

Good News Letter

Published in the Cause of the Abundant Life by the First Baptist Church,
101 North Franklin Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015; (740) 363-7021

Rev. Robert Hughes Is Our New Interim Pastor

We welcome Robert Hughes as our new interim pastor. A native of Bucyrus, he graduated from Dennison University in 1950 and from Eastern Seminary in 1954. His ministry has been in churches all over Ohio, and most recently he has been interim in the Baptist church in Bethel, Ohio. He has also worked in Children's Services in Lake and Trumbull counties.

His wife, Kathleen, is active in ABC Ohio. They have six children and fifteen grandchildren. His home is in Cuyahoga Falls.

On Thursday, December 28, he moved his belongings into the pastor's study and the parsonage, and he will be here on January 2nd to begin serving us. He comes from the Ministers at Large program. He will preach at our January 7th service.

— Jean Wickum
Chair, Board of Deacons

Pastoral Search Committee

The Pastoral Search Committee has completed its initial interviews of candidates. We managed to talk to seven candidates, either in person or on the phone, before the Christmas holiday. We will now be narrowing down the list and setting up second interviews and neutral pulpit visits for the finalists.

There is still much work to be done, and we will keep you posted on our progress! Your patience and prayers are appreciated.

— Rick Van Brimmer, Co-chair
Pastoral Search Committee



JANUARY

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

Another big thank you to First Baptist! We have once again surpassed our goal. The total for the RMMO is \$370.50 as of December 31, 2000. Keep in mind that every cent of this will go directly ABC retired ministers and missionaries or their surviving spouses. We can be proud of our contribution and

dedication to providing emergency funds and thank you gifts to those who have served our American Baptist Convention through professional ministry.

—Randy Turner

Winter Book Study: More than Welcome

The Board of Christian Education will be offering a thought provoking book study on the topic of Christianity and homosexuality. This ten week study will focus on the book *More Than Welcome*, written by First United Methodist Church minister Maurine C. Waun of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This text is designed for use by churches seeking understanding of this controversial issue. The following review, written by Catholic Bishop Bill Peckenpaugh, can give you an idea of the book's tone:

“Author Maurine Waun opens with some personal background, which serves both to explain her personal interest in the topic, as well as to help the reader identify what is (and, as importantly, what is not) being asked of him. She covers some basic problems with the way the Bible has been used to justify hatred of ‘sexual minorities.’ Waun’s knockout punch is the individual stories she presents, and this section was definitely the most painful for me. In six chapters, Waun recounts the stories of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered

people relating to pastors, churches, fellow parishioners, and their relatives and friends. It was in this section that I realized my 'understanding' of these people's situation had been shallow at best, and actively hurtful at worst. Over and over, the author lets the stories speak more forcefully than she could, identifying institutional and personal prejudice, bigotry, indifference, and apathy. It was difficult to read of these people of faith, trying to live out a call to follow Jesus as best they could, being repeatedly hurt and shunned by those who profess to love *all* their neighbors as Christ commanded.

Fortunately, Waun does not leave us with that alone. She goes on, in the third section, to identify specific problems the church [speaking as the universal Body of Christ] must address, and specific things individuals should consider when contemplating the Gospel call to 'love your neighbor.'

I highly recommend this book to all. The question isn't 'should we allow gays in the church?' They're there. The question is: how do we follow Jesus' teaching, and love those who are different from us? Waun does an excellent job presenting a Gospel-based, theologically-sound, pastorally-sensitive answer to that question."

The class will be lead by Scott Yant and meet each Sunday evening at First Baptist starting February 4th at 7:00 pm and finish April 8th. A poster with class information is on the church bulletin board where all interested in attending should sign-up for books. We will be accepting a donation of \$16 to cover the text cost. Please come and meet together in the spirit of growth and Christian love.

Teresa Anne Griffith

Teresa Anne Griffith, 39, died at her home in Delaware on Tuesday, December 12, after a long illness.

She was born November 15, 1961 in Delaware to Carol (Brown) Grubbs and Fred Grubbs. A life-long Delaware resident, she graduated from Delaware Hayes High School in 1980. She worked in management at Meijer Inc. and was a member of First Baptist.



Teresa is survived by her husband, Michael Griffith, whom she married in 1984; two daughters, Natalie and Katie Griffith, her parents, Carol and Fred Grubbs of Delaware, a brother and sister-in-law, Michael and Tami Grubbs of Delaware, two sisters and one brother-in-law, Suzanne Grubbs of Delaware, and Alison and Todd Bradford of New Matamoras; her mother- and father-in-law, Bill and Florence Griffith of Delaware; a sister-in-law, Sandy Griffith of Delaware; five nieces and nephews, Zachery, Benjamin and Jeanette Grubbs, all of Delaware, and Jacob Bradford and Meredith Bradford of New Matamoras; aunts and uncles, James and Anna Brown of Powell, Donald and Dorothy Brown of Delaware, Donna Brown of Westerville, and Jeannie and Ted Stephenson of Indianapolis; a grandmother, June Grubbs of Delaware; a great-grandmother, Edith Hall of Sunbury; and cousins and other relatives.

Visiting hours were at Robinson Funeral Home on December 14th, and a private graveside service was held on December 15th at Oak Grove Cemetery.

A memorial service was held on December 16 at First Baptist, with Rev. Ted Stephenson officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice at Grady, 561 W. Central Ave., Delaware, OH 43015.

Thank You from the Board of Christian Education

The Board of Christian Education would like to recognize the gift of a TV and VCR to the church for use in the Sunday School program (or other educational purposes). It will be put to good use. The donors prefer to remain anonymous but the wonderful gesture is greatly appreciated!

—Randy Turner

Trustees Notes

- On Friday, December 8, a repairman from the Gable Elevator Company came and installed the final state-mandated part. The cost was \$180.00. Repairs and modification this fall have totalled \$1,514.51. A thank you is extended to those who have continued to give to the handicap access fund which has enabled this large expense to come from that fund instead of the general budget.
- On Saturday, December 23, Phillip Peters and Erica Leumys were married at First Baptist. The Rev. M. C. Sayers officiated. Peter White was the building host.
- A number of Christmas cards and greetings have been received at the church from former members, friends, organizations and those in the military. They are on the bulletin board in the assembly room and include: Lola Jackson, Helen Baker, Marjorie Adams and Dorothy Crane,

Della Dove, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Methodist Theological School, Alderson-Broadus College, Vic and Debbie Fogle, and a thank you letter from the Andrews House for our last donation.

Lost and Found

- One pair of eyeglasses in an orange cloth case, found on a pew after the Christmas Eve service.
- One green umbrella, found in the front vestibule

– Peter White, Chair
Board of Trustees

Greetings from the Heizers

We bring you season's greetings from Stefanie and Peter Heizer. Stef and Pete are members of the Lakewood Baptist Church (ABC), where Peter is beginning a term as a trustee, and Stefanie is beginning a term as a deacon. They are also members of the choir, Stef as a singer and Peter as an instrumentalist.

They wish all their friends in Delaware a happy new year!

Their address is:
6545 Crossview Road
Seven Hills, OH 44131

– Jim and Bertha Van Brimmer

Martin Luther King Celebration Service

Delaware's 16th annual Martin Luther King Celebration Service will be held on Sunday, January 14, at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church, 73 West William Street.



The keynote speaker will be Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Distinguished-Scholar-in-Residence at the

Judson Hills Directors To Lead Service; Covered-Dish Dinner to Follow

On Sunday, January 21st, our speakers for morning worship will be Ben and Marie Peer, directors at Judson Hills. Rev. Ben Peer will be our leader at morning worship. Following the service, American Baptist Women will sponsor a covered-dish dinner for all the congregation.

Our leaders will share with us their service at Judson Hills, and how we can continue to help at our church camp. A list of items that can be donated for Judson Hills is included in this newsletter. These items should be brought to the church that day (or earlier, if you won't be able to attend that day).

Please plan to join us for good food, fellowship, and to learn more about Judson Hills.

– Jeanne Ekelberry

Judson Hills Care & Share List

Judson Hills needs the following items.

Underlined items are those which are most needed.

Kitchen Supplies: Ziplock and Hefty bags (1-gallon and 2-gallon sizes only), Styrofoam cups (8 and 12 oz), Styrofoam plates (6 and 9 inch), Styrofoam bowls (small and regular), plastic forks and spoons, storage containers (pint, quart, and gallon).

Medical Supplies: Children's chewable Advil or Tylenol, junior strength Advil or Tylenol, Benadryl (adult and child strengths), StingEze (or similar products for *bee stings*)

Sports Equipment: Life vests (child through adult sizes), fishing equipment (poles, line, hooks, sinkers), soccer balls, ping pong balls and paddles, pool cue sticks

Office Supplies: Children's Fiskars, large labels for packages, permanent markers, light bulbs (75 and 100 watt)

Motel Supplies (for the Nehemiah Center): Hand towels (white only), liquid laundry detergent, gallon or larger liquid soap refills (Dial, Softsoap, etc.), double bed sheets X-Long (white, flat and fitted), double bed mattress pads X-Long (white), heavy-duty bath rugs (9 are needed; National Hospitality cost \$8.95), bleach,

Red Apple Cabin Supplies: Twin bed sheets X-Long (white fitted, or matching sets of any color), twin bed blankets X-Long

Red Apple and Cornerstone Supplies: Pots, pans, and utensils in good condition

Lodge Downstairs: Replacement cushions for wood furniture, table lamps for the two motel-type rooms

Note: Please do NOT donate the following items, as they currently have more than they need: napkins, paper towels, pens and pencils, crayons, washable markers, fabric softener

University of Rhode Island, and a respected member of the civil rights movement. Dr. Lafayette participated in sit-ins, freedom rides, voter registration drives, and was severely beaten during a demonstration in Selma, Alabama.

Thank You

The family of Teresa Anne Griffith would like to extend our appreciation to each and every member of our church family who so graciously and lovingly cared for us over the last 21 months. We sincerely thank you for your prayers, calls, cards, food, monetary gifts and many other gestures of kindness. We are most grateful.

+ + +

Thank you very much for opening up the church for Jimmy and I. We had a wonderful time. And thank you everyone for the wonderful gifts. They have been very helpful and useful.

Love and God Bless,

— *Liz and Jimmy*

Time to Join Secret Advent Friends—Quickly

If you would like to participate in the Secret Advent Friends 2001 activity, please fill out a form which is in the basket on the desk at the front of the Sunday School addition. Then place it in the Education board box as soon as possible. To make this activity worthwhile we need as many participants as possible—quickly.

Thank you,

— *Sue Elfner*

Business Meeting

On Wednesday, January 31, we'll have a covered-dish at 6:30, followed by our quarterly business meeting.

Personals

• **SUE AND LYNN ELFNER** became grandparents when Megan Aubree Zalenski was born on January 3rd. She weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces, and was 20 inches long. Megan's parents are Angy and Bryon Zalenski.

• **CAROL SUE FOGLE** retired on Dec. 31st from her job of 19 years as a cook at Hayes High School.

• **CINDY LATHROP** married Dallas Kinder on December 31st. They are currently living in Delaware but plan to move to Fulton when their new house there is completed.

• **ERIN FAULK** has finished her student teaching in Chicago and has moved back home while she looks for a job.

• **LARRY, PAM, AND ERIN FAULK** recently took a vacation to Williamsburg, Virginia.

• **JEAN OSBORNE AND HER AUNT ALICE** spent the holidays visiting with Jean's sons and their families—Greg in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Gary in Anchorage, Alaska.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- Jan. 4 Ashley Francis
Shirley Parker
Cynthia Bland Biggar
5 Lola Jackson
Evelyn Lee
6 Edith Hall
12 Larry Faulk
Thad Inscho
13 John Linn
16 Jane Moore
18 Matthew Lovell
20 Jennifer Turner
22 Michael Mercer
23 Jeff & Donna Reed
Britten Yant
26 Sophia Stephenson
27 Steve Baker
30 Calvin Turner
Feb. 2 Fred Grubbs
Melissa Neill





JANUARY 2001

First Baptist Church

101 North Franklin Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015

Rev. Robert Hughes, Interim Pastor Office 363-7021; Parsonage 362-6033

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	New Year's Day 1 	2	3 7:00 Choir	4 10:00 Sewing	5	6
7 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship with our new Interim Pastor, Rev. Robert Hughes	8 7:00 Boy Scouts	9	10 7:00 Choir	11 12:00 Young at Heart	12 6:00 Second Fridays Dinner at Andrews House	13
14 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship 4:00 Martin Luther King Jr. Service at First Presbyterian Church	Martin Luther King Jr. Day 15 	16	17 7:00 Choir	18	19	20 8:30 Men's Breakfast
21 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship with guest speakers Rev. Ben Peer and Marie Peer from Judson Hills 12:00 Covered-Dish Luncheon	22 7:00 Boy Scouts	23	24 7:00 Choir	25	26	27
28 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship <i>Last day to submit newsletter articles</i>	29 7:00 Boy Scouts	30	31 6:30 Covered-Dish Dinner, Followed by Quarterly Business Meeting	February 1	2	3

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Annual Pancake Supper

Wanted: Appetites and Talents
When: Tuesday, Feb. 27, 6:30 pm
Where: Fellowship Hall

Please join us for the Annual Pancake Supper on Tuesday, Feb. 27th at 6:30 pm. Dinner will be provided by the Men's Fellowship. Entertainment will be provided by you. Please share your talents with us—a song, a poem, a skit, a joke, magic, juggling, dancing, whatever. Come and enjoy!

—Larry Faulk

Come One, Come All!

Join American Baptist Women on Saturday, Feb. 10th from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Sarah Moore Home

We'll sing some old-fashioned "Sweetheart Songs" and talk to our friends. Music, song books and punch provided. Bring a dozen cookies to share and we hope you dads will come and bring the children also.

—Jeanne Ekelberry

ABY News

In December, Adam, Emilie, Jami, Jarrod and Nichelle worked at PIN's annual food drive. We paired off filling numerous bags with food and

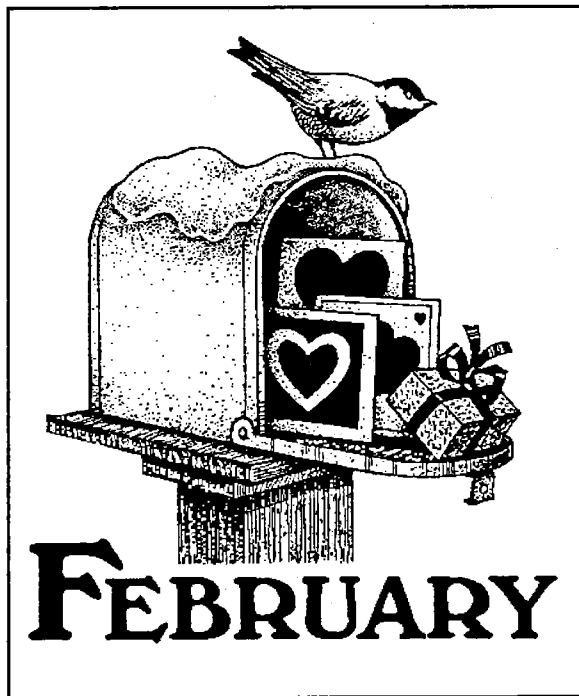
household items for local families. On a funnier note...one of Emilie's classmates thought Jarrod was her father!

The youth also helped serve dinner at the monthly Second Friday meal at

will meet at the church around 6:15 pm. The youth have made enough money to cover \$6 of each ticket, lowering the price to \$10 per person. Due to the high price of parking we are asking ABY members only (no friends). I will be purchasing tickets on January 28th, so let me know early if you wish to go.

Thanks,

— Nichelle Trigg



Andrew's House. We would like to thank Evelyn and Sophia for helping out.

Since we had to cancel our Christmas trip to the Columbus Zoo due to the harsh weather, we are planning something for February. On Friday, February 16th we will be heading to the Nationwide Arena to see the Columbus Landsharks professional indoor lacrosse team. The game starts at 7:30 pm and Jarrod and I will drive the youth down. We

Denver McGhee

Denver A. McGhee, 88, died Thursday, January 25, at Grady Memorial Hospital.

Mr. McGhee was retired from NCR Corp and was a World War II Army veteran. He was a member of New England Lodge 4 F&AM for more than 50 years. He was also a member of the Scioto Consistory AASR — Valley of Columbus, Worthington Chapter 287 Order of the Eastern Star, Utopian

Grange and Worthington Christian Church, and he attended First Baptist.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Dorothy (Collins) McGhee; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Bonnie Domon of California; Shannon and Tom Weakland of Delaware, and Patti and Frank Orders of Powell; 10 grandchildren; two sisters; Della Chasteen and Bonnie Jones; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held at

Worthington Christian Church, with burial at Walnut Grove Cemetery.

The family asks that contributions be made to Hospice at Grady, 561 West Central Avenue, Delaware.

Remember Our Missionaries

Please join me in writing to and praying for the missionaries assigned to our ABW group:

National

Larry Haynes (Brendley)
Tallahatchie Development League
P O Box 267
Tutwiler MS 38963

Birthdays:

Larry 11/29
Brendley 02/13
Miranda 3/26/1983
Nicole 8/16/1986
Elaina 9/22/1990

International

The Rev. Charles and Mrs. Ruth Fox
Esmeralda Apartments #7D
64/66 Soi Ngamduplee
Rama 4 Road
Bangkok 10120 Thailand

Birthdays:

Charles 4/15
Ruth 11/24
Rachel 9/10/1988
Rebecca 5/25/1990
Charles 11/23/1992

Thank you! They really appreciate notes and prayers.

