

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

# THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

James B. Stephenson  
Pastor  
363-7021

FEBRUARY, 1981

Vol. 11, No. 4

HOW ARE YOU DOING WITH THOSE RESOLUTIONS you made for 1981? If you are having trouble in keeping them you might want to recall the often printed comment that "Today is the first day of the rest of your life," and start another new year for yourself right now! After all, calendars, dates, years, are all human creations, and at this moment we are all living at that point where yesterday ends and the future begins. What really impresses me are not the resolutions in themselves, but the capacity in the human mind to always hope, to always expect, to always anticipate, that things can be different, that everything can be a little better in the future. Many scientists are saying that this aspect of hope, if nurtured and expanded, can transform us body and mind. The Bible says that as a person thinks in his heart, so is he! Jesus said that with God nothing will be impossible! This is going to be the best year in your life! And it is beginning at this moment, while you are reading these lines! (JBS)

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## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL DINNER AND MEETING HELD JANUARY 14

After a fine covered dish dinner the annual meeting was called to order by Moderator Betty Porter. Excellent reports were given and the congregation elected its officers for the coming year. A summary of the financial report appears later in this issue as does a list of the church officers. Plans for the future include our sharing in the coming Church Growth Seminar in Columbus March 6 and 7. The thanks of the church fellowship go to the dedicated people who serve the Kingdom of God through our church.

## CHURCH WORLD SERVICE CLOTHING DRIVE MARCH 4, 5

The Church World Service (CWS) spring clothing collection will be held March 4 and 5 at Asbury United Methodist Church. Contributors are asked to donate only new or good-as-new articles. CWS is requesting donations of infants clothing and layettes, children's and adults' clothes (draw strings on pant waists and tie strings on dresses are preferred over buttons and zippers on handmade items) and blankets, bedspreads, linens, curtains and other soft household goods. New bars of soap, uniforms appropriate for doctors and nurses and hospital gowns are also needed. Items which should not be included are toys, shoes, purses, ties, formal clothes or plastic, rubber, metal or glass items.

(article continued)

CWS has suggested Feb. 22 as Blanket Sunday by churches and other organizations. Blankets or funds for blankets will be collected.

Self-help kits including sewing, health, and school kits are also needed. Contents are as follows; School Kits should contain 2 or 3 pencils, 1 eraser, 1 metric ruler, 1 box colored pencils, 1 notebook or tablet, and 1 pencil sharpner. Health kits should contain 1 towel, 1 washcloth, 1 bar soap, 1 toothbrush, 1 tube toothpaste, and 1 comb. Sewing Kits should contain 2 or 3 yards cotton or cotton blend material, 1 package needles, 1 package trim, 1 package buttons, and 1 spool thread.

SUMMARY OF TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

1979 balance	\$ 662.81
Receipts	26855.93
Stale dated check	8.45
Voided check	15.00
	<u>27542.19</u>
Disbursements	26974.72
Balance	<u>567.47</u>
Missions	
Undesignated	1755.00
Love Gifts	137.66
Hunger	178.83
University Baptist Church	128.00
Ohio Forward Fund	570.00
America for Christ	135.21
Northern Seminary	320.00
Judson College	350.00
One Hour of Sharing	183.08
World Fellowship	195.58
M & M Offering	56.55
Fund of Renewal	<u>310.00</u>
Total to Valley Forge	4319.91
Sesqui '76	310.00
Total	<u>4629.91</u>

Ruth J. Brown, treas.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT TO CHURCH

Response to the appeal for pledges in support of our 1981 budget has been most encouraging. As of this date, \$19220 has been pledged for operating expenses against a total budget of \$32566. Property expenses, which includes a maintenance allowance, will be matched by income from rental property of \$7375. The mission budget is \$4800, of which \$3698 has been pledged. Reasonable management of the cost of installing protective windows over the stained glass has been assured with cash and pledges to date amounting to about half the total amount needed.

(article continued)

Many thanks go to the Finance Committee members who helped develop the budget and the appeal for pledges, and to the congregation for its generous response.

Blessings on you! - Jim VanBrimmer, Chr.

#### CHRISTMAS BAT

An hour till midnight service  
And the sexton has fired up the furnace.  
What a banging of pipes for Christmas!  
Look, a bat abiding in the rafters  
Is flying low above the manger.  
He tips his wings in praise

if only of a mite from the evergreen.  
And something mute, inhuman kneels in me  
Awaiting the gift of speech.

Back and forth in the nave  
I hear the shuttle of wings like pages  
Turning to the proper carol.

Rennie McQuilkin (contrib. by Ernestine Frost)

#### CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator, Steve Stoner (1981)  
Asst. Moderator, Jeanne Ekelberry (1981)  
Clerk, Marjorie Adams (1981)  
Treasurer, Betty Porter (1981)  
Asst. Treasurer, Ruth Brown (1981)  
Financial Secretary, Richard Lee (1981)  
Finance Cjr., James VanBrimmer (1982)  
Church School Clerk, Pam Faulk (1981)

#### Deacons

Polly Focke (1981), Marjorie Smale (1981),  
Larry Faulk (1982), Ernestine Frost (1982),  
Frances Belt (1983), John McTaggart (1983)

#### Trustees

James Brown (1981), Jack Smith (1981)  
David Lovell (1982), Peter White (1982)  
Ron Whitacre (1983)

#### Board of Education

Linda White, Coordinator of Church School (1981)  
Carol Grubbs, " " Ministry with Children,  
Youth and Adult (1981)  
Carolyn Schneeberger, Coordinator of Mission Education and  
Leadership Development (1981)

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything give thanks. By prayer let your requests be made know to God. Rejoice always for we know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. Take delight in the Lord, for eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the mind of mankind, what good things God has prepared for those who love him.

DEATHS IN CHURCH FAMILY

PROFESSOR RUFUS CRANE died at Grady Hospital Christmas Day. He was 94. He was an Ohio Wesleyan University professor of mathematics and engineering from 1919 until 1953. A native of North Hanover, Mass., he was educated at Middlebury College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Ohio State University. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

He was a faithful member of our church fellowship where he held many offices. For many years he served as our custodian and did virtually all the redecorating, repairing, and improving at both the church and parsonage. His wife, Helen Crane, died in 1979.

KIZZIE MAIN died at the Park Care Nursing Center January 3. She had served her church, family, and community for many years. She is remembered as a person of positive faith who inspired all who knew her.

LETTERS TO THE CHURCH

Thanks for coming to my home and singing Christmas carols. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Mrs. Mary E. McKean

The family of Kizzie Main acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expression of sympathy. Grandma Kizzie had many good friends in the church. Thank you for caring. Ron Main

We would like to take this method of thanking Rev. Stephenson and the members of 1st Baptist Church for their prayers and support during the recent illness and death of our father, Rufus Crane. We especially appreciate the cookies from the Woman's Society, the flowers from the church, the individuals who contributed food at the time of the funeral, and the men who acted as pall bearers. In addition we would like to take this opportunity to express to the whole church our deep appreciation for the quiet and thoughtful acts which have occurred over a long period of time during his declining years and also those of our mother. We have no idea of how much loving care you have given, but as time goes on we are constantly finding out many of the little things which are now past history. We are really grateful for all these little bits of memories which are being shared with us now. Dorothy and Marjorie

BABYSITTING SERVICE AT THE CHURCH

We traditionally provide child care during our worship services with members of our own congregation taking turns in the crib room and nursery. (When did YOU signup last?) At the annual meeting Beth Trigg was appointed to work with the Parish Council in expanding our services by providing an outside babysitter for business meetings and other activities which are meant for the entire church fellowship. She has obtained the services of Laura Breece, a senior in JVS studying child care. She may be reached through Beth and will sit for \$1.50 per hour for up to six children. Her fee will be paid by the church for all-church functions such as business meetings, special services, etc. Groups in the church such as circles, choir, etc., may employ her for their functions by paying her cost. We will have a trial period for three months to see if this meets the need of our fellowship. Your suggestions, comments, etc., will be appreciated.

CHURCH GROWTH SEMINAR SCHEDULED

Five seminars on church growth will be held this year as a part of the Ohio Baptist Department of Evangelism's concern with outreach. The one in our area will be held at the Karl Road Baptist in Columbus, March 6 and 7. Times are Friday, 7:30pm until 10pm, and Saturday, 9:30am until 5:00pm. Our leader will be Win Arn, director of the Institute for American Church Growth. Cost for each participant will be \$25 plus \$3.19 for the textbook and \$2.00 for a handbook. Our church will pay half the cost for anyone attending the entire Seminar. Contact the office for additional information.

