination! (JBS)

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With gratitude, I offer Him my gift.

OUR ADVENT ADVENTURE

Next Sunday, November 30, will be the first Sunday in Advent and we are planning an extra special, super, spectacular, extravaganza to help us celebrate Christmas as a church family. We are planning an intergenerational experience, and need many partici-

pants from every generation. We will have many and varied activities such as a musical experience with the church organ, vocal, instrumental, and group singing. There will be Christmas stories, crafts, a film, special Christmas Tree decorating, choral reading, and other fun-filled learning opportunities. We are planning these extra activities for you, so we do hope you will plan to come each Sunday and participate. The Advent Adventure will be held each Sunday from 9:00-10:40, Nov. 30 thru Dec. 28. We will not be having Sunday School classes these five Sundays in order that we may have a family type advent celebration. See the bulletin for what is to come each Sunday. Oh yes, you are all invited to come to church at 6pm Sat., Nov. 29, to help decorate for Christmas. We will be through by 8:00pm.

Carol Grubbs, Chr.

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 Warm as a little mouse he lay,
 Hay kept him from the winter's harm;
 Bleating of little lambs he heard,
 And voices from the near-by farm.

Who would have thought upon that hour
 Those little hands would stop a plague,
 Those eyes would quell a multitude,
 That voice would still a rising wave?
 Henry Treece (adapted)

++++

A LETTER TO THE CHURCH FAMILY -

Dear friends,

Just a word or two to express our appreciation to the wonderful folks of the First Baptist Church for their concern and prayers during John's recent hospitalization periods. The feeling of being encompassed by the prayers of many while in the hands of the doctors and technicians is comforting indeed.

The medical report says that two aorta coronary artery bypass grafts were attached to my heart. Each one is performing well, and that part of the heart muscle which was not functioning prior to the grafting is once again normal.

The prognosis is that recovery should be good and the future should bring about a normal pattern of living once again. Time will be the major factor in the healing process.

May we ever be thankful for all the good gifts of life and for granting us a "new" thankful heart.

Blessings on all of you. May love, peace, and joy given to each one by the Father be ever with you as you share your life with others.

John & Bertha McTaggart

CHRISTMAS CLEARING HOUSE

At publication time we had not received any data from United Way concerning the annual Christmas Clearing House. Keep check on items in the paper as well as church bulletins.

B.Y.F. NEWS

The BYF, under the direction of K. J. Keltner, has been meeting on Sunday evenings at 7:30pm. Dianna Lathrop and Janet Porter were selected as representatives to the Marion Assoc. BYF from Delaware. They attended a meeting at Sunbury on Nov. 9 to help plan upcoming events for the Assoc. BYF. They will also be attending a meeting for representatives and advisors in Marion on Dec. 7 and will host the meeting here on Dec. 21. These meetings are being held to plan the annual Lock-up for all Assoc. BYF members which will be held in Sunbury in December. The local UNICEF drive was also a project of our youth.

DEATH IN CHURCH FAMILY

Joe Trimble, brother-in-law of Jeanne Ekelberry, passed away recently in West Va. We give our sympathy to Dick, Jeanne, Charles and Michael.

JIM STEPHENSON GRADUATES

James M. Stephenson will graduate Dec. 12 from Ohio State University. He will receive the B.S. degree from the College of the Arts. Jim's major was Visual Communication Design.

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This is my church.
 It is composed of people like me.
 We make it what it is -
 It will be friendly, if I am friendly.
 Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.
 It will do a great work, if I work.
 It will make generous gifts to great causes, if I am a generous giver.
 It will bring other people into its worship, if I bring them.
 It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearless faith, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these.
 Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my church to be.

Source unknown

(Contributed by the members of the Senior High Class, Larry Faulk, teacher)

PLEDGE SUNDAY OBSERVED

Sunday, Nov. 23 is our Sunday of Commitment when pledges are dedicated for the new year. If you did not get to church for the presentation your pledge may be mailed to Richard Lee, 259 S. Section Line Rd.

FROM THE WOMEN'S SOCIETY

There will be no more Sewing Days until after Christmas . . .

The balance in our A.B.W. treasury is only \$22.01. Christmas gifts for missionaries and scholarship student have been sent, but at this time of year we usually have funds to: purchase turkeys for the fellowship dinner, donate cash to Christmas Clearing House, pay bills due in January.

Attendance, and offerings, have been low in recent months. There have been no recent money projects. No profits from sale of Current, Inc. stationary have been turned in to me since last April.

Please consider these facts in your hearts and minds. It was voted to accept a projection of expenditures over \$500. How shall we realize that dream?

Karen Stoner, treas.

. . . Women of our fellowship shared in a bazaar at Mingo Park, Saturday, Nov. 22.

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Open your eyes.

To see persons, without a barrier of age or class or race or title.

A teacher is a learner and
A learner is a teacher when God is there.

Here? Yes, here in this situation
Where the outer barriers are so visible.
But the inner hidden heart
Is closed off, too.

Resentments, fears, anxieties, and needs.
I have these needs and not a few.

Do you? (Source unknown.)

Contributed by the Senior High Church School Class, Larry Faulk, teacher.

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MEDITATION CLASS TO CONTINUE

The four sessions of the Meditation Class have been completed, but the group has decided to begin meeting every other Sunday night at 7:30pm. Next session will be announced in the bulletin. All are invited, no previous attendance necessary.

CALHOUN SPEAKS TO THE CHURCH

The Rev. George Calhoun, Minister of World Mission Support for the Ohio Baptist Convention, visited our church Sunday, Nov. 9, and spoke at our morning worship service. A covered dish dinner, Latin American Style, was served afterwards and George remained for informal discussion. The preparations were made by Helen Aleshire, Chr. of Missions for the Board of Christian Education.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS . . .

DAVID ADAMS has a new job in Longmont, CO. working for a manufacturer of solar homes.

BETTY PORTER was relected Clerk of Courts for Delaware County.

FRANCES BELT visited Indianapolis with her father FRED LEAPER. They were guests of daughter MARY HAMILTON.

KIZZIE MAIN is a patient at the Park Care Nursing Center. Cards will be helpful as will visits from her friends in the church.

LYNN E. ELENBER won the Ohioana book award in the science category. Presentation of the honor was made at Ohio State's Fawcett Center. LYNN is executive officer of the Ohio Academy of Science. The book is OHIO'S NATURAL HERITAGE and describes Ohio's ecology including photographs of flora, fauna, and terrain. It is available at \$23.95 at Little Professor.

JANET PORTER has been selected by the Ohio State University Music Dept. to play in the All Star Reading Band on Dec. 6. Two hundred high school musicians were selected to participate in this concert band event. She will be playing the bass clarinet.

CHRISTMAS CARD TO THE CHURCH FELLOWSHIP MAY be placed on the bulletin board in the vestibule. Give money saved to the Church.