— Karen Stoner

Dayton Christian Center

The Dayton Christian Center (1352 West Riverview Avenue, Dayton) has announced the appointment of Rev. Peter E. Fowler as the new Executive Director of the Center. Rev. Fowler is an ordained minister through the ABC Churches USA, having earned his Master of Divinity degree at United Theological Seminary in Dayton. A letter with more details is on the Assembly Room bulletin board.

Trustees Notes

• I want to thank Arch Trigg, Jarrod Trigg and Tim Fogle for moving the washer and dryer that Cynthia Bland donated down the basement steps at the parsonage and installing it.

• I want to thank everyone who has loaned or donated items to furnish the parsonage for the last three interim pastors. The Mahers loaned a microwave oven and a sweeper for Pastor Hughes to use. When a new pastor comes, everything in the parsonage may have to go all at once, and we will call for help at that time.

• On Monday afternoon, January 22, the main water line under the sanctuary broke between the foundation wall and the meter. Plumber Don Patrick came right away and the city had to shut off the water while he made repairs. I feel most fortunate that I was in the building to hear the water running. It could have become

a real mess if the leak hadn't been discovered quickly. Don is recommending a new water line under the sanctuary. In the next newsletter I'll be able to report on costs.

• I want to thank Kirby Francis for continuing to plow the snow off the parking spaces behind the church.

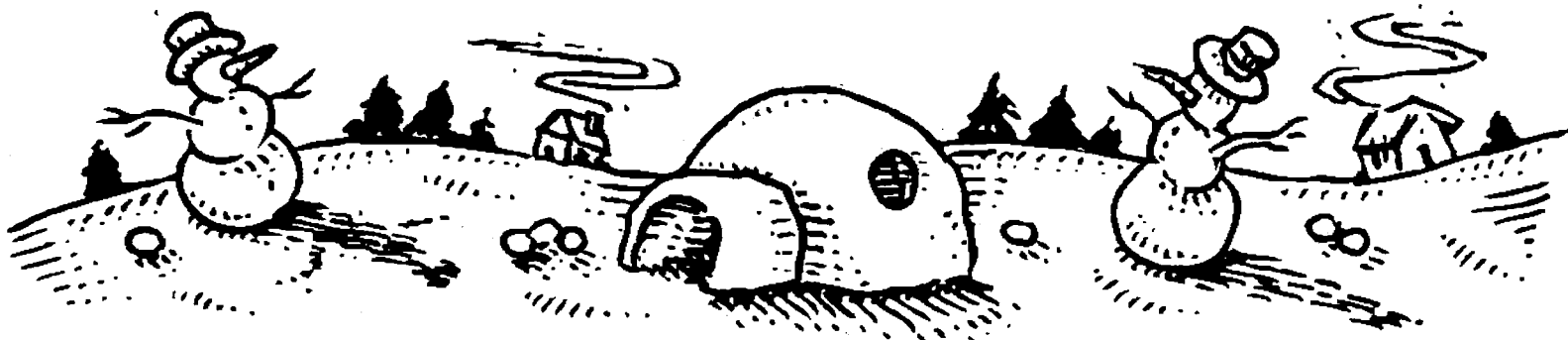
— Peter White
Chairman, Trustees

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Feb. 2 Melissa Neill
Fred Grubbs
15 Deborah Van Broekhoven
19 Jack and Marilyn Smith
24 Emilie Trigg
25 Mariah Bennett
Mar. 5 Ben Turner

Personals

• BARBARA REED had successful cataract surgery.
• JEAN OSBORNE'S AUNT ALICE has returned to her home in Florida after being with Jean for eight months while recovering from her heart attack and heart-bypass surgery.



Why Do Lenten Dates Vary?

Why is there so much variation in the dates of Lent? Ash Wednesday can occur as early as February 3 or as late as March 9 (a span of nearly five weeks), and Easter can vary from March 23 to April 25.

Unlike some holidays which are held on the same date each year (such as Christmas on December 25th), the date for Easter is based on three different factors.

To determine the date for Easter, you begin by finding the first day of spring (the spring equinox). This is the first day in which daytime is longer than nighttime. This date doesn't vary much from year to year. In the northern hemisphere, it's usually around March 21.

Next, you determine the first day after the spring equinox when there will be a full moon. This can vary considerably from year to year, since a full moon doesn't occur on the same day each March (there are 13 full moons a year but only 12 months).

Finally, you determine the first Sunday that will occur after that full moon. That date becomes Easter Sunday.

Origin and Meaning of the Lenten Holidays

In many cultures throughout history there have been springtime celebrations, but the date of the Christian celebration of Easter is linked to the Jewish celebration of the **Passover**, which was celebrated at the first full moon after the first day of spring. Christ was executed and buried just before the beginning of Passover on Friday evening, so the early church picked the first Sunday after Passover—the first Sunday after the first full moon after the first day of spring—to be Easter Sunday.

Shrove Tuesday is the last day before the start of Lent, and is traditionally viewed as a last chance to live it up before beginning the solemn Lenten period. In many parts of the world it is the last day of a carnival celebration which is sometimes called Mardi Gras. Many churches observe the day with pancake dinners. This may derive from ancient times when this was the last chance to consume foods made with milk and eggs, which were forbidden during Lent. "Shrove" comes from the Middle English word "shriven" which meant to confess and be absolved from sin.

Lent is a period of spiritual preparation for Easter which typically involves fasting, penance and prayer. It was originally established by various Christian groups as an interval ranging from a few days to several weeks, and was eventually fixed in the 8th century at 40 days. The word "Lent" probably comes from the ancient word "lencten," which meant "spring."

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the 40 days of Lent. On this day ashes are placed on the foreheads of the faithful to remind them of death, of the sorrow they should feel for their sins, and of the necessity of changing their lives.

Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter and commemorates the Last Supper. "Maundy" is derived from the Latin "mandatum," which meant "the mandate of God."

Good Friday commemorates Jesus' death on the cross. The origin of the name is in dispute. Some speculate that early Christians called this day "God's Friday." Others believe that "good" refers to God's blessings and the good news that Christ would rise from the grave.

Easter Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Christ, and was formally recognized as a holy day by the Council of Nicene in 325. The word "Easter" doesn't appear in the Bible, but may have come from "Eastre," the name of a spring goddess worshiped in ancient springtime festivals.

Andrews House Residency Program

01/29/01

Mission:

"...to provide young adults aged 18 to 21 years with a safe and supportive living environment in which to learn the skills and knowledge necessary for productive independent living as part of a community."

Andrews House Community:

- Resident Partner agencies
- Partner Churches
- Second Fridays
- Computer Learning Center

Eligibility:

- 18 to 20 years old when applying
- male or female
- willing to be drug, alcohol, and tobacco free
- willing to be school, work, and community service focused
- interested in being part of the Andrews House community

Application & Interview:

Submit application to main office.

If eligible, we contact them.

Interview with the steering committee which consists of 6 community members who serve as advisors to the directors and approve program changes.

Contacted if accepted or denied.

Directors assist by:

- Helping to find resources
- Speaking with their advocates
- Sharing "hidden rules"
- Assisting with agency involvement
- Answering questions
- Educating
- Role modeling

We do not:

- Parent
- Supervise 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Provide sufficient mental health treatment
- Offer emergency housing

Residents are:

- Held accountable for their time (activity contract)
- Consequenced for policy violations (level system)
- Expected to learn to DO and BECOME (constant progress)

Challenges:

Honesty required, multiple agency involvement, health problems

Notes:

AH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR SUMMARY

Meeting held Monday, Jan. 22, 2001 - attending: Jane Bullock, Shirley Irvin, Lois Maxwell, Mary Reed, Connie Whitaker, Jean Wickum and Jill Lee, AH Program Director. Discussion: How did the 2000 Bazaar go. **Total: \$3595.41** includes items sold at St. Peter's Episcopal Church following the bazaar, cash donations, and special orders for additional stained glass items made by Milt Wyman.

Received a "Thank You" from Rosalyn Smith, executive director. Pictures taken by Jan Wasson were passed around and names of people in pictures written on the back for future use. Jane Bullock took the negatives to make some prints for a display at Grace M.E. Church.

Crafts went well - Lois Maxwell has left-overs and will check for what went well plus ideas for crafts for next year. Overlooked was a group of fabric crosses. The workshops sponsored by Lois usually had 4-6 people attending. She hopes to start up a group later this spring. Connie will work on getting a group interested in sewing items to sell. Bake Sale - sold most of the items. Interest in the small cake which Jean W. had made by dividing a sheet cake. Requests received for the bean soup jar w/recipe. Is this something we should do - would need seed money for the supplies. **Buckeyes** may not be available from Stratford St. Paul any longer - we sold 25 dozen of them on Friday. Will need to find people who could work in AH kitchen with Fran Cook and Shirley Irvin to make buckeyes - then would need packaging also.

Cashier's tally sheet shows 67.5% of business done on Friday. Had increase in all categories over 1999. Stained glass items were priced higher and sold out on the lawn "bugs" - Lady Bug, dragonfly & butterfly; crafts more variety; bunches of holly always sell out; plus had four raffle items instead of two with stained glass nativity the favorite. **Raffle:** Stained glass sold 183 tickets -winner Ed. Hunter; wooden toy train sold 111 tickets -winner Ruth McQuigg; Crochet afghan sold 58 tickets winner- Shirley May; AH sidewalk brick sold 32 tickets -winner Laurie Williams.

Help problem - should have had 1-2 extras on Saturday morning to help in Tea Room - also a couple of back-ups for no-shows. Sharing floor supervisor duties seemed to go well. All representatives had difficulty finding people to work. Some reasons - too many other things happening that weekend; older workers did not want to come out afternoon or after dark. Needed people with knowledge of crafts to help with pricing on Thursday. **How can we get other Partner Churches involved?**

Tea Room succesful - people liked the shredded chicken sandwiches. Zion UCC paid for sandwich supplies \$30.00; Grace M.E. donated the tea mix and Jane B. provided the carrots/celery. Discussed trying to find another fragrant tea which did not use Tang (which is the expensive part of the recipe) - Shirley Irvin and Jane B. will look into this. The recipe needs to be printed and included in the tea package. Christmas cups with tea bags were non-sellers. Perhaps cocoa blends displayed in the cups would do better. Fabric bags of the tea did fine as well as the ones covered with netting. Shirley estimated 39 meals were sold, some people wanted just the sandwich as a carry-out.

Publicity was as good as we could expect in the Delaware Gazette. Have no way to gauge if other notices attracted anyone. Outdoor signs could be better - Lois suggested a sturdier frame perhaps wooden for placing in people's yards. A few placed on public property disappeared quickly. 8x10 size signs for community display and in the churches seemed to be ok.

Start plans for 2001 year - put on AH calendar

Thursday November 29th, 2001 hrs 10-12 and 1-3 for marking and set-up at Andrews House.

Friday November 30 hours 10-6:00 (one less hour than last year)

Saturday December 1 hours 10-2

FEBRUARY 2001

First Baptist Church

101 North Franklin Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015

Rev. Robert Hughes, Interim Pastor Office 363-7021; Parsonage 362-6033

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00 Sewing	2	3
4 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship 6:00 Sandie Heizer Festival of Praise at Trinity Baptist in Marion 7:00 Book Study	5 7:00 Boy Scouts	6	7 7:00 Choir	8 12:00 Young at Heart	9 6:00 Second Fridays Dinner at Andrews House	10 2:00 ABWM at Sara Moore Home
11 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship 7:00 Book Study	12 7:00 Boy Scouts	13 7:30 Marion Assoc. Trustees Meeting at Grand Prarie	14 Valentine's Day 7:00 Choir 	15	16 6:15 ABY Trip to Nationwide Arena	17 8:30 Men's Breakfast
18 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship 7:00 Book Study	19 President's Day 7:00 Boy Scouts 	20	21 7:00 Choir	22	23	24
25 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship 7:00 Book Study <i>Deadline to submit newsletter articles</i>	26 7:00 Boy Scouts	27 Shrove Tuesday  6:30 Annual Pancake Supper and Talent Show	28 Ash Wednesday 7:00 Ash Wed. Service 7:30 Choir 	1 March	2	3

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FROM THE DESK OF THE INTERIM PASTOR

Change, Change, Change

When winter has us in its cold, heavy grasp (as it did just a few days ago) we wonder, "Will this ever go away? Will it ever get warm?" And somehow we feel that it never will. But change does happen. The days pass, one by one; the weeks roll by; season follows season. In that passage of time we continue to seek the meaning of life, the will and purpose of God for us.

We are in the season of change. February ended with Ash Wednesday, the Day of Repentance. The beginning of Lent is a call to intense self-examination. We are called to reflect on the sins of life and the need to experience repentance. This is a necessary part of our Christian life. It is where we begin in faith with Christ and we need to continue to remember how we began by confessing our sinful unworthiness. And that is only the beginning of the story.

Lent has an ending as well as a beginning. Rejoice that the end of Lent is not the tragedy of crucifixion on Black Friday. The end is the glory of the empty tomb, the Day of Resurrection. And that is the rest of the story.

Hear then the Good News: "God is in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself," and this wonderful invitation from Jesus, "Come unto me, all

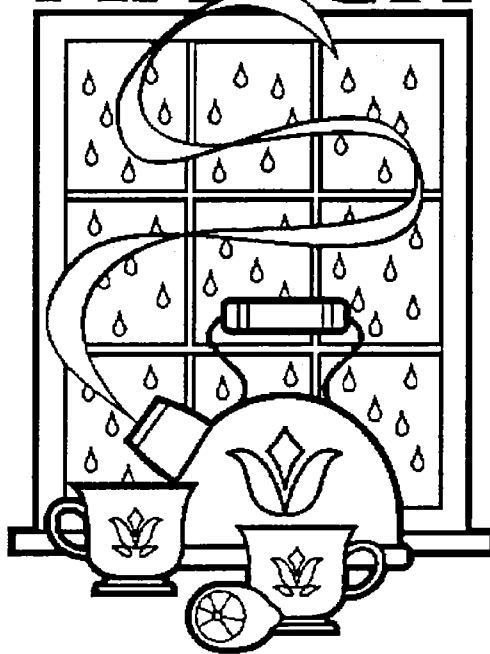
of you who are weary, and I will give you rest."

See you in church where together we can walk in the light of the living Christ and serve in God's family.

Shalom,

— Robert Hughes

MARCH



Search Committee Scheduling Pulpit Visits

We are in the process of setting up and attending neutral pulpit visits with two candidates. These visits are coordinated through Jane Gibbons, our area minister. We are also reviewing additional pastor profiles

provided by ABC Ohio.

Our work continues, and we appreciate your continued support, prayer and patience.

— Rick Van Brimmer, Co-Chair

Retreat Committee Needs Volunteers

We are currently seeking individuals who are interested in serving on the 2001 Church Retreat Committee. This year marks the 29th year of an all-church family retreat. This year's dates are August 17-19 at Judson Hills Camp.

Please see Evelyn Lee or Rick Van Brimmer if you would like to join the leadership team for this wonderful event,

— Rick Van Brimmer, Moderator

Handicapped Access Project Is Paid

Our Handicapped Access Project will be paid for by the end of February, 2001. The Handicapped Access and Finance Committees appreciate your encouragement and support of this endeavor—a very big Thank-You.

We hope you will continue to support other areas of need in the church with your current level of giving. In the next few weeks you will be made aware of details of these areas.

Again our thanks for making our church more accessible throughout the Handicapped Access Project.

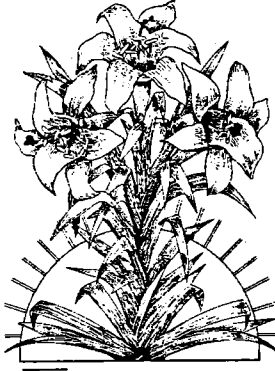
— The Finance Committee

Easter Lilies

If you would like to purchase one or more Easter lilies to decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please see Barb Van Brimmer or Jim Stephenson.

The cost will be \$6 each, and the deadline to place your order is April 8 (Palm Sunday).

Lilies can be given in honor or memory of someone, and you can take your lily(ies) home with you after our Easter service.



Trustees Notes

> The new water line in one-inch copper was run under the church by plumber Don Patrick. The cost was \$500. The repair made the day last month when the old line broke was \$177.83. The water pressure is much better now. The plumber will be working one more day to cut up and remove old lines and pipes.

> The carpet in the Sunday school assembly room was steam cleaned. The cost was \$80.

> The church is now signed up with a company called Interstate Gas Supply. Their rates are about 10% lower than Columbia's rates. The gas bill has been running over \$1,000 per month this winter. On last year's budget it was \$300 per month.

> A new clock has been hung in the fellowship hall to replace the old one which had quit running.

> The elevator quit running on Sunday, February 18, when it got stuck an inch above the top floor. The Gable Elevator Company came

on Wednesday, February 21 and got it working. The cost was covered by our insurance contract.

– Peter White
Chair, Trustees

ABWM Visits Nursing Home

On February 10, we met at the Sarah Moore Nursing Home to visit and sing with the residents. There were 15 in our group from the church, including 5 children and 10 adults. A very pleasant hour was enjoyed by all and we were urged to return.

– Evelyn Lee

ABWM March Program

On March 15, the ABWM will meet at the church at 7:00 pm. Donna Reed will present the program, "Do Clothes Really Make the Woman?"