MISSION NEWS

Our annual America for Christ offering will be received Sunday, March 1. It supports the educational ministries of the Ohio and American Baptist Churches.

Olive Emery, formerly of Bacone College, will be our speaker the first Sunday in Lent, March 8. A covered dish dinner will follow.

Marcia Ricketts, Minister of Communications for the Ohio Baptist Convention, will speak at our Women's Day Service, April 26. She has been in Thailand for several months on a mission assignment.

CHURCH CALENDARS

Large monthly calendars were made at one of the sessions of our recent Advent Adventure. You will find the current one in the vestibule and it is the place to check for church activities. Your organization or group is invited to fill in your meeting time. Also feel free to inscribe your birthday & anniversary!

PRAYER WHEN LIFE HAS BECOME ROUTINE

Lord, when I woke up this morning, I said to myself that this would be a day just like every other day. And it was.

I took the same subway as every morning, I read the same paper.

I went up the same staircase as usual, and on my desk found the same piles of paper to go through.

For lunch I had the same old thing to eat. It was Monday. I went back to my desk until 5 o'clock. And I just came home, knowing full well that tomorrow it will start all over again.

God, I'm tired of it all.

I had hoped for something completely different. I had dreamed that someday I would lead an active and exciting life.

I'll never be anything but what I am.

Lord, let me talk to you tonight about my fatigue, about my desire to get away from here. To whom can I speak about this, if not to you?

Nobody understands. They say, "What is he complaining about?" And perhaps they are right. It is only normal that you do your job. Therefore I shall talk about it only with you.

Don't change anything. My life doesn't have to change. I must change.

Lord, help me to think less about myself.

Help me to know that there are other people besides myself. For whom today is just like any other day.

Paul Geres (submitted by Beth Trigg)

THIS IS THE YEAR!

Wonderful, wonderful, fortunate you,  
 This is the year that your dreams come true!  
 This is the year that your ships come in;  
 This is the year you find Christ within.  
 This is the year you are glad to live;  
 This is the year you have much to give.  
 This is the year when you know the Truth;  
 This is the year when you find new youth.  
 This is the year that brings happiness;  
 This is the year you will live to bless.  
 Wonderful, wonderful, fortunate you,  
 This is the year that your dreams come true!

Russell A. Kemp (from Daily Word)

PEOPLE MAKING NEWS!

GENE SCHNEEBERGER and HARRIETT PITTMAN were patients in Grady Hospital. At press time HARRIETT was still hospitalized.

JOHN & BERTHA McTAGGART have returned from a month in Florida. JOHN is making a fine recovery from his heart surgery and is now back at work at the Methodist Theological School.

ARCHIE & BETH TRIGG will be spending a ski-weekend at Clearfork the weekend of the 24. They will be staying at Mohican State Lodge. They are going up to hear the local band, Hyatt's Junction. ARCHIE went to high school with the members of the band.

EVA SHEPARD, returned missionary to Africa, spoke at our service Dec. 28. An African style dinner followed.

DAVID, MARY LOU, DEBBY, and MATTHEW LOVELL visited MARY LOU's family in New York after Christmas.

JERRY, LANA, STEVE, and JENNIFER PALMER were received into our fellowship Sunday, Jan. 4. They live at 654 Governors, phone 369-6098. STEVE is serving on the board of ushers.

DR. RICK LEE, son of DICK & EVELYN LEE, is at the South Pole doing research.

FRANCES BELT received painful facial bruises in a fall at Bun's.

REV. TED STEPHENSON was a patient at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis due to a suspected heart attack. Test proved his heart was fine and attack due to indigestion.

EVERYONE is still commenting on our excellent Advent and Christmas activity. People enjoyed the cantata and advent adventure.

The GROAN-UPS enjoyed an evening in Columbus celebrating JIM STEPHENSON's graduation from Ohio State University.

Several received a Christmas letter from DAVE and ANNETTE CLEMENTS and sons. They are in Saudi Arabia where DAVE is working as a purchasing manager on the New Riyadh International Airport project. See the letter on the bulletin board.

JANET PORTER was one of 44 Delaware County students at the OWU 31st Annual High School Music Festival. She played in the Festival Band. JANET is a member of the Hayes High School undefeated girls' swim team. She swims the 500yd free style.

NEXT GOOD NEWS LETTER - March 1. Deadline for stories - Feb. 25

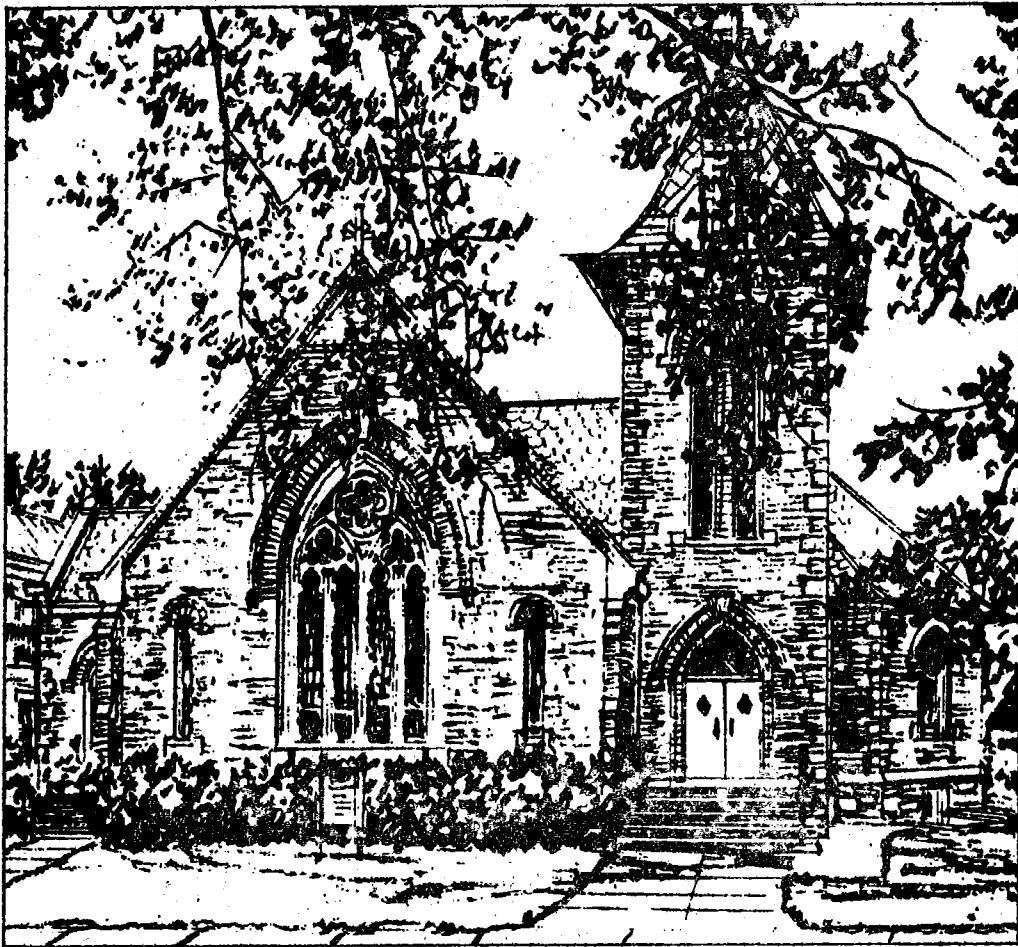
**The First Baptist Church**  
101 North Franklin Street  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

**James B. Stephenson - Pastor**

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# The Good News Letter



Oct. 1981

Vol. 12, No. 2



## FROM THE PASTOR

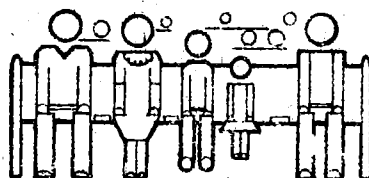
There are many reasons for attending church. Here are a few good ones for you to think about!

First of all, you need it. The songs, the scriptures, the special music, the prayers and meditations, the fellowship, the message, are all designed to assist you in living the more Abundant Life. They are meant to help you meet your needs and overcome your problems. More important is the promise of Jesus that He will be present where two or three meet in His name. If you attend expectantly you will be aware of the Divine Presence and you will feel the power of the Spirit. You will experience a difference in your life and circumstances.

Second, we need you. Your presence is a witness to your faith and your absence can be a denial of it. Your love along with a positive attitude adds power to our worship. As pastor, I know that your attendance strengthens me and makes it easier for me to share the Good News. Visitors to our church can be turned off by meager attendance. Your friendly presence is part of your mission in sharing Jesus with the community. You witness powerfully in just being here.

Third, church attendance is your obligation as a professed follower of our Lord. It is easier to read about benefits than about obligations, but this is the plain truth and I think we should face it. Jesus attended the synagogue regularly and the entire New Testament assumes that your discipleship includes support of your church by attendance, giving, and serving.

Enter more fully into the life of your church. You will be amazed at the difference it will make. Believe me! (JBS)

WORLD FELLOWSHIP  
OFFERING

Isn't it most appropriate that we Baptists take our special world offering on World Communion Sunday? The theme is INCREASE THE HARVEST. It reminds us that our Lord asked us to pray for workers in His harvest and that we are necessary instruments in the fulfillment of that prayer. Through the support of our American Baptist Family, missionaries are sent to plant the seed of the Good News - new life through Jesus Christ. Their efforts have resulted in a bountiful harvest.

Much more remains to be done. The goal is \$2,750,000, an increase of nearly 16% over the amount given in 1980. The cost

of the total program would come to \$15.74 per minute. Couldn't you stretch your gift this year and pay for one minute of our missionary task for 1981-82? By sacrifice we can do great things. (Carolyn Schneeberger)

#### CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday, Sept. 6, was the beginning of our Sunday Church School year. Activities of the day began with breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Students being promoted received their certificates. After breakfast the classes held their first meeting. During Morning Worship Bibles were presented to Stefani Stoner, Jennifer Porter, and Angie Elfner. All of those individuals who accepted the responsibility of teaching joined together at the front of the Sanctuary and publicly acknowledged their intent to carry out this responsibility to the best of their ability. Thanks to each of them and GOOD LUCK.

(Carol Grubbs)

#### CHURCH RETREAT

The 1981 Annual Retreat has come and gone, and, as usual, those of us who were able to attend are still recalling the activities of this very special weekend. The memories this year are even more special because they remind us that this year our retreat activities were led totally by our own church family members.

Although it has been said many times, I want to say "thank you" again to Jim VanBrimmer, Karen Stoner, and Lynn Elfner. These are the individuals who said "yes" when they were called upon to be leaders. It is always a pleasure to be surrounded by so many who are so willing to say "yes" and help out.

A big thank you also to all who attended and made this weekend possible.

To those who could not join us this year, we missed you, you missed a terrific weekend, and we look forward to having you join us next year. (Carol Grubbs)

#### DEDICATION SERVICE

Our stained glass windows have been cleaned and repaired and protective glass installed, our Sanctuary, Assembly Room, and the vestibules have been painted after extensive repairs to the walls, and now we will join in dedicating them to the service of Christ and His Kingdom! Our dedication service is scheduled for 10:45 A.M., Sunday, October 25. Those who worked in the project will receive special recognition and a coffee hour will follow in the Assembly Room. Watch the weekly bulletin for details.

#### STATE CONVENTION SET

The Ohio Baptist Convention will hold its annual sessions October 21-23 at the Ashland Ave. Baptist Church in

Toledo. Convention theme is "Celebrating the City." See the bulletin boards for more details. Check with Steve for registration information.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Our contribution to Church World Service consisted of 21 boxes weighing 293 pounds. In addition to clothing we gave 6 quilts, 32 bars of soap, 19 school kits, 10 health kits, 8 sewing kits. Collecting for Church World Service is something we work at all year long. We sew most Wednesdays from 9:30-2:00 (bring sack lunch) Check with Bertha VanBrimmer to make sure of plans. We can use your left over sewing scraps for quilts. Also bring old clean bed sheets, spreads, curtains for quilt liners.

A MEDITATION FOR HEALTH

I acknowledge perfect, radiant health for my heritage.  
I begin today to build a new consciousness of health.  
I erase from my consciousness all thoughts of limitation, of disease, and bodily malfunctioning.  
I affirm the life and health, the perfection and radiance of every body cell.  
I call upon the inner Spirit to direct and supervise the functioning of every cell, tissue, bone, and organ of my body.  
I relax in the assurance of perfect health.  
I relax and give thanks for the healing forces at work and give joyous thanks for each manifestation of healing.  
(Elizabeth Searle Lamb)

INVITATION TO A WEDDING

John Dove and Della Nofsinger will be married in our Sanctuary October 18, at 12:00 noon, following Morning Worship. They invite you to remain for this happy occasion. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

FOR ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

You are invited to a shower for Della Nofsinger Saturday, Oct. 10, from 3-4 P.M. at the church. Because Della and John have household necessities, we suggest each bring a gift of money in a card for Della to buy a set of silver stone cookware.

MY GOOD

A MEDITATION . . .  
I know that there is good for me  
In every hour of every day,  
In everything I hear or see,  
In those I meet upon my way.  
  
I find this good by day or night,  
In calm or storm's immensity,  
Because from out His wondrous might  
My God has placed it here for me.  
(Enola Chamberlin)

## PEOPLE (cont.)

An original song written and produced by DONALD BROWN was broadcast by WTVN-TV (channel 6) during the recent Jerry Lewis muscular dystrophy telethon. DONALD is with the Prudential Insurance Company.

MARJORIE ADAMS has transferred her membership to the First Baptist Church, Washington C.H. She and sister DOROTHY CRANE are living at 1189 Bogus Rd., Washington C.H. Ohio 41360.

Among our college students are BRUCE LEE, Bowling Green State University; ALISON MOWERY, KAREN STONER, and RICK VANBRIMMER, Ohio State University.

Delaware Business & Professional Women's Club met in our church Sept. 22. Dinner was served by our women and \$64 was given to the general fund. Thanks to all who helped.

## NEWS OF OUR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Officers elected for coming year: President Porter; V. President (Program Chr.) Michael Grubbs; Secretary, Steve Palmer; Treasurer, Charles Ekelberry; and Social Chr., Elizabeth Brown.

Meetings are held in Youth Room every two weeks on Sundays at 7:00 P.M. Open to 6th graders thru High School Seniors. Average attendance: 9 or 10.

Nine youth attended the meeting of the Marion Assoc. Sept. 27. Janet Porter was elected president of the association youth. She was installed in office that evening along with other officers from Marion Trinity, Springdale and Grand Prairie Churches. Rev. Jack Chasteen of West Mansfield is association advisor.

The Ohio BYF Convention will be held Nov. 27-29 in Marion. Trinity Baptist is host and sessions will be at the Palace Theater. Theme is "Let Love Be Your Greatest Aim." Rev. Sam Smith of Heavy Light Productions is guest speaker. "Early Bird Registration" date is Oct. 15. Absolutely none will be taken after Nov. 10. 1000 youth are expected to attend. Total cost of weekend is "early bird" \$19 or with later registration \$20. See Betty Porter or Steve for more information and registration cards.

The BYF collected 70 pounds of aluminum cans at the fair grounds on Jug Day and received \$14.70 for their efforts.

## LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR

Love casts out poverty thoughts. I love the realization that I am a rich child of a rich Father. I love and praise God as my dependable, unfailing resource. I love and use and express the talents and abilities with which I have been endowed. I love the thought that my daily needs are met and that future needs will be met as well.

(Martha Smock)

First Baptist Church  
101 N. Franklin St.  
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# THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

James B. Stephenson  
Pastor  
363-7021

NOVEMBER, 1981

Vol. 12, No. 3

\*\*\*\*\*  
I have an idea about Thanksgiving. It's a different way to say thank you to God. It is something more than saying a special grace before the big dinner or taking an hour off to attend the community thanksgiving service. God has put a part of Himself in everyone, so don't just thank a God who is off somewhere in outer space, but thank Him as He comes to us in other people! Look around you at all the persons who make life a little easier or a little happier for you. Not just your family, but everyone who touches your life for good. Take time to let them know your appreciation. Tell them face to face, or if that isn't possible, write them a note. Or, better still, do something nice for them. This is the way to thank God. Thank Him through His children!  
(JBS)

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**COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHEDULED**

Our annual Community Thanksgiving Service is set for Wednesday, November 22, 7:30 P.M., at the William Street United Methodist Church. Watch the Sunday bulletin for details.



THANK-YOU LORD!

\*\*\*\*\*  
November is not bare.  
I think we can see more  
Through winter's clearer air  
Than we could see before.  
The mists of green are gone  
And flower-clouds' pink-and- white,  
But everywhere upon  
The earth a soft still light  
Lies like Christ's mantle thrown,  
A splendor like a king's  
On naked tree and stone  
And all small growing things  
That have the faith to start  
Up, fearless of winter's length.  
Now I see to the heart -  
And, oh, the heart is strength!  
- James Dillet Freeman

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**ADVENT SERVICE AT GRAY CHAPEL**

The annual community Advent Service is to be held at Gray Chapel, Ohio Wesleyan University, November 29, at 5:00 P.M. It will be a service of Scripture and music. The Community Chorus will sing.