Health Start Plus Offered in the Community

The Delaware City-County Health Department is announcing a new children's health insurance program entitled Health Start Plus. The program is available to children under the age of 19 in Delaware County and throughout Ohio. This plan covers doctor visits, dentist visits, eye care, prescriptions, hospital care, mental health and other services. For more information or to apply, call the Delaware City-County Health Department at 740-368-1700 or 740-548-7055. Flyers and a poster are located on the church bulletin board.

– Barb Van Brimmer

Thank You

Our sincere thanks to you for the invitation to be with you for worship on Sunday, January 21st and the afternoon ABW meeting. We enjoyed our time with all of you and thank you for your hospitality.

It was a surprise to be presented with so many Care & Share gifts for Judson Hills. That was totally unexpected. Thank you!! Many of those items have already been put to use. Summer camping season on the pond will be much safer with the new vests. Thank you for helping to meet the needs of the camp.

May the Lord richly bless each of you as you continue to minister to others.

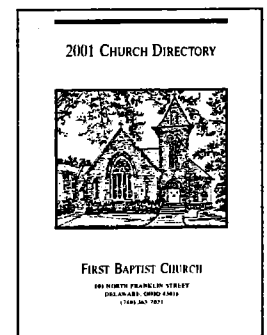
Cordially,

– Marie Peer
Judson Hills Camp &
Conference Center

New Church Directory Now Available

The 2001 edition of our church directory is now being distributed. If you find any errors, please report them to Deacon Jean Wickum

or to Jim Stephenson and a correction will be placed in the newsletter.



Recycled Christian Literature

Have you ever wondered as you periodically clean out your magazine rack or bookshelves, "What can I do with all this stuff?" Well, there is a place for some of that "stuff." The Book Depository at Montgomery

Community Baptist Church in Cincinnati is pleased to receive all sorts of Christian material. Magazines such as *Decision*, *Guideposts*, *Secret Place*, *The Upper Room*, Bibles, devotional books, biographies of Christian missionaries and other workers, are needed on the mission field. The workers at Montgomery sort, pack and ship thousands of items every year. If you have anything to contribute, bring it to the church office. Pastor Hughes will see that it gets to Cincinnati.

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Andrews House

Second Friday's to be Expanded?
 — At the January Partner Church meeting, they discussed having a second day of the month when they could provide a meal to the hungry (perhaps just a soup/salad or soup/sandwich). If you would like to express an opinion or volunteer, please call Rosalyn Smith at 369-4520.

Ohio Reads Program — They are now accepting students. Call Jill Lee at 369-4520 to volunteer or register a student.

Free Computer Classes — Call Jill Lee at 369-4520 for information.

'Let's Talk' Series — "MainStreet Delaware" will be the topic on March 13 at 7:30. A discussion will follow the presentation.

Volunteer Recognition Day — If you volunteered in any way at Andrews House during 2000 (at Second Fridays, the holiday Bazaar, general building maintenance, or whatever), come on Thursday, April 19, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm to be recognized. Refreshments will be served.

Special Fundraising Events — On March 10, Andrews House will host a "Spring Tone-Up" fitness workout fundraiser. On May 5, there will be a

"Spring Walk on Winter Street" in collaboration with the Arts Castle.

Spring Open House — The spring open house will be on Saturday, May 19. Call 369-4520 if you might be interested in volunteering.

Spring Cleaning — With spring just around the corner, volunteers are needed to help spruce up the building and grounds. Please call 369-4520.

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Delaware Piecemakers

Delaware Piecemakers Quilt Guild is sponsoring a "Quilt In" on Saturday, March 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will be making baby quilts to be given to hospitals for children with leukemia, AIDS and other life-threatening diseases. These quilts go home with the patients and are used as a type of security blanket on future trips to the hospital.

All fabric and batting is donated and all quilts are given away.

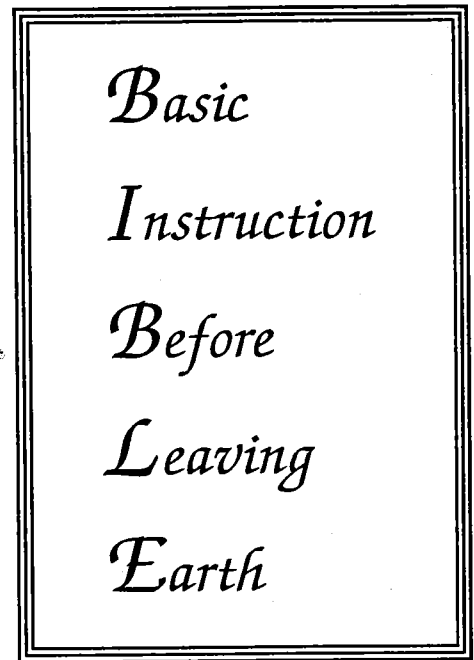
Please join us for all day or come for an hour; bring a sack lunch. Children are welcome if they are old enough to sit and tie. (Safety is a concern because of scissors and rotary cutters.) Dads can help too! Join us in the fellowship hall.

— *Jeanne Ekelberry*

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Interested in Visiting Israel?

Brad Campbell, a retired Methodist minister who now lives in Delaware and attends William Street Church, is going to Israel this fall and is inviting others to travel with him.

He is going on September 24 to October 11 to participate in the Christian celebration of the Feast of the Tabernacles with the International Zionist Center, and will also be spending some time visiting friends and ministries.



He will be in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Galilee. The cost will be around \$2,200 to \$2,500, depending on accommodations. Contact him for more information:

Brad Campbell
 1 Mason Court, Delaware
 362-8273
 marcampbell@yahoo.com

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Personals

- SYDNEY KAUF, a second-grader at Smith School, is volunteering time on Saturday at the Delaware County Humane Society. She is collecting items for pets, including food, old blankets, collars and leashes. Please call Sydney at 363-8415 if you have items to donate.
- BETTY PORTER visited with her daughter Jennifer in California for ten days.
- JEAN OSBORNE has returned from Florida after helping her aunt Alice get settled back into her home.

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

- Mar. 5 Ben Turner
12 Evan Trigg
Sydney Kauf
13 Amy Pfarr
15 David & Kim Keethler Ball
18 Dave Lovell
20 Natalie Mowery
Jeff Reed
24 Kathy Maher
27 George Riedmiller
April 2 Adam Mowery
3 Timothy & Deanna Fogle

*Please report any errors or omissions to
Jim Stephenson.*

Church Bulletin Bloopers

"There will be a potluck supper, followed by prayer and medication."

"Miss Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation."

"The Bible Study will be held at 10. All are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done."

"The low-esteem support group will meet Thursday at 7:00. Please use the back door."

"Eight new choir robes are needed, due to the addition of several new choir members and the deterioration of some older ones."

"The Rector is on vacation. Massages can be give to the church secretary."

"Everyone who enjoys sinning is invited to join the choir."

"The cost for attending the prayer and fasting conference includes meals."

"Remember in prayer those who are sick of our community and church."

Good News Letter

Published in the Cause of the Abundant Life by the First Baptist Church,
101 North Franklin Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015; (740) 363-7021

FROM THE DESK OF THE INTERIM PASTOR

Come to Providence!

American Baptists from every part of the nation, and guests from other countries, will be making our way to Providence, Rhode Island, late in June. The First Biennial meeting of the new millennium will be held there from the 22nd to the 25th. Pre- and post-convention events will stretch the time to almost a week.

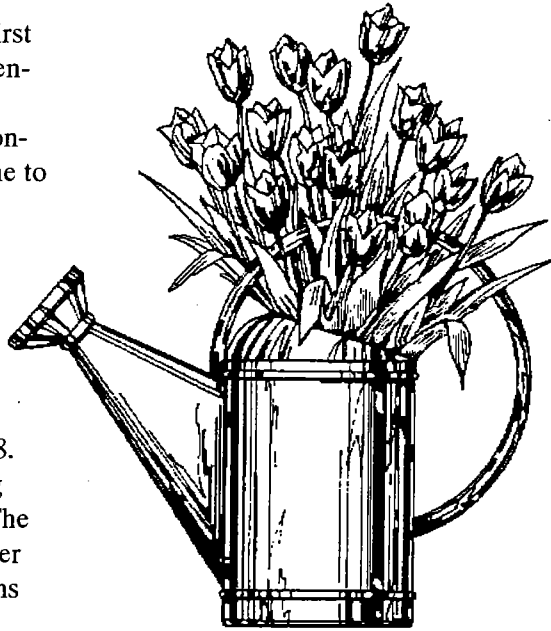
Providence is important for us because it is the place where Roger Williams found sanctuary after he had been exiled from Massachusetts by the Puritans. There he established the first Baptist church in America in 1638. Brown University, within walking distance of the church, began as The Rhode Island Baptist college. Other sites nearby are the Roger Williams Memorial Park, his burial place in Providence, and the John Clarke Memorial Church in Newport.

The theme of the Providence Biennial is "Providence", a gift of God's gracious care in Jesus Christ. Providence is not only a place, but is also a reminder of our Baptist roots. Our history of "Soul Freedom", separation of church and state, and the autonomy of the local church. The word is a reminder of God's presence and the affirmation of God's guidance throughout creation.

Among the outstanding speakers are Dr. Billy Kim, president of the Baptist World Alliance and pastor from Korea; Luis Palau, evangelist

from Brazil, and Dr. Robert Roberts, Interim General Secretary of American Baptist Churches, USA.

There will be something interesting for all ages. Music, drama, fellowship, worship, historical exhibits, information about mission and



APRIL

ministry and challenge for the future. NEW LIFE 2010 will be highlighted with the challenge to win 1,000,000 new converts and to establish 1,010 new churches by that year. Just being in a crowd of three or four thousand like-minded American Baptists is worth the trip. Think about it! More information is in the Winter 2001 edition of *American Baptists in Mission*. Read all about it!

- Robert Hughes

Easter Breakfast

The Board of Christian Ed. is going to sponsor the Easter Breakfast again this year. April 15 is Easter and the breakfast will be at 8:30 following the 8:00 Sunrise Service. It will be a potluck breakfast and the Board of C.E. members will provide the table service and drinks (juice, milk, coffee).

- Melissa Mercer

Holy Week Services

Please see the enclosed April calendar for a complete list of services during Holy Week.

Finance Committee News

The Easter Offering will be going towards the Judson Hills camp.

A new pledge designation form will be distributed in Early April for those church members that have pledged to the elevator fund for 2001. For those of you that do not know, the elevator is nearing the end of the payoff to ABC. We will be giving the members several options to choose to designate their pledge through suggestions given during Finance Committee and Parish Council meetings. Please turn around these forms as soon as possible to the Financial Secretary (Evelyn) so we can change the designations quickly. Please see Evelyn or myself for any questions or concerns.

Just a reminder that you can submit suggestions for the Jones estate to the Finance Committee (or any other chairman). These will be expressed at the soon-approaching quarterly business meeting.

Regards,

– Jarrod Trigg

Finance Committee Chairman

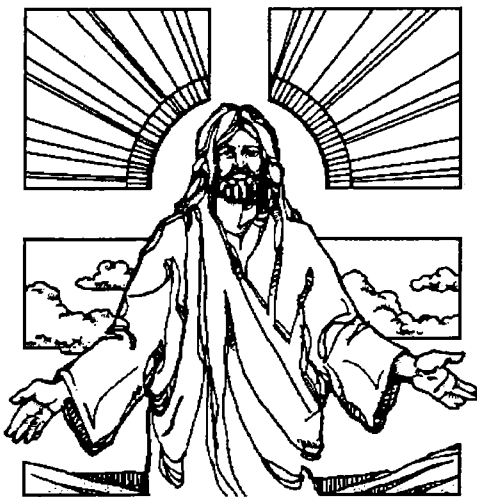
America for Christ Offering

Our America for Christ Offering raised \$424.18.

Handicapped Access

We are in need of a wheelchair for the lower level. If you know of one that is available, please contact any committee member — Peter White, James Van Brimmer, or Evelyn Lee. We are working on a few finishing projects before we celebrate the completion of this needed project.

– The Handicapped Access Committee



“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen.”
Luke 24:5

Church Retreat

Remember our 29th All-Church Family Retreat, August 17 to 19 at Judson Hills. Please put it on your calendar now and plan to attend. Suggestions are welcome and there is still room on the planning committee for help. See Rick Van Brimmer or Evelyn Lee.

ABY

Adam, Brad, Emilie, Jarrod, Katie, Laura & Nichelle would like to thank the church family for their prayers and financial support during the 2001 Senior High ABY convention. The girls loved the musical group “Proclamation” from Judson College (possibly due to the cute drummer) while the boys liked “Daniel’s Window” and “Blind Man Walking”, both Christian hard-rock bands. We split up on Saturday while attending Super Seminars on ways to improve our walk with Christ and build a stronger youth group. Saturday evening we dressed up as cowboys and cowgirls for the Wild, Wild West dinner. David Dean, a nationally known Christian comedian from Indiana, told our youth that Christians can have fun, laugh, be loud and colorful. We need to break the stereotype for “Christian”. We have a lot of things to be happy about in our daily lives. The weekend overall was a huge success.

ABY has moved in and we are here to stay! Come check out our new room between the copier room and bathrooms. We have hung up convention pictures and Landshark game photos. Slowly we are decorating the room to attract our youth. Each member has worked hard to add a special touch to the new room. Our next meeting will be on Palm Sunday (4/8) at 6:30 PM. We will be tie-



It occurred to me that we’d never printed a photo of our interim pastor, Rev. Hughes, in our newsletter, so I checked with him and he kindly provided this photo of himself and his wife, Kathleen.

– editor

dying and painting a banner for our new room.

We are planning two events for the future and we need your help. After the Easter holiday, we would like to hold a “Spring Cleaning Day” at the church some Saturday in May. All cleaners welcome.

We are also planning a spaghetti dinner for the church family. We will serve the meal following a Sunday worship service. Be on the watch for these two events this spring.

Continued thanks!

– Nichelle & Jarrod Trigg

Jack Smith

Jack Alden Smith, 74, died on Thursday, March 22, at the Salem Community Hospital in Salem, Ohio.

Jack was born on Oct. 7, 1926, and graduated from Ohio State University in 1948. He was a member of First Baptist for many years, and was Director of Parks and Recreation in Delaware for ten years until he retired in 1998.

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn. Services were held at Stark Memorial in Salem on Monday, March 26, with the Rev. Claye Folger officiating. Interment was at Grandview Cemetery in Salem. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

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Edith Hall

Edith May Hall, 98, died on Sunday, March 4, at Delaware Court Health-Care Center.

She was born January 6, 1903 in Camp Creek, West Virginia, to Roxie Croy Holland and Thomas Holland. She was a former member of Rebekah Lodge and was a member of First Baptist. Mrs. Hall was a homemaker and a Delaware resident since 1957.

She is survived by a daughter, M. June Grubbs of Delaware; a son, Glennis L. Hall of Mendota, Ill; 10 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; 15 great-great-grandchildren; two sisters, Ruby Goss of West Virginia and Eva Lily of North Carolina.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Walter Hall; two sons, Basil and George Hall; five brothers, Thomas Holland and Sherman, Phillip, James and Warren Croy; two sisters, Ruth Cooper and Mary Paderlic; and one great-grandchild, Teresa Griffith.

On March 6, visiting hours were held at First Baptist, followed by funeral services, with the Revs. Robert Iddings and Robert Hughes officiating. Burial was at Oak Grove Cemetery. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family.

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Trustees' Notes

• Plumber Don Patrick worked another day on the water lines, cleaning out valves and making adjust-

ments. The cost was \$123.93.

• The rear stairwell was cleaned out and straightened up. A whole pickup load of trash, along with the old ping-pong table and an old stereo at the parsonage, was hauled to the transfer station. A thank you to Tim Fogle for helping me with this project.

• The fire inspector conducted a walkthrough inspection. We passed except for a burned-out exit light, which was replaced. I'm glad the stairwell was cleaned out first!

— Peter White
Chairman, Trustees

.....
Andrews House

• There has been some interest expressed in a second community soup/salad or soup/sandwich meal. If you'd be interested in helping, contact Rosalyn Smith at 369-4520.

• Tutors are needed for the Ohio Reads Program. Call Jill Lee at 369-4520.

• Free computer classes are available. Call Jill Lee at 369-4520.

• Let's Talk Series — The May 8 program will be on "Mail Street Delaware" and will begin at 7:30. Anna Steck, Main Street Director, will lead a panel discussion followed by an opportunity for questions.

• Special Fundraiser — On May 5 Andrews House is planning a joint fund-raising event at the Arts Castle called "Spring Walk on Winter Street." The event will begin at 6:00 at the Castle with hors d'oeuvres and wine, followed by a tour of several homes on Winter Street, concluding with dessert and coffee at Andrews House. The cost is \$25 each.

• Spring Open House — Volunteers are needed to spruce up Andrews

All I really need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark

- Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
- For safety, always travel in pairs.
- Stay fit. Someone might ask you to do something really big when you're 600 years old.
- Remember that the Ark was built by amateurs, but the Titanic was built by professionals.
- Build your future on high ground.
- Remember that the woodpeckers inside are a greater threat than the storm outside.
- When God is with you, there's a rainbow waiting after the storm.

House prior to the spring open house on May 19.

• Volunteer Recognition Day — Andrews House will have an open house on Thursday, April 19 from 4:00 to 8:00. Anyone who has contributed their time to Andrews House as a volunteer in any capacity is invited to attend. Enjoy light refreshment, get to know your fellow volunteers, and expect a few surprises.