**BUDGET TIME AGAIN!**

The church budget for 1982 was adopted at the Quarterly Business Meeting held Oct. 28. Jim VanBrimmer, Finance Chairman, will direct our annual time of pledging. Dates will be announced later. Copies of the budget are on the table in the vestibule.

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Rejoice in the Lord always!  
Again I say, REJOICE!  
Have no worries about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God will keep your hearts in Christ. (Ph. 4:4-7)

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God is Love . . . God is Light.  
(I John)

THE LORD'S TREASURY

<u>Local expenses</u>		
Balance on hand	7/12/81	\$ 127.98
Offerings		
July		\$1099.30
August		2237.62
September		2228.79
October		<u>1928.10</u>
		7493.81
Transfers & bank		
loan		10382.60
Retreat		<u>566.45</u>
Total money handled		18570.84
Total expenditures		
7/12/81 thru 10/28/81		<u>18207.79</u>
Balance on hand 10/28/81		\$ 363.05

Outstanding bills

M & M	\$1014.82
Valley Forge	42.32
Insurance	<u>339.00</u>
	\$1396.14

Betty J. Porter  
Treasurer

Missions

<u>Receipts</u>	
July	\$ 392.74
August	215.56
September	<u>437.81</u>
	1045.81

Disbursements

Undesignated	501.00
Love gifts	46.36
Judson College	75.00
Northern Seminary	100.00
Ohio Forward Fund (campus ministry)	148.00
Hunger & CROP	<u>175.45</u>
Total	\$1045.81

Ruth J. Brown  
Asst. Treasurer

NEWS FROM THE WOMEN'S MISSION SOCIETY

Oct. 29 was a red letter day for Missions at our church. The Heneises of Haiti, our American Baptist missionaries, spent the day with us in small group meetings. They were marvelous, humble, knowledgable, dedicated folk, and interpreted the work

well to us all.

The November Society meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov. 12, 7:30 P.M. with Carolyn Schneeberger, Apt. 12, Colony House. Enter from Union St. and park at back on the south side. Speaker, Mrs. Arthur Meneely of Sunbury. Her subject, A.B.C. at Puerto Rico last June. She will also tell of her son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren who were commissioned our newest missionaries to Zaire. Please come!  
- Carolyn Schneeberger

YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Fellowship has had a few leaf raking jobs and is still available if needed.

They will be collecting newspapers for a money making project on the last Saturday of each month. If you have papers they can pick up please call Janet Porter, 363-7892, Mike Grubbs, 369-6785, or Charles Ekelberry, 363-1432.

VISITATION SCHEDULED

The Deacons and pastor are sponsoring two dates per month for visitation. Come to the church either or both days. For Nov. dates are Monday, Nov. 9, 2:00 P.M. and Thursday, Nov. 19, at 7:00 P.M.

INCREASING DUTIES FOR WICK, LESSENING DUTIES FOR JEAN . . .

Wick is presently one month into his term as Lieutenant Governor of Division 11 South of Kiwanis, Ohio District. He was installed Sept. 9, 1981. That means he has nine clubs for which he is responsible and must visit at least three times in the next year. While this is a demanding job, requiring that he receive reports from all nine clubs in various areas of their work, and he must report to the district, it has a very rewarding side, too. Because of the efforts of the Kiwanians, thousands of dollars are earned each year to be returned to the community in terms of special programs for children, the elderly and the handicapped. For the first time, world hunger is one of the Kiwanis international projects, along with communications for the

handicapped. The fellowship angle of the club work has brought us into contact with many fine Christian men and women. We are pleased to be a part of this joining together to help others in service to God and country.

In addition to this responsibility which has taken us away from church so often, Wick is busy with city council, the citizens Advisory Board at Centrl Ohio Psychiatric Hospital and reorganizing his department in his company.

Meanwhile, Jean is beginning to pack up the things in her office which are her personal belongings, getting ready to retire November 15, after 21 years as Executive of the Mental Health Association. Don't call Nov. 16...she plans to sleep all day. When you call Nov. 17, or thereafter, dial 369-1884, which is the new number at 90 Richards Drive.

The Board of Directors of the MH Clinic gave Jean some luggage, which is needed, for in July they traveled to Penna, N. Carolina and spots in between, in August to Dayton, in September to Cleveland, and in November will visit the Yates family in Huntington, W. Va., and go back to see Wick's folks in N. Carolina.

- Jean Wickum

ADVENT ACTIVITIES IN PREPARATION

Advent at First Baptist will begin Nov. 29. Plans are underway for a full but relaxed period of preparation for the birth of our Lord in our hearts. Details will come in our December GOOD NEWS LETTER.

MILLIONAIRES OF GENESIS

Our current series of Sunday messages on God's care for the physical needs of his children will conclude the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

PEOPLE

JANET INSCHO is back to church after a crushed vertebra received in a fall.

JOHN DOVE and DELLA NOFSINGER were united

in marriage October 18 in the Sanctuary after the Morning Worship Service. A reception followed in the Fellowship Hall. A shower for DELLA was held October 10. Our congratulations and best wishes to MR. AND MRS. DOVE.

MYRTLE SMITH is recovering from a broken arm received in a fall in her yard.

MARY DENNIS recently experienced sorrow in the death of a beloved brother. Our prayers are with her in her loss.

JIM and BERTHA VANBRIMMER have returned from a visit with daughter SUSAN and her family in Pennsylvania.

ERNESTINE FROST attended a doll convention in Cincinnati.

LES and LOUISE CANTWELL of Bluffton were in our service Nov. 1. There were once active members of our fellowship.

The STEPHENSONS of Delaware were recent guests of the STEPHENSONS of Indianapolis.

JAMES and SOPHIA STEPHENSON and BERTHA McTAGGART attended the Ohio Baptist Convention in Toledo.

MARGE ADAMS of Washington Court House was a recent visitor in Delaware. It was good to have her in our worship again.

The STEPHENSONS had a brief vacation in Kentucky including a visit to Berea College and the restored Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill.

+ + + + +

Beyond the farthest cape, what lies?  
Beyond the islands of surmise,

The shallow waters where we ply  
Our lives, beyond the reach of eye  
Or even thought, what lies out there?

Sometimes I stand for hours and stare  
Out, out beyond imagining.  
The waves that break around me bring  
Only a sense of more, yet more.

I think there is no farthest shore.  
O God, where shall the limits be?  
Your pattern is infinity.

James Dillet Freeman

# The Good News Letter

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 101 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET, DELAWARE, OHIO 43015

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 6

JAMES B. STEPHENSON, PASTOR

APRIL, 1982

**T**his is a personal invitation for you to share in your church's Holy Week and Easter Celebrations. It comes from me as your minister, but, infinitely more important, it comes from the Resurrected Christ who says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in..."

On the road to Emmaus two followers of Jesus were joined by a third whom they did not recognize, but who later was revealed to them as the living Lord of the Resurrection. May you meet Him on the way to church as you come to praise Him! May he enter the door of your heart!

(JBS)

## THE *Third* DAY

AN EASTER MUSICAL BY MICHAEL PARKS

CANTATA, Sunday, April 4,

Our choir will present its new cantata, "The Third Day", on Sunday, April 4 (Palm Sunday) during the Morning Worship Service.

Singing in the choir will be Karen Stoner, Jean Ekelberry, Millie Martin, Jean Wickum, Linda White, Jody Coombs, Beth Trigg, Janet Porter, Anne Linn, W.C. Wickum, and David Lovell. Musicians will include Ruth Brown (piano), Mike Grubbs (baritone), and Janet Porter (clarinet). Dick Payne will be the narrator, and Jim Stephenson will conduct.

The choir has put in many long hours of preparation on this cantata, and are sure that every member of the congregation will find it to be a very enjoyable and meaningful experience.

There will be a reception for the choir immediately after the service in the Assembly Room.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 8

Our Maundy Thursday Communion service will again be a rich spiritual encounter with the Spirit of the Lord. Our worship begins at 8pm in the Fellowship Hall, where we will be seated at tables arranged in the form of the cross. After a period of song, Scripture, and Meditation, we will receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Please observe silence before and after the service. There will be no nursery or kindergarten.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 9

Our Community Good Friday Service will be held at St. Mary Catholic Church. The time is from 1pm to 2. You will be uplifted by this period of worship with your fellow Christians of the city.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 11

Our EARLY SERVICE will begin at 8am. It is sponsored by the Whatever Class, and among those participating in it will be Carolyn Schneeberger, Helen Aleshire, and Evelyn Duke. There will be special music.

BREAKFAST follows at 8:45. Sponsored by the men, its hosts will be David Lovell, W.C. Wickum, and Jerry Palmer. The menu will consist of eggs, sausage, sweet rolls, coffee, and milk. Persons wishing to make donations should call David at 369-6041. An offering will be received.

Regular CHURCH SCHOOL classes will begin with opening worship in the Assembly Room at 9:15. There will be activities

(continued)



for all ages.

EASTER WORSHIP will begin at 10:45. There will be special music, including Wick singing "The Holy City" and songs by our Children's Choir. The subject of the message will be "Alive Forever", and the Scripture will be John 21:1-31 and I Corinthians 15:3-9.

#### LUCILLE VIA VISITS CITY

Mrs. Fred Via, formerly of Delaware but now of Staunton, Va., was with us for a week as a guest of John and Bertha McTaggart. A reception was held at the church in her honor Sunday, March 21. She enjoyed the opportunity of meeting old friends and it was a real pleasure to have her with us again!

#### DEATH IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

Mrs. Harriett Pittman died Thursday, March 18, at Grady Hospital. Funeral services were held the 21st. Our sympathy goes out to her family.

#### HOSPITALIZED MEMBERS

Among those of our fellowship who were hospitalized are GENE LATHROP, who is at home after being a patient at Grady and Riverside Hospitals; BESSIE DUNHAM, who was a patient at Grady; and BETH LINN, who was a patient at University Hospital.

#### FOOD NEEDED FOR APRIL

Our church is sharing in the work of P.I.N. (People In Need) by assuming responsibility for providing food for the pantry for the month of April. Bring your contributions to church each Sunday and place them in the box in the vestibule. The most acute needs are for peanut butter (none left), noodles, jelly, milk (dried or canned),

and canned fruit. Also needed are canned tuna, canned chicken, canned meat dinners, macaroni, spaghetti, rice, crackers, pancake mix, instant coffee, tea, canned fruit juices, jello, pudding (mix or canned), syrup, spaghetti sauce, canned tomatoes, dried beans, soups, sugar, cornbread mix, macaroni and cheese dinners, and cereals (ready to eat). NO HOME-CANNED FOOD, PLEASE.

Janet Inscho serves P.I.N. as a volunteer.

#### THE GLOVENER STEELE PROJECT

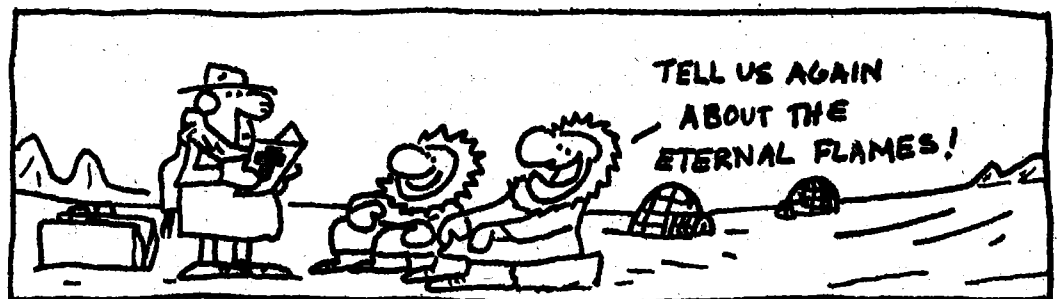
The following letter was received from the "Glovenor Steele Committee."

In the year 1923, a woman came to Delaware who lived the life of a Christian to the fullest. Creed, color, denomination meant nothing to her. She went to church, read her Bible, and tried to live like Jesus. If a friend needed something of hers, she gave it. If someone was hungry, she took them food. If someone returned from the hospital alone, she cared for them.

Mrs. Glovenor Steele, hostess and co-founder of Liberty Community Center, was this lady. We would like to see one of the rooms at the new Center furnished in her honor, and are asking that anyone wanting to help will send a contribution to:

The Glovenor Steele Room  
c/o Mrs. Leona Wilson  
42 Renner Street  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

FRANK & ERNEST



\*\*\*\*\*  
SEPTEMBER, 1983  
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Vol. 14, No. 1

THIS IS OUR LATE/SUMMER, EARLY/FALL newsletter. It contains data of importance to our whole fellowship. Examine each article asking, "What opportunity does this possess for me and my family?" Ask, "How does this announcement or article pertain to my own spiritual awakening?"

You will enjoy and benefit by the series of messages I plan to bring between now and Advent titled "Thirteen Steps to Success." They are based on the traditional ten commandments plus three more that Jesus gave. We will see them not as negative statements of warning and punishment but as positive declarations of abundance and joy! They are practical, contemporary, and easy listening! Come and grow!!! (JBS)

REGULAR SCHEDULE BEGINS - Sept. 18 marks our return to our regular schedule of activities. Church School meets at 9:15 AM every Sunday. Morning Worship is at 10:45. The Healing Group meets each Tuesday at 7:30 PM and will study the book HEALING by Father Francis MacNutt. Choir Rehearsal is at 7:00 each Wednesday. Regular time for the Women's Mission Society is the second Thursday each month at 7:00 PM at the church. Check your program booklet for possible changes.

BREAKFAST AT THE CHURCH - The Church School Teachers will serve breakfast for the School Sunday, Sept. 18, at 8:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

For one full day, make life an adventure by actually living in the belief that God is good and see for yourself what happens to your life. Recognize His goodness in the weather, in people, in everything. Look at situations as though they had divine meaning. Meet your problems as though they were meant to help not hinder you. (Marcus Bach)

MARION ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES - The Women of the Association will hold a Mission Fair at the Fite Memorial Baptist Church, Thursday, Sept. 22, from 10 AM until 2:00 PM. Bring a salad or a dessert! Nursery will be provided.

The annual Fall Rally of the Association will be at the Richwood Baptist Church Sunday, Sept. 25, at 3:00 PM. The missionary speaker will be Sally Blackwell. Dinner will be available at 5:30 PM, \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children. The youth will present a program during the evening session. Give Steve your reservation no later than Sept. 22.

WORLD FELLOWSHIP OFFERING - Our annual World Fellowship Offering will again be held on World Wide Communion Sunday, Oct. 2. The theme this year will be REACHING OUT, and our goal is \$160. You will be hearing from our Mission Chr. Lana Palmer. American Baptists use this offering as a means to reach out to the hungry, sick, and spiritually impoverished people of the world with the saving truth of the Gospel. The national goal is \$3 million.





Ruth J. Brown passed away Tuesday, Oct. 25, at Grady Memorial Hospital. She had suffered a heart attack the previous Friday, Oct. 21.

She was buried in Sunset Cemetery in Columbus, Friday, Oct. 28. A memorial service was conducted in our sanctuary on Sat., Oct. 29. The church was filled with her friends and family and the theme of her service was joy in the face of apparent loss. Leading the worship was pastor James B. Stephenson, assisted by Rev. Ted D. Stephenson, her son-in-law.

Ruth had served as church organist for twenty years. She was treasurer for many years and was Missions Treasurer at the time of her passing. She had sung in the choir, taught Church School, served on innumerable committees, and in all ways was a faithful witness for Jesus.

The thing most noted about her was her willingness to use every talent for her family and her church.

Also apparent was the spirit of joy that she manifested. She loved her family, her church, and her lord.

It will be difficult to believe that she is no longer with us in the body. But her presence as Spirit will be felt. She revealed to us what joyful discipleship really means and she was teacher to all of us.

On All Saints Day, Nov. 1, a memorial service was held in her honor at the Methodist Theological School where she had worked as librarian for 23 years. It was good that her faithfulness was recognized beyond the walls of her church.

As her pastor I learned from her in many ways, and she was a joy to serve with in the worship of God. It will never be the same without her, but all things will be richer because of her. May God bless her family and her friends as He blesses her in heaven.