Host an Exchange Student

Plant a seed of friendship and watch it grow as you open your home to an international exchange student. Youth Exchange Service (YES), founded in 1974, is a non-profit exchange program. The host family provides room and board (\$50 per month tax deduction available) while the student is responsible for other expenses like clothing and spending money. YES provides health insurance and arranges for high school acceptance for 15-18 year old cultural exchange students from Asia, Europe, or Latin America.

Host families will be needed for the school year, which begins in August. For more information, call YES at 1-800-848-2121.

Community Service Opportunity

On Saturday, May 5, members of the community are invited to participate in the third Leadership Delaware Community Service Day. Volunteers

will spend the morning helping individuals, schools, and civic organizations with projects around their homes and properties. If you are in need or assistance, or if you would like to volunteer, call the Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce at 369-6221 by April 20. Contributions of supplies and services are also appreciated.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- Mar. 5 Ben Turner
 12 Evan Trigg
 Sydney Kauf
 13 Amy Pfarr
 15 David & Kim Keethler Ball
 18 Dave Lovell
 20 Natalie Mowery
 Jeff Reed
 24 Kathy Maher
 27 George Riedmiller
 April 2 Adam Mowery
 3 Timothy & Deanna Fogle

Please report any errors or omissions to Jim Stephenson.

Personals

- **STEVE STONER** is recuperating at home from back surgery on March 28. Everything went well. The Stoners appreciate your prayers.
- **MICHAEL GRUBBS** had lithrotrypsy for kidney stones.
- **MELISSA NEILL** is recuperating from surgery for a shoulder injury.
- On Friday March 2 **MICAH JEREMY STONER** received the degree Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems, summa cum laude, from DeVry Institute of Technology in Columbus. Micah is a Software Developer for NSB Inc. located in the Green Meadows Industrial Park. Proud parents Steve and Karen Stoner attended the ceremonies, as did Micah's wife Shannon, her mother Darlene Lovejoy, and grandparents Jim and

Bertha VanBrimmer and John and Doneta Stoner.

- **SHIRLEY PARKER's** daughter, Alison, travelled from Atlanta to visit her.
- **LINDA WHITE** visited her mother in Vienna, West Virginia.
- **PAM AND ERIN FAULK** spent a week in Destin, Florida, along with Pam's sister Pat Rose. They visited their mother Pat Cole while there.

Church Directory Update

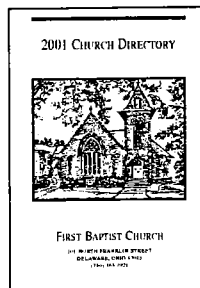
Please take a moment to update your directory.

Kauf family:

In the Kauf family listing, "Sydney" was misspelled.

Stoner family:

Steve and Karen Stoner's e-mail address should be: jskf@worldnet.att.net



APRIL 2001

First Baptist Church

101 North Franklin Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015

Rev. Robert Hughes, Interim Pastor Office 363-7021; Parsonage 362-6033

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship	2 7:00 Deacons; Boy Scouts; Piecemakers	3	4 10:00 Sewing 7:00 Choir	5 12:00 Young at Heart	6	7
8 Palm Sunday 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship with Baptism 6:30 ABY <i>Last day to order Easter lilies</i>	9 7:00 Boy Scouts	10 7:00 Board of Christian Education	11 7:00 Choir	12 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	13 Good Friday 11:00 Walk of the Cross at St. Mary 12:00 Community Good Friday Service at St. Mary 6:00 2nd Friday Dinner at Andrews House	14
15 Easter Sunday 8:00 Sunrise Service 8:30 Breakfast 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship	16 7:00 Boy Scouts	17	18 7:00 Choir	19 7:00 ABWM	20	21 8:30 Men's Breakfast ABM Service Day at Judson Hills
22 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship	23 7:00 Boy Scouts	24	25 7:00 Choir	26	27	28 ABC Ohio Leadership Training Conference at Karl Road Baptist
29 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship	30 7:00 Boy Scouts	May 1	2 6:30 Covered- Dish Dinner followed by Quarterly Business Meeting	3	4	5

Good News Letter

Published in the Cause of the Abundant Life by the First Baptist Church,
101 North Franklin Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015; (740) 363-7021

FROM THE DESK OF THE INTERIM PASTOR

What Is My Responsibility?

Question: "Who is responsible for the successful growth of the church?"

Answer: "Why, the Lord is! After all, the church belongs to God, doesn't it?"

And having reasoned this out, many church members are content to lean back in the recliner and watch the world go by on the big screen tv.

What's wrong with this picture? The basic theology is correct; the church is the Lord's and only by divine power can the church grow and be successful. But the application is wrong. The demonstration of God's power is not by some mysterious process beyond our human experience.

The power of God the Holy Spirit is evident ONLY as it can be channeled through the ordinary, daily lives of each individual believer. THEREFORE, responsibility for the growth of the church rests upon *each one of us*. Every Christian is a witness. That means every Christian is working. Some are working *for* growth; others are working *against* growth by neglecting the gifts God has given to each one.

On his retirement, a highly respected businessman left this formula for success:

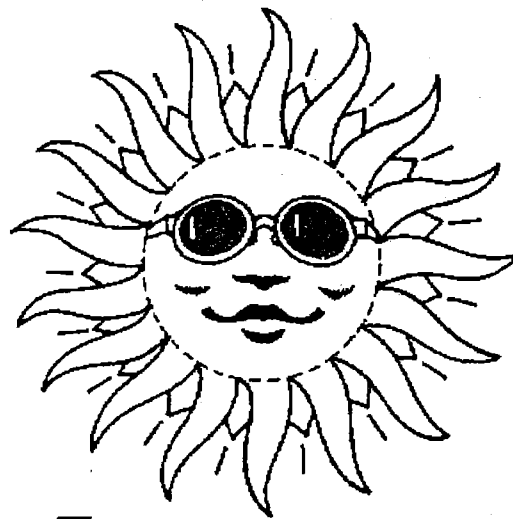
- Belong to something bigger than yourself

- Work with others toward a common goal
- Take pride in doing your job well
- Work hard to make dreams become reality
- Build something of lasting value

- Am I working hard and praying hard to make the goals of God's purpose become reality in human life?
- Am I building on eternal values by the Power of God's Spirit?

Who is responsible? We all are.

Peace,



June

Let's baptize these ideas and relate them to the Way of Jesus.

- Do I want my church to be big enough for all believers—even some who are different from me?
- Do I work well with others, or do I insist on "doing it my way"?
- Have I found the best way to be proud: by finding my spiritual gifts and using them to the best of my ability?

Mark Your Calendars...

Joint Services with Zion UCC

On Sunday, July 30, First Baptist will join Zion UCC for a joint service at Zion. Normally the First Baptist pastor would provide the sermon, but Rev. Hughes will be on leave in July so the guest minister will be Rev. Owen Stewart. On August 5, both churches will meet at First Baptist for worship and communion, with the sermon by Zion's pastor, Rev. Bertie Dell.

Church Retreat at Judson Hills

Our annual church family retreat at Judson Hills will be on Friday evening, August 17 through Sunday, August 19.

Least Coin Offering

Our Least Coin Offering for this year at Church Women United was \$19.05. This goes to help others in need. Remember to drop your coins

Newsletter Summer Schedule

The next issue of the newsletter will be a combined **July/August** issue (distributed the first Sunday in July). If you need to publicize any August events, be sure to have your articles ready in time!

The **September** issue will be released in late August (date to be announced) so we can give advanced notice of September events.

in that jar in the vestibule and see how our combined Least Coins mount up to help others.

—Evelyn Lee

Second Fridays at Andrews House

First Baptist is helping out with the Second Friday Dinners on June 8, July 13, and August 10. During June and July we need to have six people who will serve as greeters and mixers. In August we need to furnish 12 angel food cakes. Please notify me as to how you can be a part of this community service. Thank you.

—Evelyn Lee

Blanket Sunday

On Mother's Day, May 13, we remembered *special women* in our lives with contributions to support the Church World Service project of Blankets for the Needy of the World. Our total contributions to this project is \$280.

The following lists those remembered. Special thanks to Melissa Mercer for the forms.

MEMORY

Lynn and Sue Elfner—Mary Barnes Elfner
Steve and Tammy Ferguson—Mrs. Nova Carter
Mary Lou and Dave Lovell—Jenny Lovell, Margaret Morby and Ida Morby
Phil and Melissa Mercer—Aunt Doris Brossia and Aunt Sunny Frisbey
Jason and Amber Murfield—Marge and Ed Congrove, Charles Scaggs, George and Katherine Murfield, Marjorie Green
Betty J. Porter—Her mother, Martha Jane Guy
Barbara Reed and Sharon Baker—Katherine Clapper
Sophia Stephenson—Her mother
Archie and Beth Trigg—Anne Linn and Mary Catherine Trigg
Bertha Van Brimmer—Her mother
Jim Van Brimmer—His mother
Amy and Scott Yant—Mary Large and Rae Harris

HONOR

Fran Cook—Christine Cook
Mrs. Willa Corder—Mrs. Halcie Markins, her friend
Dominique De Biasio—Renee De Biasio
Lynn and Sue Elfner—Angy Elfner-Zalenski
Pam and Larry Faulk—Evoleno Cole, Florence Faulk, Jean Wickum, Laurie Faulk, Erin Faulk, Pat Rose
Steve and Tammy Ferguson—Mrs.

Margaret Ferguson
Robert Hughes—His wife, Kathleen, and six daughters, all of whom are mothers—Stephanie House, Debra Anderson, Gwenyth Peterman, Heidi Carr, Laurie Yeckle, Gretchen Beyer
Evelyn Lee—Marcie, Linda, and Barbara Lee, her daughters-in-law
Barbara Lovell—Mary Lou Lovell
Mary Lou and Dave Lovell—Rose Verespj
Jean Wickum—Alice Osborne
Shirley Parker—Daughter Allison Fichter, and friends Jean Osborne and Evelyn Lee
Betty J. Porter—Granddaughter Anna Kailyn Porter
Jami, Katie, and Regan Riedmiller—Cris Riedmiller
Sydney and Spencer Kauf—Holly Kauf
Jim Stephenson—Sophia Stephenson
Randy and Jennifer Turner—Tonabell Turner and Jane Moore
Rick Van Brimmer—Barb Van Brimmer
Barbara and Richard Van Brimmer—Inez Steinbrecher and Bertha Van Brimmer
Jean Wickum—Pam Faulk, Marty Chapman

Rev. Hughes on Leave July and August

Rev. Hughes will be on leave in July and August. Our temporary substitute will be Rev. Owen Stewart.

GLBT Christians and Friends

A support group is forming this spring for GLBT Christians, their families, and friends interested in equal treatment within the Church. This independent group is an outgrowth from the winter adult book study of Maurine Waun's *More Than Welcome* which inspired the need for such an assembly. Gay, lesbian,

bisexual and transgendered Christians face horrible discrimination, persecution and hatred. GLBT Christians and Friends welcomes and accepts God's children for who they are, without prejudice, in a spirit of Christian love as taught by Jesus Christ. The group's focus will be education and advocacy.

GLBT Christians and Friends is being started by Scott Yant who invites all people of like moral conscience to the group's next meeting on Monday, June 11, at First Baptist. The group assembles twice monthly at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays.

.....
Birthdays & Anniversaries

- June 8 Pam Faulk
- Carol Fogle
- Vincent Ball
- 10 David & Mary Lou Lovell
- 11 Randy & Jennifer Turner
- 22 June Grubbs
- 24 Beth Trigg
- 27 Joe & Alison Mowery
- 28 Jami Riedmiller
- 29 Scott and Amy Yant
- 30 Jimmie and Jane Moore

.....
10 Minutes That Could Save Your Life!

The Delaware Senior Center (420 Park Ave.) will host a health screening on Tuesday, June 19. They will offer to scan the carotid arteries in the neck for plaque buildup (which can lead to stroke), the arteries in the legs for peripheral arterial disease, will offer a test for aneurysms in the aortic vessel of the abdomen, and a bone density screening for women to test for osteoporosis.

These tests are painless and non-invasive. They take about 10 minutes and cost \$40 each. Results will be mailed to you and you will be referred back to your own doctor if any follow-up is needed. Pre-register by calling 1-800-407-4557.

Myke J. C. Maher
and
Adam Michael Mowery

The Senior Class
of
Rutherford B. Hayes High School
announces its
Commencement Exercises
Saturday morning, June second
Two Thousand One
eleven o'clock
Branch Rickey Arena
Ohio Wesleyan University

OPEN HOUSE
for the graduate
Myke Maher
on Sunday, June 3
4:30 - 9:30
483 Federal Circle

OPEN HOUSE
for the graduate
Adam Mowery
on Saturday, June 9
2:00 - 5:00
454 W. William St.

Personals

• The **VAN BRIMMER FAMILY** has celebrated an unusual number of school graduations this spring.

Our youngest grandson, **RYAN LEONARD**, graduated from high school at Port Royal, Pennsylvania and was a member of the National Honor Society.

Two other grandsons graduated from college—Ryan's brother **CASEY**, from the honors program at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania with a BS in Computer Science, and **MICAH Stoner** from DeVry Institute of Technology with a BS in Computer Information Systems—both summa cum laude.

Our daughter, **KAREN STONER**, Micah's mother, graduated from Methodist Theological Seminary in Ohio with a Master of Divinity degree.

Bear with us if we exhibit a little pride in these achievements.

—*Jim and Bertha Van Brimmer*

• **STEVE AND KAREN STONER** will travel to the Biennial ABC Convention in Providence, Rhode Island and will vacation in Plymouth, Massachusetts. **BOB HEIZER** will share the trip with them.

• **LINDA WHITE**, along with her mother and sisters, travelled to Charleston, South Carolina and visited the Biltmore estate.

• **CAROL GRUBBS** and **BETH TRIGG** travelled to England, Scotland, and Wales.

• **RICK AND BARB VAN BRIMMER** spent two weeks in Italy.

• **JEAN OSBORNE** visited her son, Gary, and his family in Alaska, and attended her grandson's high school graduation.

THE "BE" LIST

from the book "Breakfast With God"

Nearly all of us start our day with a "to-do" list. The Scriptures compel us, however, to have a "to-be" list.

From a "to-do" list perspective, we tend to come before the Lord and say, "This is my list and this is my schedule. Please be with me, help me, and bless me."

From a "to be" perspective, our requests of the Lord may be more like this:

- Help me to reflect Your love today.
- Help me to display Your joy.
- Help me to manifest Your peace.
- Help me to practice Your patience.
- Help me to express Your kindness.

- Help me to make known Your goodness.
- Help me to reveal Your faithfulness.
- Help me to show Your gentleness.
- Help me to exhibit Your self-control.

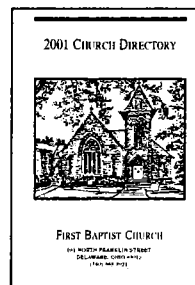
When we make our "to be" list our top priority, the things we truly have "to do" become much more obvious, and far less burdensome.

When the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

--Galatians 5:22-23

Church Directory Update

Please take a moment to update your directory.



Vic and Debbie Fogle are moving from Okinawa to North Carolina. Here are their new e-mail addresses (we'll have their new mailing address in the next newsletter):

Debbie's: e-mail:
deborahfogle@hotmail.com

Vic's e-mail:
okimarine11@excite.com

NORTH AREA NEWS

American Baptist Churches of Ohio

June 2001

A Celebration of God's Spirit

I love to listen to children's interpretations of the things they hear, particularly Bible stories. Sometimes as we listen we realize that what we mean and what they hear are very different. For instance, did you know that the angels that gave the good news of Jesus' birth to the shepherds were named Herold? And why were the people in Bethlehem telling lies on the night Jesus was born? (*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie...*) Children have asked me about both of those things. And it isn't just the Christmas story that is confusing... Last year, as I told the story of Pentecost, the amazing story of the coming of the Holy Spirit to give the early Christians the ability to speak and be understood in many languages, some of my children looked on with amazement. I thought they were excited and fascinated by the power and creativity and goodness of God who made ordinary people able to be witnesses of the Good News of Jesus Christ to the whole world. But when I finished the story one child, a first grader, spoke up almost immediately and asked... "When the fire came down on the people's heads, did their hair catch on fire?" I realized that was the reason for all of the wide-eyed looks. Several of the children had that same idea. I assured them that God didn't injure anyone. Some of the children looked relieved and others responded as if I had taken all of the excitement out of the story.

Well, I'm not sure that most of us understand a whole lot more than the children did about what happened on the day of Pentecost. But we do know that it was an amazing and exciting event that allowed timid people to be bold, and people with limited language skills to be heard and understood, and caused onlookers to be confused because they knew them well enough to be sure that they couldn't do what they did in their own power! And while their hair didn't catch on fire, Christianity did. And the lives of believers were never the same.

Sunday, June 3 is Pentecost Sunday. (This year, Northwestern Association will hold its third annual Pentecost Celebration at Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in Lima at 4:00 p.m.) It is the day when we remember the last promise of Jesus Christ... *You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. And you shall be my witnesses...* As we celebrate that Christian holiday, let us do so as wide-eyed children, amazed at what God has done and can do in our lives when we allow ourselves to be weak and to live by his incredible power, and when we open our hearts and mouths to carry the Good News to the world!

Sonshine and Smiles!

Jane Gibbons, North Area Minister, 899 Dickson Parkway, Mansfield, Ohio 44907
(419) 774-9886; jgibbonsohio@aol.com

Congratulations to...