She has put on invisibility.  
Dear Lord, I cannot see -  
But this I know, although the road ascends  
And passes from my sight,  
That there will be no night;  
That you will take her gently by the hand  
And lead her on  
Along the road of life that never ends,  
And she will find it is not death but dawn.  
I do not doubt that You are there as here,  
And you will hold her dear.  
Our life did not begin with birth,  
It is not of the earth;  
And this that we call death, it is no more  
Than the opening and closing of a door-  
And in Your house how many rooms must be  
Beyond this one where we rest momentarily.  
Dear Lord, we thank you for the faith that  
sets us free,  
The love that knows it cannot lose its own;  
That love that looking thru the shadows sees  
That You and she and we are ever one.  
-James Dillet Freeman

Fisher Tree Service recently removed a dying maple tree because of dead limbs hanging over the church and riveyay. We also removed a dead apple tree and cut down small sapplings growing along the foundation at the west end of the church. The mulberry trees along the alley were trimmed back and limbs covering the security light pole were removed. Cost \$275.00

All 8 gas furnaces here in the church were recently serviced, including filter changes and hi-limit switch checks. The parsonage furnace was also serviced. All three bathroom stools at the church were repaired plus the one at the Franklin House. Phil Richert did this work at a cost of \$106.76.

The outside trim around the front doors and the downspout in front was painted. Thanks to Steve and Sophie for painting the garage door at the parsonage.

Larry Williams recently tunded and serviced the pipe organ including repair of a foot controlled device linking several stops and ranks of pipes together. We have not received a bill for this service yet, but it will be in excess of \$200.00. Emergency repairs were also made to gas lines at the Franklin House. Recent complaints of the smell of gas resulted in the shutdown of the gas and meter removal. Repairs have been made but the cost is unknown. Due to the unknown actual costs of emergency repair next door, the Board of Trustees is tabling three other requested projects by the staff of the Franklin House. Only emergency and necessary repairs will be made at this time. Peter White, Chmn.

TREASURERS REPORT

Balance 9-30-83	735.79
Receipts for October	
Regular Offerings...	
1006.41	
394.40	
744.55	
452.15	2597.51
Transfer of funds	
275.00	275.00
	3608.30

Disbursements	2930.38
Balance 10-31-83	677.92
Outstanding bills	
M & M payments	1076.32

Betty Porter, Treasurer

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SUNDAY OF DEDICATION

The annual time for presenting our pledges will be Sunday, Nov. 20. Your pledge sheet and other data will be coming to you in the mail this week.

LUCILLE VIA KILLED IN STAUNTON

Monday, Nov. 7, Lucille Via was killed in an auto accident in Staunton, Va. More information will be available later. In the meantime we keep her family in our prayers. She was a dear friend to many of us and, along with Fred, a bulwark to our fellowship.

PEOPLE . . . .

LORRIE LATHROP and RICHARD PARFENCHUK were married in our Sanctuary Nov.5.

JOHN and MARY HELEN RICHARDS were received into our fellowship Sunday, Nov. 6.

CLAUDIA ELIOT is now living at 21 South Sandusky.

POLLY FOCKE is recovering from a knee injury.

MICHAEL EKELBERRY is now a Life Scout.

JERRY PALMER preached Oct. 9 in STEVE'S absence.

Congratulations to WILBUR WICKUM and EVELYN LEE on their reelection to council and school board.

JENNIFER PORTER received honorable mention on the all star team of the Central Ohio Swimming Association.

DELLA DEAN received a head injury in a fall.

HELEN ALESHIRE and ERNESTINE FROST are in Grady.

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TOBER, 1983  
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Vol. 14, No. 2

WORLD-WIDE COMMUNION TODAY

Today, Oct. 2, is celebrated by churches all around the planet as World-Wide Communion Sunday. In addition to the Sacrament of Union, American Baptists receive their annual World Fellowship Offering. May the Spirit bring you JOY and BLESSINGS as we receive the Lord's Body!

CHURCH SCHOOL INSTALLATION

Our teachers were installed during worship, Sept. 18. They are Nursery, Sophia Stephenson & Pam Faulk (alt); Kindergarten, Carol Fogle & Mary Lou Lovell (alt); Primary, Karen Stoner & Marge Smale (alt); Middler, Cecily Judd & Carol Grubbs (alt); Junior, Beth Trigg & Jeanne Ekelberry (alt); Junior High, Jean Wickum & Sue Elfner (alt); Senior High, Larry Faulk & Jerry Palmer (alt); Adult, Steve Stoner, 1st Quarter, Wick & Jean Wickum, 2nd Quarter.

ABOUT OUR NEWS LETTER

This issue is a record in brevity! Two reasons: our last issue came out only two weeks ago; and we want to get back on schedule again with the first Sunday of each month as the date of publication. For future issues get your material to us the Sunday before publication.

We are asking each board and organization to appoint a CP (Communications Person). The responsibility of the CP is to get data relating to the board or organization and relay it to the editors of GOOD NEWS and the weekly bulletin. Bulletin deadline is Friday morning each week. Groups included are Deacons, Trustees, Board of Education, Finance Committee, Women's Society, choir, and youth. Get the name of your CP into the office this week. May we all count on your cooperation?

THIRTEEN STEPS SERIES

Steve is bringing you a series of messages on the Thirteen Commandments (ten from the Old Testament and three from the New). They are meant to be positive, interesting, and life-changing. Come and find out how to be better in all ways. Our religion works at the three levels of being-body, mind, and spirit. It should be working for you!

Read Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 5-7.

POWER PASSAGES

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Cast all your anxieties on him, for He cares about you.  
(I Peter 5:7)

We have the Mind of Christ. (I Cor. 2:16)

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind. (Romans 12:2)

And my God will supply every need of yours. (Phil. 4:19)

All things are possible to him who believes. (Mark 9:23)

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DECEMBER, 1983  
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CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Our annual Christmas Eve Worship is set for 7:30 p.m. There will be special music by the choirs and soloist and the celebration of Holy Communion. We will again find real inspiration in the candlelighting ceremony. There will be a nursery and child care and opportunity will be provided for the children to join their families for the lighting of the candles.

HELPING OTHERS CELEBRATE

We are again sharing in the Delaware County Christmas Clearing House. We need new toys, canned goods, staple items (no home canned items, please), and money for non-transferable clothing certificates for teenagers. You may bring your contributions to the church - there is a box in the vestibule, or you may take them directly to the National Guard Armory, 79 W. William St., Dec. 12 -21; from 8:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. You can give money to Steve or mail checks to the Christmas Clearing House, P.O. Box 962, 45 S. Franklin Street. If

you need more information, you may come either the church office of the Clearing House, 363-6284. THANKS TO ALL WHO HELP!!!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Christmas comes on Sunday this year and we will have the opportunity to come to the church as a part of the day's experience. Service will begin at the usual 10:45. There will be no Church School.

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The little birds praise you,  
The wren and the sparrow,  
The rabbits and squirrels  
That run in the snow.  
This house may be small  
And this cradle be narrow.  
You learned to be humble  
A long time ago.

O little Lord Jesus,  
Your moment is breaking.  
The angels in heaven  
Have polished your star.  
Alone on their hill-sides  
The shepherds are waking  
The wise shall grow simple  
And find where you are.  
- Eleanor Slater

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COMMUNICATIONS . . .

The family of Ruth Brown would like to thank each of you for your support and words of love during their recent loss. They would like also to express their sympathy to each of you in your loss, as they know Ruth was loved and respected by all. Thank you sincerely for your kind expressions of sympathy. They were deeply appreciated.

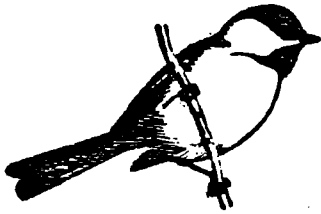
Brown family

How sad I am and I ask for your prayers as I begin to go forward again without my beloved parents. The flowers you sent meant a great deal to both my brother Bill

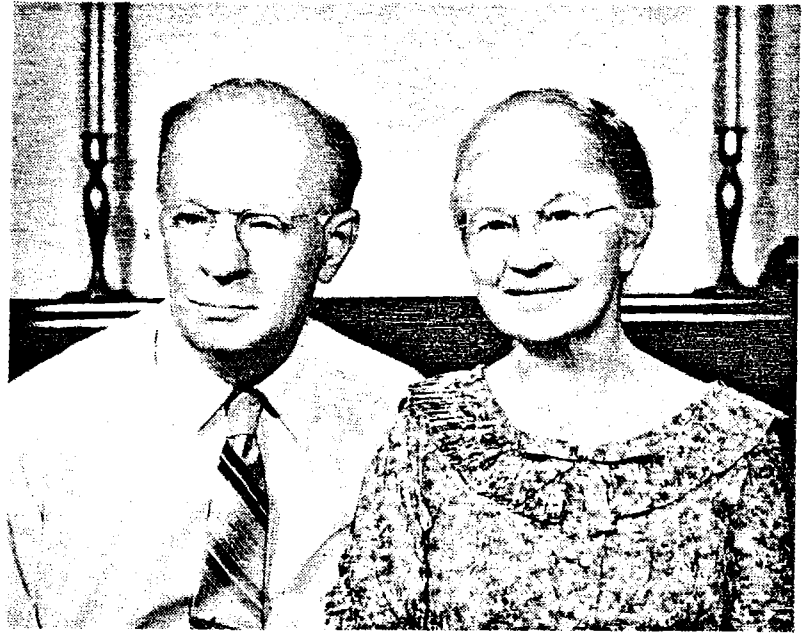
and to me. We also thank you for your cards and notes. Steve phoned me and told about Ruth Brown. Her music was a blessing to me each time I was with you.

Nancy Via Summers

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BE SURE TO REMEMBER THE BIRDS DURING THE WINTER DAYS. They are part of God's Choir and this is a way to thank them for their beauty and their music!



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DOROTHY CRANE and MARJORIE ADAMS presented the church a new Assembly Room carpet and new hymnals in memory of their parents, Rufus and Helen Crane. Presentation and dedication took place Sunday, December 4. Rufus taught mathematics at Ohio Wesleyan University and Helen was active in the work of the Scouts. They demonstrated that talent is a gift from God, and is meant to be used for others. They were God's gift to our church family. A sincere thanks goes to Dorothy and Marjorie for their thoughtfulness!  
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# The Meaning of Christmas

by Rick VanBrimmer

The puffy snow falls gently to the ground. It makes a soft crunching sound under my boots as I walk along a now deserted sidewalk. And there, through partially opened curtains, I see the good times this holiday brings.

A family sharing the joys of Christmas. They bustle about trimming the tree that stands erect in the front window. There are smiles on their faces as they help one another complete the seasonal task. It sends a pleasant warm feeling through my chill-ridden body.

But I must be moving on. The cold is penetrating my gloves and numbing the tips of my fingers. Mine are the only tracks in the fresh fallen snow because it's Christmas Eve, and everyone is enjoying the warmth of their blazing fireplaces.

I make this same walk many times, but this night is always the most special.

A ripple of grey smoke filters through the sagging tin roof. One dim light shines out the small frosted window. I knock and enter knowing there will be no quick reply. She sits there in the corner

of the dingy one room shack, bundled in worn out blankets trying to fight the bitterness of the winter. We exchange our traditional greeting and the glow in her eyes says she's happy to see me. Still talking, I feed the fire the remaining wood out of the battered box which stands beside the fireplace.

She listens to the news of my family as if it were the family she no longer has. She soon starts to repeat the stories of her childhood as I quietly listen. Her mind drifted off into another day and while she sat there silently reminiscing, I went out to get a load of wood for the fire. When I entered the shack she had ventured out of her chair and gone to the weathered dresser by her feather bed. Her wrinkled hands went through the drawers until she pulled out a blanket she had knitted during her lonely days and nights.

It was made of the same yarn she had used for the muffler she gave me last year. I had given her the yarn three years ago. The blanket was a work of art, a sign of her love for me. She had spent many hours making the only gift

she could give. Like the other presents she had given me, I cherished it very dearly. When I gave her the presents I had brought, she began to cry like she always does. She told me again that I had spent too much and her gift wasn't good enough. We talked until she became too tired.

I tried, like I do every year, to convince her to come and live with us, but she refused because this was the only home she had ever known.

I built up the fire and told her I'd be back to see her soon. And as I left her sitting there, I had the same warm feeling in my heart that I get every time I visit her. The walk home seemed short and I hardly noticed the snow blowing in my face.

As I sat around the fire with my family, eating popcorn, I couldn't help thinking about the old lady and the only Christmas she knew. And the more I thought about it, the more I realized that seeing her tonight was what Christmas was all about. Caring enough to share all you have to make someone happy, and the little old lady had done just that.

## SECRET ADVENT FRIENDS

How would you like to have a secret friend who will be a caring individual and send you cards or other remembrances for the next year? If this sounds like a good idea to you, sign up to have a secret advent friend on the sign up sheet in the vestibule. Make sure you fill out an information sheet so your secret friend will know a little about you. We hope you will want to be a friend to someone as well as being a secret friend. For additional details see Carol Grubbs or Linda White. Today is the final day to sign up.

Linda White

## ADVENT ACTIVITIES

During Advent, Sunday School will be scheduled at 9a.m. to allow for an extra half hour of enriching Advent activities. The children of the Sunday School will be presenting a play, "For Those Who Receive Him", on Dec. 11th. Directors for these resident artists are Carol Grubbs and Jean Ekelberry. The following Sunday, Dec. 18th, Sue Elfner has arranged for a Christmas film to be shown in the Senior High room.

Following the Sunday A.M. worship service on the 11th, we will celebrate our annual birthday party for the Baby Jesus. Carol Grubbs and Jean Wickum are arranging this special celebration. Lastly, Dick and Evelyn Lee are co-ordinating our plans for the outdoor nativity scene which will be presented by the adults this year.

## A CHRISTMAS GIFT OF LOVE

The boys and girls of the Delaware Children's Home will have a brighter Christmas this year, because our First Baptist family cares enough to share a gift of love. Mr. Bill Phipps, Director of the home, was most grateful to learn that we planned this project. He suggested 3 areas of real need which could be provided as a "cottage gift"--- meaning the gifts would be for all the children and not necessarily for specific individuals. The items needed are as follows: (By December 18th)

- 1) Rug yarn in colors of Dallas Cowboys Blue, Gray, White, Black, Dark Brown and orange.
- 2) Games suitable for teen-agers such as UNO, Un-Game, Scrabble, Backgammon, etc. (They have Yahtze)!!!

3) Hand tools, including wrenches, screw drivers, pliers, claw hammers, wood rasps, vise grips, brace & bits, etc....

4) They could also use a camera and stereo headphones.

PLEASE....to make this a successful project we need all of your help! Plan to bring your gift (or gifts) wrapped and tagged with the name of the item enclosed to the church or to the Palmers home at 654 Governors St. on any evening. At a time when we are all busy trying to stretch our Christmas dollars, one more gift may seem difficult to provide...but we are reminded of Christ's words, "Whatsoever ye do unto the least of these, ye do unto me," then the gift, though a sacrifice may be the greatest gift of all!

Lana Palmer

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## ADVENT EPIC

Oh! Blessed baby!  
So young, but yet so old;  
Already carrying the burdens of this world  
On your tiny swaddled shoulders,

Beneath those curling lashes  
and within those all-seeing eyes,  
The tiny man-child cannot begin to fathom  
all the hatred and the lies,

Amidst his make-shift bed,  
He lies humbly for all to view.  
Kings kneeling, shepherds bowing,  
Even the lowly beasts...pause...  
in adoration of the King so blessed  
and so new.

Unmeasureable love of a Father for his Son,  
given for the centuries to come.  
So that humankind may benefit,  
or absorb some shred of humility.  
This was just the beginning of  
what was meant to be.

Remembered through the ages,  
the story told and then retold.  
Virgin Mary bore the Christ Child  
in the stable---isolated---save for  
the star.  
Three Kings who journeyed from the  
Orient afar.

And so, as we look back,  
and search our souls for a  
meaning or a moral,  
Think of God as he looked down on us,  
contemplating sin and strife,  
and with a giving, unmatched love,  
gave His Son to save our lives.

Cary Beth Trigg



WOMENS SOCIETY MEETING

FROM THE TRUSTEES

"Joy Through Sacrifice" is the theme of the Women's Society meeting on Thurs. Dec. 15th at 6 to 7 p.m. at the church. This is an invitation to all women of the church to pause in the middle of the Christmas rush and think about the true meaning of Christmas in their lives. Each woman is asked to eliminate dinner on Thursday and place the cost of that meal in a special offering for the Christmas Clearing House. All women are asked to partake of this sacrificial meal and take this opportunity for meditation. This may be a time to feel the true Christmas spirit. Women are to meet in the assembly room upstairs. We will go as a group downstairs to the youth room, entering and departing in silence. Please plan to attend.

Mary Lou Lovell

RUTH BROWN MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND

With the passing of Ruth Brown, the choir of the First Baptist Church has felt a deep loss, both personally and musically. Because of Ruth's love of music we are establishing a music fund in her honor. We are planning to use contributions to purchase choir music. For further information call Mary Lou.

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TREASURERS REPORT

Balance 10/31/83	\$677.92
Nov. offerings	816.34
	382.60
	790.60
	<u>564.36</u>
	2553.90
Transfers (hymnals & plumbing)	1093.39
	<u>4325.21</u>
Disbursements	<u>4233.82</u>
Balance 11/30/83	91.39
No outstanding bills.	