- *Steven and Sheila Roper* on the birth of their son Caleb Paul on April 24. Steve serves on the pastoral staff of **Trinity Baptist Church** in Marion (*Marion Association*).
- *Carol Kautz* on her graduation in May from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio at Delaware. Carol is a member of **Park Avenue Baptist Church** in Mansfield (*North Central Association*).
- *Rev. Donald F. Smith*, who celebrated his 25th anniversary in ministry on May 20. Don is the pastor of **Waynesfield Baptist Church** (*Northwestern Association*) who surprised him with a party on that day.
- *Dr. Ken Whitt*, who will be honored at a celebration of the 25th anniversary of his ordination on July 1, hosted by his children and **First Baptist Church of Bucyrus** (*North Central Association*).

Please pray for...

- Ten members of **First Baptist Church of Fredericktown** (Mohican Association), ranging in age from 12 to 80, who will be commissioned on Sunday, June 17 for their mission trip to Mexico.
- Ten youth and seven adults from **First Baptist Church of Greater Toledo** (*Toledo Area American Baptist Association*), who will spend June 23 to July 1 on a mission trip with American Baptist Indian Ministries in Keams Canyon, Arizona. *Rev. Robert Hendrix* will lead the group.
- Churches throughout the North Area of ABC/Ohio who are preparing to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with children through vacation Bible school.
- Pastoral search committees at **First Baptist Church of Bellevue** (*North Central Association*), **First Baptist Church of Delaware** (*Marion Association*), **First Baptist Church of Lorain** (*North Central Association*), **First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon** (*Mohican Association*), and **Grand Prairie Baptist Church** (*Marion Association*).

Other notes of interest...

Mary Hammond, co-pastor of **Peace Community Church** in Oberlin (*North Central Association*), is the author of *The Church and the Dechurched: Mending a Damaged Faith*, released June 11 by Chalice Press. The book explores the world of people who have left the church and/or their faith due to significant wounding in the church. It seeks to offer ways for the church to minister among the dechurched and help people reconstruct a damaged faith. The book is available through the Chalice Press website, Amazon.com, or can be order through local bookstores.

Dr. Dave Gallagher, a former pastor in the north area who is now in ministry in Arizona, will be leading a special Baptist cruise around Turkey and Greece to study Paul's missionary journeys. The eleven-day trip begins February 27, 2002. Persons interested in the trip may contact Dr. Gallagher for a brochure at (623) 546-2980.

ABC/OHIO REGIONAL NEWS June 2001

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Occasionally I am asked the question, "Should our church restructure our church?" There are several factors to consider when responding to that question.

I believe that the best time to restructure is when you already have embraced a new vision as a congregation and need to design a new structure in which to carry it out. The best restructuring efforts are driven by a vision and a strategy. Restructuring involves a host of decisions. What types of decision-making groups should we have? What types of ministry groups should we have? Who should be involved in decision-making? Who should be called upon for input? How should we do common planning? A good vision will inform all of these decisions.

Sometimes congregations form a restructuring task force prior to developing a vision or in some cases as an alternative to developing a vision. Such an action usually leads to conflict as several possible visions vie for attention from the group. A restructuring task force is not an alternative to an envisioning task force and should never precede one.

It is interesting to note that rapidly growing congregations seldom put together a restructuring task force? Why? Because change is so commonplace among today's rapidly growing congregations and there simply is not a need to form a special committee to look at change. Changes are made regularly and easily as the work of implementing the vision bumps up against the various congregational structures and systems. Forming new task groups, re-routing volunteers and personnel, even adopting new expenditures are all simple decisions when seen as a necessary part of a larger vision.

Often a restructuring task force ties up key leaders and dollars from the congregation that could possibly be used in more high impact ministry-related areas. Because of that, it is best to keep develop a restructuring plan as soon as possible in order for the people to return to their ministries as soon as possible.

Should our church restructure? The simple answer is, "Only if your current structures and systems are limiting your God-supplied vision."

Sincerely, Dr. C. Jeff Woods

Mission Support Memo



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Recycling God's fullness...

There was a time when you really needed help. Maybe you needed a good listener. Some work, information, medicine, supplies, a new address - or new hope. In short, a reminder of the fullness of God.

That's exactly what One Great Hour of Sharing dispenses - every hour of the day every day of the week, every week of the year.

Sponsored by nine Christian denominations in the United States (including American Baptists), One Great Hour of Sharing reaches out to people whose reminders may be in short supply: The family left homeless after a flood or a war. The teenager too long undernourished or under-noticed. The parents who, without essential tools, are struggling to provide for themselves and their children.

Undesignated gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing allow the church to respond quickly to crisis situations, often before other relief organizations have time to mobilize. Through our partnerships with Church World Service, Baptist world Aid, American Baptist National and International Ministries and regional church work groups, our efforts multiply.

As a receiver of God's fullness, you have much to give. As a giver of God's fullness, you have much to receive. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, God's fullness is recyclable.

In 2000 American Baptist gave the following to OGHS	
Undesignated	\$1,840,193
Mozambique & Nicaragua relief	92,871
Other designations	396,516
Drawn from Reserves	3,883
TOTAL	\$2,333,463

The Money was used this way	
45.4% Emergency relief	\$1,059,378
27.8% Economic Development/self help	649,726
10.8% Refugee Assistance	251,007
4.0% Education	92,775
3.2% Public Health & Medical work	74,225
1.6% Agriculture	36,824
7.2% Administration & Promotion	169,528
TOTAL	\$2,333,463

Rev. Daniel L. Taylor, Minister of Mission Support
740/587-0804; MMS4OHIO@AOL.COM

American Baptist Mission Support

2001 Mission Budget

Ministries \$36,362,000

Regional Support \$17,505,000
Camps and conferences, New church development, Education, Evangelism, Conflict negotiations

Global Support \$9,751,000
Evangelism and education, Health care and agriculture, Emergency relief and development

Congregational Support \$4,244,000
Leadership and discipleship training, Church planting, Pastor orientation, Curriculum and evangelism resources, Christian centers, Justice advocacy, Refugee resettlement
(Ministries listed in other categories also focus on the congregation)

Personal Support \$1,750,000
Emergency support for pastors and missionaries, "Thank you" checks for retired ministers and missionaries

General Support \$3,112,000
General Secretary, Communications, Biennial, Cooperative Christianity, Regional relations, Finance and administration, Legal services, Human resources, Congregational statistics

Institutions \$3,918,000

Colleges and seminaries, Campus Ministry, Hospitals and homes, Green Lake Conference Center, Career centers

Stewardship Development \$898,000

Resources and training, Mission interpretation, Fundraising

Representative Leadership \$686,000

Local church representation to General Board, General Executive Council support

TOTAL 2001 MISSION BUDGET \$41,864,000

2001 Anticipated Income

UNITED MISSION \$21,775,000

Supports all aspects of ABC mission, evangelism, justice, local church, families, healing, children and youth, leader development, stewardship

ANNUAL OFFERINGS \$10,600,000

AMERICA FOR CHRIST \$2,343,500

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING \$2,694,500

WORLD MISSION OFFERING \$3,826,000

RETIRED MINISTERS & MISSIONARIES OFFERING \$1,736,000

SPECIFICS \$6,282,000

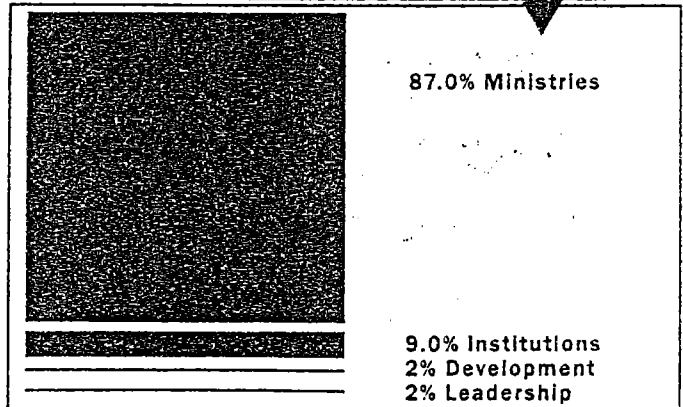
Contributions for projects not budgeted by denominational organizations

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT \$3,207,000

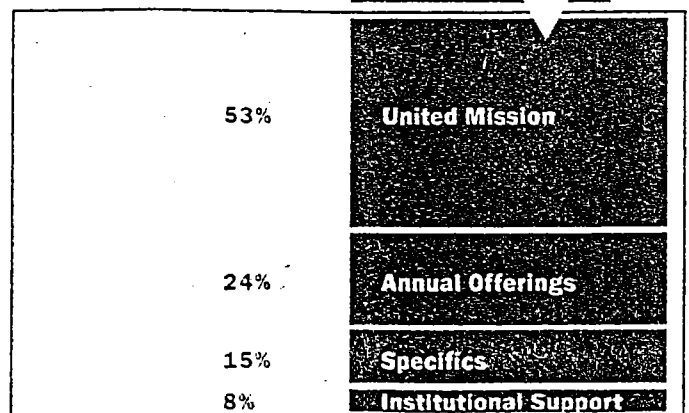
American Baptist schools, hospitals, children's homes, and other institutions

TOTAL 2001 ANTICIPATED INCOME \$41,864,000

EXPENDITURES

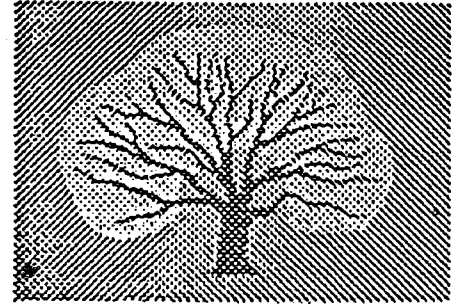


INCOME



*Together, we respond
to Jesus' call in
Acts 1:8*

WHAT IS AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION SUPPORT?



The grand total of all money given in the mission giving categories for the ministry that God has given to American Baptists is called American Baptist Mission Support.

American Baptist mission giving categories provide opportunities for local churches

- to invest in the mission of Christ, and**
 - to carry out the purpose of the covenant relationship of American Baptist churches.**
-

ANDREWS HOUSE
PARTNER CHURCH NOTES



ANDREWS HOUSE

People Strengthening People



39 W. Winter Street
Delaware, Ohio 43015
(740) 369-4520

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Rosalyn Smith
Executive Director

Jill A. Lee
Program Administrator

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Sally Hinshaw
Robert A. Holm
Jack Keefer
Vicki Lewis
Ann Nicely
Katherine Tatterson
Philip Trew
Thomas Van Brunt

Second Fridays - Find out how you can help with the partner church community meal. Contact your church representative. The next dates are: June 8 July 13 August 10

An Additional Community Meal—Something to Think About - If you have any interest in helping to plan an additional monthly meal, call Rosalyn Smith at 369-4520.

Ohio Reads Program - We will be continuing the Ohio Reads Programs this summer and need tutors for our computer-based program. We still have students on a waiting to be paired with a tutor. Give Jill Lee a call at 369-4520 if you can help by becoming a mentor for a child and help him/her increase basic reading skills. After you become trained, a time commitment of 40 minutes twice a week is suggested.

Computer Learning Center - Take advantage of our FREE computer classes. Contact Jill Lee at 369-4520 to register. We have open access hours Monday through Friday. We are also looking at various programs for computer groups. Let us know if you have a special interest you would like to share or explore—making greeting cards, games, genealogy searches, etc.

The Let's Talk Series - May 17 is the date for "What is Main Street Delaware?" Come and find out more about this organization and what it means for Delaware. The evening will begin at 7:30 p.m. with a panel presentation followed by questions and answers.


Spring Open House - Saturday, May 19, is the date for our annual spring open house. We are looking forward to welcoming guests into Andrews House from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We would like your help in providing us with volunteers to greet our guests and provide tours during the day. Call the office if you can help. If you haven't been to Andrews House in a while, make plans to come and be a part of this fun day.

May 2001

JUNE 2001

First Baptist Church

101 North Franklin Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
					1	2	
Pentecost 3 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship	4 7:00 Boy Scouts; Piecemakers	5 7:00 Board of Christian Education; Deacons	6 10:00 Sewing Delaware County Ministers	7 12:00 Young at Heart	8 6:00 Second Fridays Dinner; 5:30 Wedding Rehearsal	9 3:30 Wedding	
10 10:00 Morning Worship	11 7:00 Boy Scouts	12 7:00 Board of Christian Education	13 ABWM Annual Conference at Denison University			14 15 16	16 8:30 Men's Breakfast
Father's Day 17 10:00 Morning Worship with Tools of Hope 	18 7:00 Boy Scouts	19	20	21 7:00 Parish Council	22 Wedding Rehearsal	23 Wedding	
24 10:00 Morning Worship with Guest Speaker Ben Peer Last day to submit articles for the combined July/August newsletter. AB Biennial in Providence, R.I.	25 7:00 Boy Scouts	26	27 7:00 Choir	28	29 30 AB Biennial in Providence, R.I.		

NOTE: Rev. Hughes will be on leave in July and August. Rev. Owen Stewart will substitute in his absence.

Good News Letter

Published in the Cause of the Abundant Life by the First Baptist Church,
101 North Franklin Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015; (740) 363-7021

FROM THE DESK OF THE INTERIM PASTOR

More From the Miscellaneous File

By the time this is being read I have been to Providence and back. I'm sure I will have had a wonderful time: good speakers, great music, stimulating fellowship—all the components of an American Baptist gathering. Now I spend the next ten or twelve days getting ready to leave for Green Lake on July 13th. I will be there for six weeks as a Summer Volunteer. My job will be to clerk in the Country Store, near the Family Camping Area. In my free time I will be able to attend any of the conference programs—mission speakers, Bible study, concerts, fun times, whatever. This is something I have wanted to do for twenty years. Thanks for the opportunity.

I found a quote recently that would have been good for Father's Day, Tools of Hope, Robert Browning wrote: "Get thy tools ready; God will find thee work." Another good quote from a country newspaper, *Old Union Reminder*, "Secret sins will make the headlines...eventually."

Have you noticed the increasing number of odd-ball "warning labels"? Things like the cautionary note on an iron, "Do not iron clothes while wearing them." Or, on a bag of peanuts, "Remove peanuts from shell before eating." And this one on a can of soup: "Open can. Empty contents

into sauce pan. Heat until hot." Do we need to be told how to do every simple little thing? Perhaps we do. So, how about this one, "Remember your pledge; expenses of the church go on while you are on vacation."

Have you thought recently about the poverty of our world? One-third of the world's people have annual



July/August

income of about \$100. Annual! Every year 70 million people die of starvation and 400 million suffer chronic malnutrition. 75% of the world's families have *only* wood for heating and cooking. Half of the world's children never attend school. In heaven there will be no poverty. But, remember, we pray, "Thy will be done on earth as in heaven." We

can do something about that.

NEW LIFE 2010 is the Millennial Theme for American Baptists. Quote: "Motivated by the Great Commandment, the General Commission and the Great Criteria, American Baptists seek to start 1010 new churches, reach 1,000,000 new believers, vitalize a multitude of caring ministries and so transform our congregations and ourselves by the year 2010." You all know the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. But how about the Great Criteria? There are many passages of scripture that challenge us to live out our faith in ways that work for peace and justice. We who love the Lord must find the way to make the Good News meaningful to "the less of these," the poor, the oppressed, the lonely, those who hurt, all who live without faith and with little hope. All because they have never experienced the love of Christ which can come only by seeing that love at work in the lives of God's people. That's the challenge for the New Millennium.

Peace, until we meet again,

Robert Hughes

Pastor Hughes on Leave Until September

Interim pastor Robert Hughes is taking an unpaid leave from late June until early September.

On the weekend of June 23rd he

attended the American Baptist Biennial Meeting in Providence. During July and August he will be working as a summer intern at Green Lake Conference Center in Wisconsin.

Rev. Owen Stewart will serve as our "interim-interim" pastor until Rev. Hughes returns (see next article).

We Welcome Rev. Owen Stewart

The Board of Deacons is happy to announce that while Interim Pastor Robert Hughes is at Green Lake, Wisconsin, our interim will be Reverend Owen Stewart.

Most of us will remember with pleasure that Rev. Stewart was our interim in the time before Jody Lynn Hagans become our permanent pastor. He came to us from North Baptist Church, Columbus, and brought us comfort in a difficult time. He comes to us again from North Baptist, where he was interim.

Rev. Stewart lives in Worthington and will be in the office and at meetings several days a week, and will begin his preaching duties on July 8. He will stay with us until the first or second week in September, when Rev. Hughes will return.

It's with real pleasure that we say "Welcome back, Reverend Stewart, and welcome to your wife, also."

— Jean Wickum
Chair, Board of Deacons

Note: Rev. Stewart's office and home phone numbers are printed at the top of the July and August calendars, which are included with this newsletter. — Editor

Newsletter Summer Schedule

This is a combined **July/August** issue. Please note that the calendar has July on one side and August on the other.

The **September** newsletter will be released in late August (date to be announced) so we can give advanced notice of September events.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Hello First Baptist! We will take our One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during the month of July. If your contributions have become automatic, here's a wonderful chance to refresh your thinking as well as your giving.

Once again, American Baptists from all across the country join together in One Great Hour of Sharing, an offering that benefits people in need both nearby and far away. Our church's offering, added to those of our sister congregations, will provide disaster relief, funds for economic development, and support for basic needs such as food, shelter, tools, medicine, and literacy.

But One Great Hour of Sharing isn't merely about generating funds. We need to take time to think what our giving means; how it is related to receiving, for example; how it reflects our individual understanding of God's gifts to us; and how it recycles God's fullness throughout our world family.