Betty J. Porter, Treasurer

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I sought to hear the voice of God  
And climbed the topmost steeple,  
But God declared: "Go down again--  
I dwell among the people."  
John Henry Newman

Work has been completed in the basement of the Franklin House to meet two gas company inspections. All old gas pipes in the house were disconnected and replaced with a single line run from the meter to the boiler and another single line to the hot water heater. Three new valves were installed and the gas company replaced the meter. The chimney was cleaned out behind the boiler and several patch repairs were made to the boiler. The hot water heater was moved from the corner of the room to a location right under the rear chimney to provide enough draft to vent properly. This work required many plumbing changes. Estimated total cost is over \$200.00. Work done by Phil Richert.

Earl Quillen, locksmith, came and adjusted the front door lock.\*\*\*

Thanks go to Jim VanBrimmer for working on the church loudspeaker system.\*\*\*

Candle Light builders came and worked on the chimney at the parsonage. The chimney had shifted from its original position. A concrete cap was laid across an open block at the foundation. This step was missed during the original construction. Several open mortar joints were tuck pointed and the chimney was entirely recaulked where it meets the house. This will be closely watched in the future to see if there is any further separation.\*\*\*

The program at the Franklin House has about outgrown the size of the building and the trustees have agreed to let them use the Senior High Room on weekdays if there is no church activity taking place. A set of rules was issued with the permission. No additional heat is to be used. Those wanting further information, please contact the trustees.\*\*\* Peter White, Chairman

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SKILLET COOKIES

2 tblsp. butter or oleo; 2 eggs beaten;  
1 c. sugar; 1/4 tspn. salt; 1 tsn. vanilla  
1 1/2--2 c chopped dates; 1/2--3/4 c. chopped nuts; 3--4 c. rice krispies.  
Melt butter in heavy skillet over low heat, stir in eggs (beaten), sugar, salt, vanilla and dates. Cook slowly, stirring constantly until mixture becomes thick, about 8 min. Add rice krispies and form into rolls. Roll in shredded coconut and powdered sugar. Roll each roll in plastic wrap. Slice off when needed. \*\*\* Ernestine Frost

BE A SECRET ADVENT FRIEND IN THE COMING YEAR!

FUNDING OUR FUTURE

Ministry of Finance

Both the Ohio Baptist Convention and the Cleveland Baptist Association have voted to enter a one-time, concentrated funding campaign to be known as FUNDING OUR FUTURE: CAMPS AND CHURCHES. The total expenses for this campaign are projected to total no more than \$75,000, so that at least \$875,000, more than 92% of the goal to be raised, will go directly toward the programs to be funded.

Commitments totaling \$950,000 are needed to accomplish these goals. A professional feasibility study, conducted with over 120 interviews among American Baptists in Ohio, has concluded that at least \$850,000 could be subscribed in a serious, comprehensive campaign among our churches.

We have agreed to exceed that amount by subscribing at least \$100,000 in advance gifts before the campaign begins in 1984. If we are successful in this advance period, our goal can rise to \$950,000. These funds will be used to make major additions and improvements to our camps: Judson Hills, Kirkwood, and Koinonia. Funds will also be committed to giving birth and nurturing new churches and communities of faith in Ohio.

Our congregation will be asked to support this project during the January business meeting. In doing so, a church would be asked to:

- 1) Determine to share in the commitment to camps and new churches to the extent possible.
- 2) Identify means by which their congregation could aid in the support of this concentrated effort for these programs
- 3) Share the needs with church membership and supporters in a manner which will encourage personal financial support.
- 4) Report any and all gifts and the purposes toward which they are to be used to the campaign office on a timely basis.

For further information, there are a number of pamphlets on the table in the vestibule. Please take some time over the next month to consider what your vote will be.

\* \* \* \* \*

When I heard  
the church bells ring  
I thought I heard  
the voice of God.  
Albert Schweitzer

As far as church operations are concerned, the picture for 1983 remains hopeful. Through 49 weeks we are slightly ahead of the budget schedule, but about even with expenses. Assuming no unforeseen problems, we should finish the year with a modest surplus, which has been planned for in meeting budget increases in 1984. Mission giving remains depressed. A very generous response is needed in the remaining 3 weeks if we are to meet our obligations in support of ABC United Mission work. The 4 special offerings went well over goal, for which we can be very thankful. Even so, total mission support is about \$300 under plan at this point.

For 1984, pledges to date in support of our local ministry account for 53% of budget. Missions stand at 49%, and the window project at 59%. Based upon 1983 experience, we need to have approximately 75% of the total budget pledged in order for non-pledged giving and the church school offerings to make up the balance needed. If you have forgotten to return your pledge, please tie a string around your heart and bring it with you next Sunday.

James Van Brimmer

AMENDMENT TO BE VOTED ON

The following amendment to the constitution will be voted on at our annual meeting, January 15th, after worship service.

ARTICLE 6-- All officers will serve terms of two years.

Pastor Steve

\*\*\*\*\*

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The Church Women United annual meeting and pot luck lunch will be held at Grace Methodist Church on Jan 13th, 12-2:00 p.m. All women are invited to attend. Bring one covered dish to share and your own table service. Programs that the Church Women United support will be explained. Child care will be available. If you need any further information, please contact Evelyn Lee.

\* \* \* \* \*

A church is GOD between four walls.  
Victor Hugo

SPECIAL INTEREST MISSIONARIES

The Rev. & Mrs. Charles (Alice) Moore  
C.E.C.O. - B.P. 67

Kimpese, Bas-Zaire

Birthdays--

- Charles: Dec 28
- Alice: Dec 21
- son William 7-4-56
- son Jonathan 11-9-59
- daughter Julia 9-15-61
- son Timothy 3-3-65

The Rev. David C. Stone  
Trumbull Neighborhood Baptist Minist-  
ries

75 Jackson Drive  
Campbell, Ohio 44405

Birthday Aug. 14

GO AHEAD, SEND A CARD!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- Dec. 9 Virginia Houston
- 13 Geneva Evans
- 18 Cap Gabriel
- 25 Carol Grubbs
- Jesus of Nazareth
- Steve & Karen Stoner
- 26 Dick & Barbara Payne
- Jan. 5 Evelyn Lee
- Lola Jackson
- 12 Larry Faulk
- David Smale
- 13 John Linn
- 14 Claudia Eliot

+++++

PEOPLE

HELEN ALESHIRE is recuperating at home from a broken hip.

JOHN & BERTHA MC TAGGART'S new address:  
1769 Brookline Apt.C  
Dayton, Ohio 45420

JOHN was in Delaware to attend Ruth Brown's funeral and spoke at Methesco's memorial service.

JEAN & WICK WICKUM visited with Wick's mother in South Carolina.

DOROTHY & DONALD BROWN, children KENNY & ABBY have a new address:  
339 Troy Road  
Delaware, Ohio  
Phone 363-6229

EDITH HALL was a patient at Grady Hospital.

Our Advent breakfast was prepared by JERRY PALMER, DAVE LOVELL & STEVE STONER. PAM FAULK read a Christmas story, which was enjoyed by the children and the adults.

Our ladies held a "Share the Joy" dinner Nov. 27th. 85 persons attended including our guests from the Sunny Vee. A white elephant auction was conducted by JANET INSCHO.

The church was decorated with greens by BETH & ARCHIE TRIGG and helpers. PETER WHITE put up the Christmas tree.

JEFF FAULK was chosen to participate in the latest session of the "Balloon Box" at his school. This is a special enrichment program. During that particular session, they studied running a business and the world of work. This culminated in running "King Richard's Pizza Palace" for one night at school.

VICTOR FOGLE and JARROD TRIGG are members of the newly formed Tiger Cub group at Smith School. This is a younger version of Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts.

The junior class, consisting of JENNY PORTER, ANGIE ELFNER, CHARITY PIATT, STEFANIE STONER and visitor AMY STEPHENSON learned about the JEWISH holiday, HANNUKAH. Teacher, BETH TRIGG, helped the girls to bake Jewish butter cookies, a holiday treat during the Festival of Lights.

CHRIS TREESE is a member of the Willis Jr. High seventh grade Panther basketball team.

JARROD TRIGG is participating in the boys winter program of basketball fundamentals.

MIKE GRUBBS, SUZIE GRUBBS & JENNIFER PALMER participated in the Hayes High marching band that earned acclaim throughout central Ohio.

STEVE PALMER, son of JERRY & LANA PALMER will be home for the Christmas holidays.

THE BYF youth will have a bowling outing on Dec. 18th followed by a dinner and gift exchange.

Since I'm at the typewriter and I have a small space left, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.  
Jerry Palmer