To ignite our thinking, this year's theme is the powerful affirmation of John 1:16: "From His fullness we have received grace upon grace." During our worship service on July 8th we will dedicate our offering, but you may give to One Great Hour of Sharing any Sunday in the month of July. Offering envelopes may be found in the pews beginning today.

I encourage you to take the opportunity to count your own blessings and examine your ideas of giving and receiving. From God's fullness we have all received abundantly. Let's experience God's grace anew together as we contribute to this special offering.

— Randy Turner

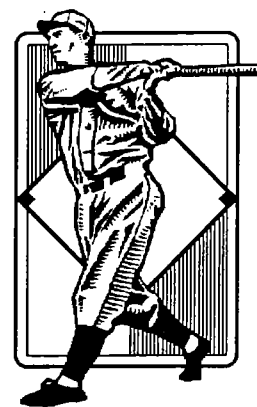
(See the Sharing Calendar which is on a separate page in this newsletter.)

Co-Ed Softball

The First Baptist Co-Ed softball team currently has a record of 2-1 with a 34-3 win over Christian Assembly in the opening game, a 14-12 loss to Ostrander Presbyterian in extra innings, and a 27-11 win last week vs. Jerome. Please see the schedule out in the Sunday school room for our upcoming games. We would appreciate all the support (both players and fans) over the summer.

Thanks again to those who have supported the team so far: Joe, Alison, Adam & Laura Mowery; Archie, Beth & Emilie Trigg; Tim, Deanna, Destini, & Meagan Fogle; and Nichelle Trigg.

— Jarrod Trigg, Softball Coach



Search Committee

The Search Committee interviewed a total of 10 candidates at the recent Face to Face meeting in Cincinnati. The Face to Face events are excellent venues in which to meet many candidates in a short period of time, and the "in person" contact is much more effective than phone interviews. We are pursuing discussions with two of those candidates, and possibly a third brought to us by our Area Minister Rev. Jane Gibbons. We hope to move quickly over the summer with these candidates.

We realize that we have now been without a permanent replacement for Jody Lynn for a year and a half, and ask for your continued patience and prayers as we continue on with the search.

—*The Search Committee*

Looking Ahead to 2003, Our Church's 150th Anniversary

Believe it or not, our Sesquicentennial is approaching! First Baptist Delaware will turn 150 years old in 2003, and we want to start planning the celebration now. If you have an interest in the history of the church, are an organizer and a team player, and look good in a party hat, please let me know! We are looking for both a chair for the planning committee, as well as committee members (5 to 7 people) to begin the planning process.

This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the life of the church and set the stage for the next 150 years! Thanks!

—*Rick Van Brimmer, Moderator*

Church Retreat

Have your reserved August 17, 18 and 19 for our 29th family retreat at Judson Hills? Our area minister, Jane Gibbons, will be the adult leader for our retreat. We are pleased that she will be leading us and are pleased for the opportunity to know her better.

Watch for a letter in July for all the retreat details and your registration form. The committee is Pam Faulk, John Maher, Jim Van Brimmer, and Evelyn Lee. We welcome your ideas and suggestions.



Finance Committee

The Finance committee met last Thursday (June 27) to discuss possible items to use the Jones estate gift. We would appreciate your attendance at the July quarterly business meeting.

—*Jarrod Trigg,
Finance Committee Chair*

ABY

We will be taking the kids to Red, White, and Boom! (the fireworks display in Columbus) on Tuesday, July 3. If anyone is interested, please let us know.

The ABY will also be preparing a spaghetti lunch for our church family on Sunday, July 8 to raise money for our activities in the upcoming year. We would appreciate if you would stay after the service on the 8th to enjoy lunch with the youth.

—*Jarrod & Nichelle Trigg*



Trustees Notes

> A complete new roof has been installed at the parsonage by Mike's Roofing. This included a tear off, down to the rafters, including new sheeting. The cost was \$4,497. The bill will be paid as soon as the new gutters are installed.

> The church's front doors have been restored with a new wood surface and finish plus new, full-width kick plates. The trim around and above the doors was scraped and repainted. This project was done with the Will Fogle memorial funds. A very special thank you goes to the Fogle family for their support of this project. The work was done by Carl Reynolds and crew of Cedir Woodworking. The cost was \$514.

> Plumber Don Patrick was called to make a repair in the mens room and to fix a furnace that had a fan staying on after the furnace had cooled off. The cost was \$122.53.

> Jim Van Brimmer repaired the dehumidifier in the senior high / scout room. To be effective, this must run during the summer with the doors closed. If it is too noisy during a meeting, please turn it back on after the meeting.

> On June 9th, Amber Scaggs and Jason Murfield were married at First Baptist. Interim Pastor Robert Hughes officiated, Betty Porter was organist, and Peter White served as building host.

> Parish council has appointed Tim Fogle to the trustees until a vote can be taken at the July business meeting. He will fill the vacancy left by Jeff Reed's departure.

> Lost and Found Department — One pair of blue socks in Barb Reed's classroom; two umbrellas in the front vestibule

—*Peter White, chairman*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- July 3 Phil Mercer
Jimmy Hopkins
5 Victor & Deborah Fogle
13 Sue Elfner
17 Nichelle Trigg
18 Peter & Linda White
19 Jarrod Trigg
21 Craig Martin
23 Alison Mowery
John & Kathy Maher
25 Destini Fogle
28 Regan Riedmiller
30 Bernice Turney
Aug. 3 Carolyn Schneberger
7 Jennifer Linn
8 Mary Gillette
Jim Van Brimmer
Jean Syler
9 Steve Stoner
14 Rick & Barbara
Van Brimmer
15 David Ball
17 George & Cris Riedmiller
18 Pam & Larry Faulk
20 Spencer Kauf
21 Jim Stephenson
24 Florence Faulk
Lynn & Sue Elfner
25 Betty Davis
27 Linda White
Christina Hopkins
29 Lynn Elfner
30 Katie Riedmiller
Archie Trigg

A.B.W. Ministries

The picture below is just a small part of the girls skirts we made this past year. 50 went to the Dayton Christian Center, 50 to the Christmas Clearing House, and now we have 65 for Haiti.



We couldn't have done this without everyone's help. Some people served, some gave money for supplies, and some gave material, elastic and time. Thanks to all of you for your help.

Stop in the Sunday school room and see what we all did together. Some of the skirts are on the Care & Share table.

— *Bertha Van Brimmer*
White Cross Chairman

Sewing Group

The first Wednesday in July falls on the 4th of July, so the sewing group will meet instead on July 11 from 10:00 to 2:00 to work on projects. Everyone is welcome to join us — bring your lunch and enjoy the fellowship.

We are in need of lengths of fabric to be used for quilts and 1/2" elastic for the skirts. No sewing skill is required.

Tools of Hope

On Father's Day, June 17, we again remembered special men in our lives by giving to the Tools of Hope project. Our contribution to this program was \$280.

MEMORY

- Lynn and Sue Elfner—Karl Elfner
Larry Faulk family—Ralph Cole,
Don Faulk, Wilbur Wickum
Steve and Tammy Ferfuson—Joe
Blair
Deanna, Destini, and Megan Fogle—
Will Fogle and Cap Gabriel
Robert Hughes—Ted Hughes, his
father, and Clarence Stephenson,
his father-in-law
Evelyn Lee—Dick and Bruce Lee
Dave Lovell—George Cray, Robert
Lovell
Dave Lovell family—Robert J. Lovell
Phil and Melissa Mercer—Nathan G.
Corder, Bill Mercer, and Clay
Happeney
Betty J. Porter—Ralph E. Guy, her
father
Sophia and Jim Stephenson—Rev.
James B. Stephenson
Jim and Bertha Van Brimmer—their
parents
Jean Wickum—Wilbur Wickum
Britt and Ari Yant—their great-grand-
fathers

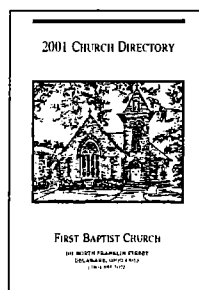
HONOR

- Lynn and Sue Elfner—William
Pierson
Larry Faulk family—Paul Stewart
Pam and Erin Faulk—Larry Faulk,
Jeff Faulk
Steve and Tammy Ferguson—Joseph
Skowronek
Deanna, Destini, and Megan Fogle—
Tim Fogle

continued on page 5

Church Directory Update

Please take a moment to update your directory.



Vic and Debbie Fogle
316 Foxridge Lane
Hubert, North Carolina 28539
(910) 326-1245
Debbie's e-mail:
deborahfogle@hotmail.com
Vic's e-mail:
okimarine11@excite.com

continued from page 4

Robert Hughes—David and Dan, his sons; Rob, Ross, Ken, and Don, his sons-in-law, all of whom work with many kinds of tools in their jobs

Hughes family—Robert Hughes

Evelyn B. Lee—Rick and Doug Lee

Dave Lovell—Ray Morby

Dave Lovell family—Raymond Morby

Myke and Kathy Maher—John Maher

Mowery children—John Linn and Joe Mowery

Shirley Parker—her sons

Betty J. Porter—David Lovell

Jarrold Trigg—Archie Trigg

Randy and Jennifer Turner—Jimmie Moore and Heryl Turner

Barbara Van Brimmer—Paul Steinbrecher, her father

Bertha Van Brimmer—Jim and Rick Van Brimmer

Rick Van Brimmer—Jim Van Brimmer

Jean Wickum—Larry Faulk, John Mead

Blanket Sunday Omission

In last month's newsletter, we omitted that Rev. Robert Hughes gave a blanket in memory of his mother, Reba Hughes. Sorry for the error. If there were any other mistakes, please make them known to me.

— Evelyn Lee

Second Baptist Church Celebrates Anniversary

We received a letter from the Second Missionary Baptist Church (55 Ross Street) inviting us to attend Sunday services on July 8 in which they'll celebrate their 133th anniversary. Their theme will be "A church committed to rebuilding the broken places."

At 11:00 am their speaker will be the former pastor Rev. Cleaveland Jones. At 4:00 pm their speaker will be Pastor Bruce Jones of Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church in Springfield.

For more information, contact Sister Tiffany Robinson at 363-9546.

Personals

• **JEAN OSBORNE'S SON, GARY, 46**, passed away on June 17 in Anchorage, Alaska after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Amy, and five children. Gary was an executive with the BP Oil company. Services were held on June 24 at his church and he will be buried next to his father in Maine at a later date. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

• **JEANNE EKELBERRY** was in an auto accident in West Virginia when her car struck a deer and was then hit by the car behind her.

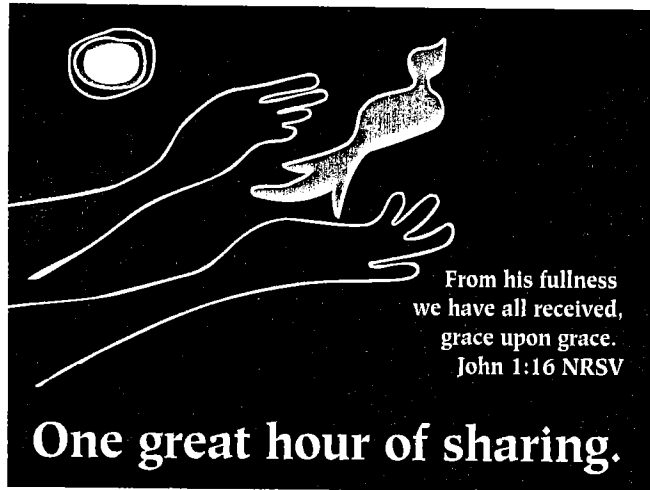
• **BETTY PORTER** represented Delaware County and the Ohio Clerk of Courts Association at the International Association of Clerks, Election Officials and Treasurers Records conferences held in Billings, Montana. She will also attend an Ohio Supreme Court Conference at Mohican State Park and the O.C.C.A. Summer Conference at Kings Island Resort. In July, Betty will spend a week with her daughter Jennifer in California.

• **JANET PORTER, ANNA, AND AMY PFARR** coached and participated in the Summer Games of the Ohio Special Olympics held at Ohio State University on June 22 to 24. Over 2700 athletes competed during the events.

• **VIC AND DEBBIE LOVELL** visited their families in Delaware while on their way to their new home at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. Previously they lived for three years at Camp Foster in Okinawa. Please see the Church Directory Update box on page four for their new address.




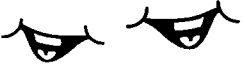















A Sharing Calendar



We have received from God's fullness, and out of that fullness we also give. This calendar helps us examine the things we take for granted—both tangible and intangible blessings—and to give from that abundance.

In your family or group of friends, look over these activities together and decide what monetary

"unit" you would like to give in response to each activity—a dime? a quarter? a dollar? Encourage all members to contribute (rather than assuming, for example, that only parents or only children will deposit money). As an alternative, assign each day to one person in your family or group, and have that person define what monetary "unit" to give.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>— One Great Hour of Sharing provides clean water—which we take for granted. Collect the water that runs before your shower gets hot. Give one unit for every gallon, then water your plants.</p> 	<p>— Communities that depend on farming for their food also depend on irrigation. Give one unit for every plant you watered by hand on Day One.</p> 	<p>— People in war-torn nations have little to smile about. Count how many smiles you receive today, and give one unit for every smile.</p> 	<p>— Some governments prevent minority groups in their countries from learning to read. Give one unit for every book, article, or publication you are able to read today.</p> 	<p>— Think you're too young or too old to make a difference? 100-year-old CROP walker Blanche LeMonn has raised over \$100,000 in 15+ years of walking. Give one unit for every year of life you have received.</p> 	<p>— One Great Hour of Sharing helps deliver first aid and medication—a luxury for many families. Give one unit for every over-the-counter medication your home is blessed with.</p> 	<p>— In both the Middle East and Mexico, people have been forcibly removed from their homes. Give one unit for every house on your street.</p>
<p>— Totalitarian governments often force people into labor. Give one unit for every task you choose to do today.</p> 	<p>— Natural disasters bring with them not just physical damage, but also separation from family members and friends. Give one unit for every hour your family or group spends together today.</p> 	<p>— When severe storms decimate crops, malnutrition is an enormous problem. Give one unit for every balanced meal you have the benefit of eating today.</p> 	<p>— A child who lost an arm in a land-mine accident may have trouble hugging. Give one unit for every hug you've received this week.</p> 	<p>— When homes are destroyed by floods and mudslides, One Great Hour of Sharing can help rebuild them. Give one unit for every year your home has remained standing.</p> 	<p>— Walk to work/school today, as if your feet were your only mode of transportation. Give one unit for every block you walked.</p>	<p>— In Mozambique, one in four children dies from an infectious disease before his or her fifth birthday. Give one unit for every person in your family or group over five years old.</p>
<p>— One Great Hour of Sharing funds provided blankets for Indian villages after a cyclone. Give one unit for every blanket in your home.</p> 	<p>— Many of us do not have to ask for food or for money to buy it. Give one unit for every homeless person you asked you for money or food recently.</p> 	<p>— In a refugee camp in Thailand, even a two-year-old has to stand in line for food. Give one unit for every hour your children are allowed to play today.</p> 	<p>— If you were born with a cleft palate and could not afford surgery to correct it, you would have a hard time saying "I love you." Give one unit for every spoken blessing you receive today.</p> 	<p>— On a regular basis, wildfires ravage homes in southern California. Give one unit for every time you use fire safely today.</p> 	<p>— We use tents and sleeping bags for fun, but hurricane victims use them because their homes have been destroyed. Give one unit for every tent and sleeping bag your family or group owns.</p> 	<p>— Count your blessings—tangible and intangible, great and small. Give out of that abundance. Smile, hug the people you know, and take your now-full bank to church for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.</p>

JULY 2001

First Baptist Church

101 North Franklin Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015

Rev. Owen Stewart, Interim Pastor Office 363-7021; Home 614-846-9525

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 Morning Worship with Communion; Sermon by Randy Turner	2 7:00 Boy Scouts; Deacons; Piecemakers	3 ABY at Red, White, and Boom!	4 Independence Day 	5	6	7
8 10:00 Morning Worship with Rev. Owen Stewart 11:00 Spaghetti Luncheon Sponsored by ABY	9 7:00 Boy Scouts	10 7:00 Board of Christian Education	11 10:00 Sewing Group	12 12:00 Young at Heart	13 6:00 Second Fri. Dinner at Andrews House	14
Baptist Peace Fellowship North American Summer Conference at Oberlin						
15 10:00 Morning Worship with Rev. Owen Stewart	16 7:00 Boy Scouts	17	18	19	20	21 8:30 Men's Breakfast
22 10:00 Morning Worship with Rev. Owen Stewart	23 7:00 Boy Scouts	24	25 6:30 Covered-Dish Dinner, Followed by Quarterly Business Meeting	26	27	28
29 10:30 Joint Worship Service with Zion U.C.C. The service will be held at Zion with the sermon by Rev. Owen Stewart	30 7:00 Boy Scouts	31	August calendar on other side →			

(The next newsletter will be the September issue, which will publish on a date to be announced.)

AUGUST 2001

First Baptist Church

101 North Franklin Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015

Rev. Owen Stewart, Interim Pastor Office 363-7021; Home 614-846-9525

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> July calendar on other side </div>			1 10:00 Sewing 7:00 Choir	2	3	4
5 10:00 Joint Service with Zion U.C.C. The service will be held at First Baptist with the sermon by Rev. Bertie Dell	6 7:00 Boy Scouts; Deacons	7	8	9 12:00 Young at Heart	10 6:00 Second Fridays Dinner at Andrews House	11
12 10:00 Morning Worship with Rev. Owen Stewart	13 7:00 Boy Scouts	14 7:00 Board of Christian Education	15	16	17 FAMILY CAMP	18 FAMILY CAMP
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Church Retreat at Judson Hills</div>						
19 FAMILY CAMP <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Church Retreat at Judson Hills</div> (No services today at First Baptist.)	20 7:00 Boy Scouts	21	22 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	23 7:00 Parish Council	24	25
26 10:00 Morning Worship with Rev. Owen Stewart <i>Important Note: Today's service time may change. Rally Day had not been scheduled when this calendar was prepared.</i>	27 7:00 Boy Scouts	28	29 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	30	31 Wedding Rehearsal	September 1

The schedule for the September newsletter will be announced.

Good News Letter

Published in the Cause of the Abundant Life by the First Baptist Church,
101 North Franklin Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015; (740) 363-7021

Rally Day

All are invited to this year's Rally Day which is being held September 9th. The resumption of regular worship hours will occur on this morning with Sunday school opening at 9:15 am. Customary Sunday school classes will be offered with a couple new offerings for the new school year.

The adult class plans on devoting the Autumn quarter in a book study of *The Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms* by Walter B. Shurden. This inquiry will be led by Jim Van Brimmer. The class will learn about the historic origins of the Baptist religion in order to help us to understand what it means to be an American Baptist today.

Join us on September 9th and help us kick off an exciting new Sunday School year!

— Scott Yant
Board of Christian Education

ABC/USA 2001 Biennial

The ABC/USA 2001 Biennial was held in June in Providence, Rhode Island. We have two reports. The first was written by Harold Van Broekhoven, and the second was written by Steve Stoner.

A "Cloud of Witnesses" in Providence, R.I.

The 2001 ABC-USA Biennial

Seasoned delegates regard a convention successful if some of five criteria

are met: a) a good program of talks (sermons); b) political decisions in which their votes count; c) good exhibit hall displays and sales; d) camaraderie with friends and other important people; e) last, but not least, a really interesting city with sightseeing, entertainment and, espe-

in votes on Statements of Concerns. We voted against violence in the schools (an expression of a more marked presence of young people in the denomination), for peace in the denomination and for the planting of new A.B.C. churches. DUH! Of greater interest, if doubtful effect, was our vote for a national shift from

Retributive Justice, that focuses on punishment and warehousing of convicted felons, to Restorative Justice, that focuses on restoring convicts to wholeness. A fifth Statement was processed and brought to a vote on the final day of the Biennial. In keeping with Baptist principles regarding Separation of Church and State, the delegates voted by a four-to-one majority to oppose President Bush's Faith-based initiatives. Delegates were already returning home or were sightseeing in beautiful Providence and Rhode Island, however, and the vote fell

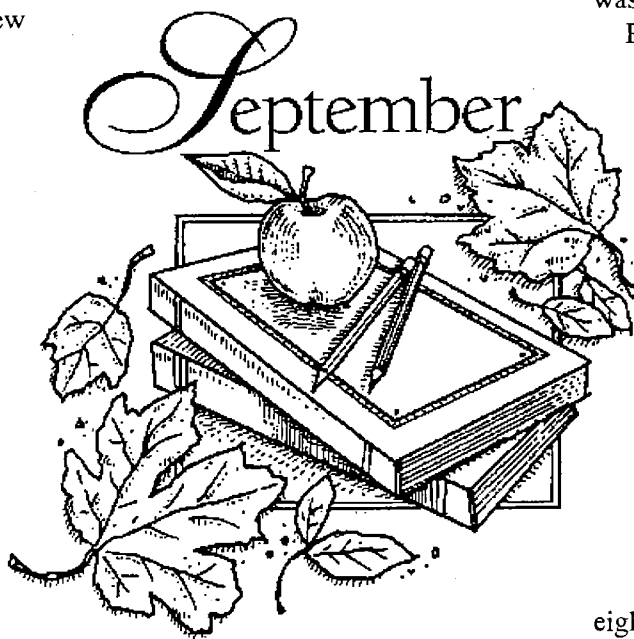
eight votes short of the necessary quorum to make this an official position of the denomination. For this delegate, that was a disappointment.

• In the Exhibit Hall, denominational organizations and colleges and seminaries publicized their programs and sold next Christmas's Baptist- and Mission-related gifts. I spent much of my time working as a volunteer at the American Baptist Historical Society booth selling neat ABHS commemorative T-Shirts which celebrated Baptist history and identity. We distributed hundreds of classy TimeLines of American Baptist his-

cially, good restaurants. By this standard, the 2001 Biennial was a great moment for the denomination.

• A bleary opening meeting hinted at a Program that fell short of the standards of other biennials with which I am familiar. Too much was planned for the allotted time. Speakers often seemed more interested in gaining a national stage than in their audience's needs, stamina and interests.

• There was, perhaps blessedly, little drama in the election of officers whom most of us did not know and

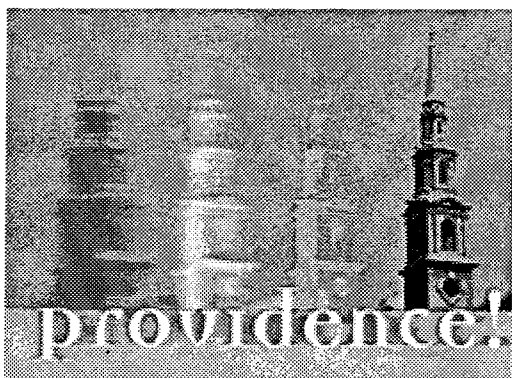


tory and two walking tours of sites in historic Providence. Given Baptist roots in Rhode Island and Deborah's deep familiarity with Rhode Island history, the Historical Society played a crucial role in planning this Biennial and was rewarded with the best location in the entire Exhibit Hall. Every visitor to the Hall stopped at the ABHS booth and we had marvelous conversations with a cross-section of Baptists from around the country.

- Conventions are really about mingling with friends and important people. I had great conversations with wonderful and deeply spiritual and socially engaged Baptists. I came to know and appreciate (some) denominational leaders as I have never known them. If the ABC-USA seems a shrinking and sometimes fragmenting denomination, with all the attendant pain and tension, there is still no denomination in America that is so perfectly positioned to embody faithfully the full measure of the Gospel, to become a home for people from all sectors of our society, and to speak so profoundly to the personal and social needs of America. My hope is that we at First Baptist reflect that image.

- Providence was a phenomenal venue for 2001 Biennial. Organizers fretted that the relatively high cost of this East Coast city would discourage attendance but more than 4,500 delegates and visitors attended! (I returned to favorite haunts and restaurants!) Hundreds picked up the historical walking tours prepared by Deborah and fanned out across the city, poked into churches and buildings which were the sites of land-

mark Baptist events, and walked on streets that seemed little changed from 200 years ago. About 110 delegates and denominational leaders and dignitaries stayed an extra day to take the ABHS bus tour celebrating the contributions of Baptists to Rhode Island and U.S. history. *The Providence Journal* provided extensive first page coverage of the convention and focused on a fruitless but good-natured debate: Was Roger Williams of Providence, RI. or John Clarke of Newport, R.I. the real



father of Baptists in America? This Biennial celebrated that these men embodied and wrote into history principles that Baptists contributed to our Nation's identity—the sole authority (if

variously interpreted) of Scripture, Freedom of Conscience, Freedom of Religion, Separation of Church and State, the toleration of religious and theological diversity along with a commitment to associate with others on fundamental matters of common agreement despite our disagreements on some issues.

In short, this Biennial, largely free of recent controversy, was a successful celebration of what American Baptists should stand for. But it seems that in our current climate some of these principles are not easily marketed and the ABC offices (which serve these values) and the denomination (which stands upon this history of these principles) constantly face the distress of dwindling support from the churches. It is incumbent upon those of us who share and celebrate this history that we continue to support generously the national and regional ABC

offices that give voice to our heritage!

– *Herald Van Broekhoven*

+ + +

Providence RI: Removed from the convention circle by a 20-minute bus trip from my motel, I was given time to reflect on our church heritage during trips to and from the Convention Center each day. I also had time to see first-hand the present-day history in the making as well as a glimpse of future American Baptist convictions in and of the people making these trips. In the morning vim and vigor of the souls was intact on the happy bus. Returning to the motel at night we were the bus of absorbed souls, some so absorbed as to close their eyes and meditate until tapped on the shoulder to stir them to the physical task at hand. This trip back and forth reminds me of the Norman Rockwell painting, "The Outing", which we saw at a museum visit at the end of our vacation.

Upon arriving in Providence our first convention-related adventure was to drive downtown and find the First Baptist Church in America, to attend an organ concert especially held for conventioners. We parked three blocks above the church, and I do mean "above," and walked down streets that reminded me of San Francisco. There is virtually no parking lot for the church and during the concert I was preoccupied with the realization of treading on the same floorboards and sitting in the same boxed pews as founders of both Baptist faith expression in America and the United States of America. The First Baptist Church in America was founded in 1638 and the Great Meetinghouse was built in 1775. It holds 1600 people and was physically built by out-of-work shipbuilders. Its steeple has withstood many storms and hurricanes through the years.

The Biennial was an uplifting

experience for me as I am sure it was for most. During and after the event I had a sense of a renewed desire to be more involved in not only the history of American Baptists but also the roll that we played in the history of the United States! The meetings were, well, meetings; the workshops were excellent and very informative. One in particular was a chance to meet missionaries. We were all involved at times corporately and at times meeting the missionaries up close and were able to hear the joy flowing from their hearts about each one's particular field of mission.

As charged, I faithfully voted on all of the questions and to the best of my knowledge they all passed hands down. I can witness to the presence of Harold Van Broekhoven too. As to the election of new officers, I'm not sure who won that quest. The food was, well, convention food. Enough said on that. The exhibit area was marvelous and kind of an oasis at times for me. As you may know, Karen and I sang in the convention choir and it brought me great pleasure and excitement to be able to sing with a choir of approximately 150 singers. We were angelic to say the least. We got to hear Ginny Owens, a blind contemporary Christian singer, composer and pianist. After her concert I bee-lined to the lobby to buy her CD and was lucky enough to get to meet Ginny, as well as have her autograph the inside jacket of the CD. She is a wonderful loving creature. We also heard a children's choir from Korea – whose members by the way raised their own money to pay their way to America. They were "precious", as Karen would say.

If you have never been to a Biennial you should consider going at least once; it is an experience you could build on as a faith builder as well as bring back some humbleness, which we all need from time to time. You never know what a large gathering of Christian brothers and sisters

may bring. You just might find a soulmate as Karen undoubtedly did—ask her about Julie sometime. I feel it was meant to be.

Well, thank you all at First Baptist Delaware for allowing me to be your delegate. Peace be with all of you!

– Steve Stoner, *Conventioneer*

Editor's Note: You can find more information about the Biennial (including downloadable video of some sessions) at the ABC-USA web site: <<http://www.abc-usa.org>>

Children's Volunteers Needed

Many thanks to those who volunteered their time this summer (and this past year) to help in the nursery. I'd also like to thank those that helped to support our Junior Church time this summer. The Board of Christian Ed. thought that it would be a good idea to continue to offer Junior Church during the summer months and that seemed to hold true. It's good for the kids to have a special time of their own and for parents to have an opportunity to experience worship in an uninterrupted fashion. During my tenure on the Board of Christian Ed., I have been very grateful for those that have volunteered their time for our younger church members (Nursery and Junior Church both). As September approaches, I will be looking for volunteers to serve in both the nursery and Junior Church for the remainder of the year. If you know of a time that you can help, please let me know



RECIPES

Several folks asked Melissa Mercer for the recipes for some items she served at a recent Fellowship Time:

Fruit Juice Fizzes

- 1 12-ounce can Dole frozen juice concentrate (I used the Passion Fruit)
- 1 1-liter bottle of ginger ale
- 1 cup water
- crushed ice

1. Empty the juice concentrate into a large pitcher.
2. Fill the juice can 3 times with ginger ale, pouring slowly so the ginger ale will not fizz.
3. Add the water and stir.
4. Serve immediately by pouring over crushed ice.

Apple Brickle Dip

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 package almond brickle chips (7.5 ounces) or English toffee bits (10 ounces)
- 3 medium tart apples, cut into chunks

In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, sugars and vanilla. Fold in brickle chips. Serve with apples. Refrigerate any leftovers. Yield: 2 cups.

and I'll get you on the schedule.

Thank you,

– Melissa Mercer
*Children's Ministries
Coordinator*

ABY

A big thanks to all those who supported the ABY spaghetti lunch. With your help we raised \$100. July 14th Jarrod and I took the kids to Wyandot Lake water park. The weather was perfect! Dublin Baptist invited our youth to attend a Christian concert with musical guest Al Denson. We enjoyed the music and did a little dancing in the pews!

Our next ABY events will include a meeting at the church on Sunday, August 26th from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Then Marci has once again invited us to a swim party at her grandmother's home the second Sunday in September. We will leave following church services and return around 4:30 pm.

Finally, I would like everyone to welcome our newest member of ABY, Megan Shelly.

Thank you,

– Nichelle Trigg

Board of Christian Education

Our next Board of Christian Education meeting will be Wednesday, September 12 at 8:00. (It had to be scheduled for 8:00 since one member will be attending choir rehearsal first.)

– Melissa Mercer

Trustees Notes

• A new dehumidifier was purchased for the kitchen and fellowship hall. The cost was \$200.00. For this unit to be effective, the doors to the fellowship hall need to be kept closed.

• Two old dehumidifiers that did not work were turned in at Worley's. The cost was \$20.00.

• A wiring short blew out a burner on the kitchen stove on the east wall. A1 Appliance was called and made repairs. The cost was \$64.95.

• Mike's Roofing was called to repair a leak over the basement stairwell. The cost was \$80.00.

• The sanctuary piano was tuned by Clifford Rector.

• We gave two old lawn mowers to a private shop that used them for parts. In exchange, we received free work on our church mower, including a new blade, engine work, and two good used wheels. The cost was zero!

• The Gable Elevator Company came twice in July, first for the major annual service and inspection, and the second time to change all the oil. The costs were \$36.80 and \$110.00 for parts. The rest is covered by our service contract.

• Plumber Don Patrick was called after dirt came through the water line and plugged up valves in the mens' room. The cost was \$77.25.

- The bushes out front were trimmed.
- The street light in the alley (which we paid for) was finally fixed by AEP after repeated calls to them over the last two months.

– Peter White
Chairman, Trustees

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- Sept. 10 Katherine Griffith
11 Barbara Reed
14 Marci Sander
Richard Davis
15 Janet Porter
Jim & Bertha Van Brimmer
18 Melissa Mercer
26 Michael & Tammy Grubbs
Phil & Melissa Mercer
30 Mary Lou Lovell
Oct. 3 Janet Lathrop
Jarrod and Nichelle Trigg
5 Laura Beth Mowery

Please report any errors or omissions to Jim Stephenson

Graduates

In our previous newsletter we didn't have a complete list of recent graduates, so here it is: Betty Davis, Brad Hinton, Myke Maher, and Adam Mowery graduated from Hayes High School; Suzanne Grubbs graduated from Ohio State University, Marion; Marci Sander graduated from Ohio State University; Karen Stoner graduated from Methodist Theological School; and Micah Stoner graduated from DeVry Institute.

Congratulations to all our graduates!

newsletter continues
on back of calendar

Church Directory Update

Please take a moment to update your directory.

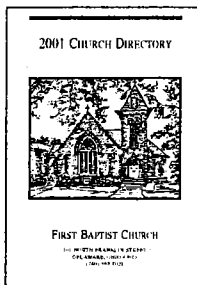
Vic and
Debbie Fogle
New e-mail
address:

fogle@ncfreedom.net

Rundy and Jody Lynn Hagans
2896 Wager Hill Road
Penn Yan, New York 14527
(315) 531-9334

Jody's e-mail:

revbabe@usadatanet.net



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Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for all your cards and phone calls after my recent knee surgery. They were much appreciated.

– *Jeanne Ekelberry*

+ + +

Our heartfelt thanks to you for your gift of \$560.00. Your support of the Tools of Hope and Blanket Program makes a world of difference in the daily lives—and futures—of families around the world.

Along the Burma/Thailand border, where refugees fled from Burma's civil war, CWS gave \$20,000 to purchase blankets and mosquito nets.

In Bosnia, CWS is helping returning families become self-sufficient by providing them with animals, feed, vitamins, and veterinary care. Families who receive an animal will pass its first female offspring to another family in need, thus multiplying the families receiving assistance to rebuild their lives.

These are just a couple of ways your support assists our neighbors in need. Thank you again for your gift.

– *Rev. John McCullough*
Executive Director
Church World Service

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GLBT Christians and Friends Web Site

Are you looking for answers to issues relating to gay Christians? GLBT Christians and Friends can help. Try connecting to our web site at: <<http://www.geocities.com/glbtcchristians/welcome.htm>>.

This site contains a wealth of information featuring thought provoking essays and articles that you can consider via your home computer. Rarely a week passes without some news breaking that effects the status of GLBT persons in our

nation's churches and society. Use the site's research archive to stay informed on developments, including in-depth research, and broaden your understanding of the subject.

The mission of our independent group is to welcome and accept God's children for who they are, without prejudice, in a spirit of Christian love as taught by Jesus. Our mission is in accordance with affirmation of the priesthood of all believers arising from the conviction that all who truly seek God are competent to approach God directly. This approach allows for distinctive opinions within congregations both on aspects of faith and its application with society as a healthy means of spiritual growth.

All are welcome to come and share a vision of tolerance and justice on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:30 pm. Child care is provided.

– *Scott Yant*

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Crop Walk

Help stop hunger here in the community and around the world! Delaware Crop Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 7, at 1:30 pm. The walk begins and ends at the Hamilton-William Campus Center at Ohio Wesleyan University.



Over 2,000 Crop Walks around the country raise funds for Church World Service, the relief, development, and refugee assistance arm of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised will benefit our local community through People in Need.

You can participate by collecting pledges from friends, family, and co-workers for the 10 kilometers you

will walk with other CropWalkers.

For more information, contact Janet at Asbury United Methodist Church, 363-3611, or Sue Pastors at OWU, 362-3084.

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Personals


- **JEANNE EKELBERRY** is recuperating from knee surgery.
- **BETH TRIGG** authored an article on British bed & breakfasts in the July/August issue of *Home & Away*, the magazine of the AAA auto club.
- **JEAN WICKUM** attended her 61st high school reunion in Meadville, Pennsylvania.
- **DAVE AND MARY LOU LOVELL** visited Mary Lou's father and other family members in New York
- **CAROL SUE FOGLE** visited with Vic and Debbie Fogle in North Carolina.
- **GENEVA EVANS** returned from California after a five-month visit with her sister Mary and son Gary.

SEPTEMBER 2001

First Baptist Church

101 North Franklin Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015

Rev. Owen Stewart, Interim Pastor Office 363-7021; Home 614-846-9525

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10:00 Morning Worship	3 Labor Day 	4	5 10:00 Sewing 7:00 Choir	6	7	8
9 Rally Day 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship 12:00 ABY Swim Party	10 6:30 GLBT Christians 7:00 Boy Scouts; Deacons; Piecemakers	11	12 7:00 Choir 8:00 Board of Christian Education	13 12:00 Young at Heart	14 6:00 Second Friday's Dinner at Andrews House	15 8:30 Men's Breakfast
16 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship	17 7:00 Boy Scouts	18	19 7:00 Choir	20	21	22
23 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship	24 6:30 GLBT Christians 7:00 Boy Scouts	25	26 7:00 Choir	27 7:00 Parish Council	28	29 Eagle Scouts in sanctuary and fellowship hall
30 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship <i>Last day to submit newsletter articles.</i>	October 1	2	3 7:00 Choir	4	5	6

~~Rick & Barbara~~
~~0788 St. Andrews Avenue~~
~~Delaware, Ohio~~

Rev. Tim Chesser, Pastor
Jim Stephenson, Editor

Good News Letter

Published in the Cause of the Abundant Life by the First Baptist Church,
101 North Franklin Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015; (740) 363-7021

Dear Church Family:

November is the month that many churches discuss stewardship. I suspect that the reason for this is that Thanksgiving falls during November and Christian stewardship is an expression of gratitude to God for all that he has given us.

At our quarterly business meeting this week we voted on the budget for 2002. It is a challenging budget and expresses a commitment that God still has something for us to accomplish in our little corner of the world. However, a budget is not the starting place for a discussion about stewardship.

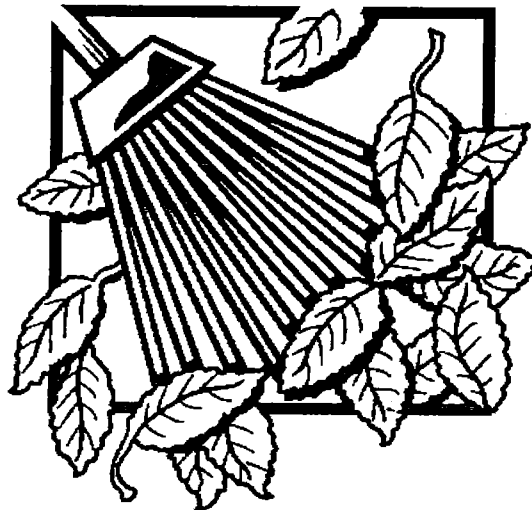
Stewardship is an expression of our understanding that God has given us all that we need for life. The first argument about stewardship occurred between Cain and Abel. We know the disastrous consequences of that disagreement. I believe that God has given us the tithe as a voluntary way of giving back to God in gratitude. The first measurable gift to God was the tenth of everything that he had that Abraham gave to Melchizedek as recorded in the fourteenth chapter of Genesis. With the gift of the tithe a blessing was given.

I have not been among you long enough to know how you give. I have heard the comment that you are doing all that you can. If that is true, then you are the exception to the rule among churches. A church where even a majority of people tithe is a church that does not lack

the resources to accomplish God's will in their midst.

The Bible says that God loves a cheerful giver. Sometime during November you can expect a cheerful sermon about Christian giving. You can have fun and learn a

NOVEMBER



serious lesson. Let's outdo ourselves in generosity.

Your Pastor,

Thanksgiving Offering

Our Thanksgiving offering is once again designated to help with funding for Second Friday dinners at Andrews House. You will find this envelope in your box of offering envelopes, or you may use a pew

envelope. Figures show it costs about \$25 per year to feed one person who enjoys the monthly dinners. Second Friday dinners are for anyone in the community who is in need of food or fellowship. Dinners are served at 6:00 p.m. Please consider the needs of others as you reflect on your blessings and your desire to help others.

- Evelyn Lee

Handicapped Access Committee Installs "Knox Box"

The Knox Box is in place beside the back entrance to the church. Thanks to Dave Lovell and Jim Van Brimmer for installing it.

This black box gives the Delaware City Fire Department emergency access to our building. The box contains the keys to our church and our Fire Department has the only key to open it.

Our Handicapped Access Committee had it installed at the recommendation of the Fire Department in case there should be a problem in the elevator. The elevator contains a telephone directly below the instrument panel. A call to 911 from the elevator's telephone would result in the Fire Department responding to assist you.

We trust it will never be needed, but please know we are prepared for an emergency.

- Handicapped Access Committee

A.B.W.

American Baptist Women will meet Thursday, November 15 at 7:00 in the fellowship hall.

Harold Rittenhouse will be our speaker. His recent trips to Africa and Haiti will be the evening's topic.

Our church mission concerns are part of ABW programs this year and we invite you to attend—women and men—to learn more about the countries we send supplies to.

Don't forget your Love Gift boxes!

— *Jeanne Ekelberry*

Natalie Mowery and Samuel Campbell Wed

Natalie M. Mowery and Samuel A. Campbell were joined in marriage on Saturday, October 27 at First Baptist. Rev. David Ball officiated and Mary Lou Lovell was organist.

Parents of the bride were Joe and Allison Mowery, and Dale and Judy VanHorn. Parents of the groom were Roger and Susan Campbell. The Maid of Honor was Melissa Martin, and the bridesmaids were Laura Mowery, Angela Owen, and Sandra Russell. Johanna Stimmel was flower girl. The best man was Matthew Egan, and the groomsmen were Andrew Gedeon, Adam Mowery, and Branden Nibert.

Natalie and Sam's address is: 887 Oxley Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43212; phone (614) 485-0643.

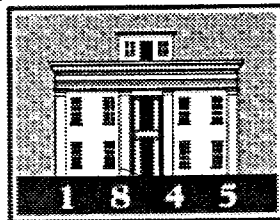
Second Fridays

Several from our congregation help on a regular basis at Second Fridays at Andrews House as greeters and mixers. They have also been generous when it's been our turn to furnish desserts. In October, our youth group and their leaders worked as servers.

Thanks to all who help with this community effort. We may be a small congregation, but we are well-represented at Andrew's House Second Fridays.

— *Evelyn Lee*

ANDREWS HOUSE



People Strengthening People

Trustees Notes

• A new office chair was purchased for the pastor's office. The cost was \$325.00. It is adaptable for computer or desk use.

• All the furnaces at the church were serviced by Don Patrick and received new filters. The cost was \$180.63.

• New sinks of vitreous china were installed in both bathrooms at the parsonage. They replaced sinks of old porcelain or steel which were badly rusted and pitted. The installation was done by plumber Don Patrick. The cost of the sinks, new faucets, plumbing and his labor came to \$556.72.

• New phone lines and connections at the parsonage cost \$127.00.

• A new medicine cabinet with mirror and lights was purchased for the parsonage's downstairs bathroom. (The old one was cracked and yellowed.) The cost was \$138.75.

• A leak showed up at the parsonage where the garage roof meets the house. A piece of wallboard in the garage ceiling fell down. Mike's Roofing fixed it.

• Joe Mowery has been working for us at the parsonage. He installed a new ceiling in the downstairs bathroom to replace the old one which was ruined by plumbing leaks. Then he installed and wired up the new medicine cabinet and painted the bathroom. He repaired the garage door ceiling and also touched up interior paint where it had been damaged during the recent move and during the carpet installation when large carpet rolls were carried up and down the stairs. His total cost was \$300.00.

Note: All improvements at the parsonage are now completed, except for maintenance and any unexpected breakdowns.

• Lost and Found: One pair of sunglasses were found behind the church.

• A thank you goes to the youth and their leaders for raking and bagging leaves around the church.

• Peter White cleaned out the church's gutters.

— *Peter White*
Chairman, Trustees

Thank You

On behalf of the 176th ABC of Ohio Annual Meeting (held in the Dayton Convention Center in October), we sincerely thank you for your contribution as an ABC of Ohio 2001 Annual Convention

Sponsor. Your contribution of \$25.00 was listed in the meeting program.

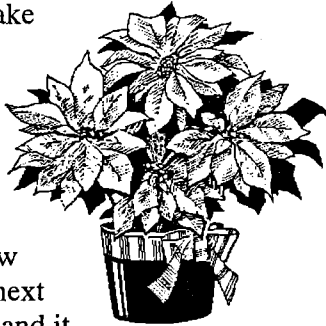
– *Ernie Keucher*
Chair, Sponsor Club 176
ABC of Ohio Annual Meeting

Poinsettias

Poinsettias can be purchased to decorate our sanctuary during Advent. They can be given in memory or honor of a friend or loved one, if you wish. After our Christmas Eve service, you can either leave your poinsettias at the church or take them home with you.

The cost hasn't been finalized yet, but we should know within the next week or so and it will probably be around \$9.00.

Please place your orders with Jim Stephenson or Barb Van Brimmer by Sunday, Nov. 25.



World Mission Offering Update

A big thank-you goes out to each of you who helped us reach and even surpass our goal of \$350 for the World Mission Offering. To date, \$435.95 has been received for this special offering! Thanks so much for helping us to "Go Global." May God's glory fill the whole Earth.

– *Linda White*
Mission Education Coordinator

"United We Stand"

Martha Sobaje, the director of our All-Convention Choir at the Biennial in Providence, was approached on September 11 by a friend who hoped she would somehow use music to help bring healing to people's hearts. On her way to church a week later she received the inspiration to compose words and music to a hymn, finished that day, which she freely shares with her friends across the country.

Both Jim Stephenson and I have the song and its related news articles and letter. Anyone is free to copy and use the song, "United We Stand", for any good purpose.

– *Karen Stoner*

Note: The song and related articles will be displayed in the assembly room. – *editor*

Handbell Festival

The sixth annual Delaware Area Handbell Festival will take place in Gray Chapel on Sunday, November 18th at 7 p.m. Handbell ensembles from eight area churches will perform separately and as a massed ensemble. Assisting in the performance will be a brass quartet and

organist Joseph Musser. The event will be free, but donations will be accepted. For additional information, contact Ruth Rabby at 369-3254.

"Suits Me Fine"

Donations of seasonal clothing can help women entering or re-entering the workforce.

Many women do not have proper clothing to enter or re-enter the workforce. You can help by donating seasonal clothing.

Toujours (a consignment store) will accept donations of women's clothing, shoes and accessories. As the clothes sell, the money will be logged into a special account. Job seekers will be referred by One Stop Employment and Training Partners. The dollar amounts of the clothing will be subtracted from the special account.

Toujours is located at 8 North Sandusky Street, phone 363-2193. Church Women United is cooperating with this program in the interest of helping local women.

– *submitted by Evelyn Lee*



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Personals

- **JEAN OSBORNE's** brother, Eleon, passed away in California. We extend our deepest sympathy to Jean and her family.
- **FLORENCE FAULK** had knee replacement surgery on October 15.
- **SHIRLEY PARKER** and her daughter Allison of Atlanta travelled to Vermont to visit Shirley's son, Joe.
- **PAM AND LARRY FAULK** travelled to Chicago.
- **JENNIFER LINN** has been recognized by Edwards Air Force Base as the Civilian of the Quarter for the 95th Transportation Squadron and the 95th Civil Engineering Group. Persons are evaluated on their contributions to the squadron/group on a quarterly basis. Jennifer and her office supported many high level programs such as the Global Hawk Mission, Joint Strike Fighter Program, continued F22 testing, and deploying of military troops in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The travel office was also responsible for re-booking hundreds of travellers due to the national disaster of September 11th. Part of the evaluation also included public relations,

community involvement and continuing education. Jennifer is currently enrolled at Chapman University.

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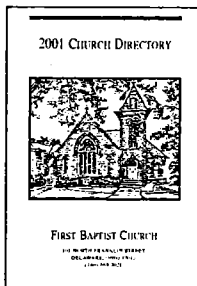
Birthdays and Anniversaries

- Nov. 5 Victor Fogle
- 10 Natalie Griffith
- 15 Harold Van Broekhoven
Barbara Van Brimmer
- 20 Randy Turner
- 22 Peter White
- 26 Liz Hopkins
- 28 Karen Stoner
- Dec. 4 Erin Faulk
- 5 Zachery Grubbs

Please report any errors or omissions to Jim Stephenson.

Church Directory Update

Please take a moment to update your directory.



Natalie and Sam Campbell
887 Oxley Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43212
(614) 485-0643.

ANDREWS HOUSE Christmas Bazaar

Nov. 30: 10 AM-6 PM
Dec. 1: 10 AM-2 PM



39 West Winter
Street, Delaware,
OH

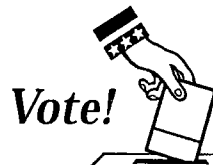


NOVEMBER 2001

First Baptist Church

101 North Franklin Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015

Rev. Tim Chesser, Pastor Office 363-7021 Parsonage 362-6033

Office Hours: Mon. to Thurs. 9 to 12 Days Off: Friday and Saturday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				○ Full Moon 1	2	3
4 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship	5 7:00 Boy Scouts; Piecemakers; Deacons	6 Election Day 	7 10:00 Sewing 7:00 Choir	☾ Last Quarter 8 12:00 Young at Heart	9 6:00 Second Fridays Dinner at Andrews House	10
Veterans Day 11 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship 4:00 Installation Service for Rev. Chesser 	12 6:30 GLBT Christians 7:00 Boy Scouts	13 7:00 Board of Christian Education	14 7:00 Choir	● New Moon 15 7:00 A.B.W.M.	16	17 8:30 Mens' Breakfast
Stewardship Sunday 18 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship	19 7:00 Boy Scouts	20	21 7:00 Choir	Thanks-giving 22 ☽ First Quarter 	23	24
25 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship <i>Last day to order poinsettias. Last day to submit newsletter articles.</i>	26 6:30 GLBT Christians 7:00 Boy Scouts	27	28 7:00 Choir	29 7:00 Parish Council	○ Full Moon 30	December 1

Dec. 2 is the first Sunday in Advent

Good News Letter

Published in the Cause of the Abundant Life by the First Baptist Church,
101 North Franklin Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015; (740) 363-7021

Dear Church Family:

How quickly time flies. Thanksgiving is in our recent past and we are moving on toward Christmas. Although the world considers this to be the end of the year, the church has always celebrated beginnings during Advent. We are looking forward to an exciting month of worship. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ. We can take this opportunity to deepen our walk in the Way of Christ. As you prepare for worship during Advent I offer the following for your devotional attention:

- December 2, Hope, Isaiah 2:1-4; Matthew 24:36-44
- December 9, Peace, Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12
- December 16, Joy, Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11
- December 23, Love, Isaiah 7:10-16, Matthew 1:18-25

As Kathy, Sam, and I learn the Christmas traditions of First Baptist Church we will also share some of our Christmas memories with you. One thing we are looking forward to is the Christmas Eve Worship Service at 6:45 on December 24. Christmas Eve worship did not become a part of my Christian experience until my first full time American Baptist pastorate in Indianapolis. Now it wouldn't be Christmas without that service.

Please remember that December is also the month we receive the Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering. This is a great opportunity to say thank you in a very tangible

way to those who committed their lives to proclaiming the gospel. Honor the one who told you about the gospel of Christ with a gift this Christmas.

Now for a 21st Century update. We have Internet access in the church

Please try calling again after a few minutes. I am working on a technological fix to this problem.

Merry Christmas from the Chesser family.

Your Pastor



DECEMBER

office. This is good news. However, sometimes when you try to call the church office you will have to be patient. If the phone rings more than four times and the answering machine does not pick up one of two things is happening. If I am online and you let the phone continue to ring I will be knocked offline and will be able to answer your call. If I am talking to someone else and cannot respond to the call waiting beep the phone will continue to beep.

Christmas Program

The holidays are here! Today is the first Sunday of Advent, and with that brings the many fun activities and events of the season. The Board of Christian Ed. is happy to announce its plans for this year's Christmas Program, which will be held Sunday evening, December 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Many of you are aware of the video production that Scott Yant is coordinating. That presentation will make up a portion of the program that evening. The other element will be a portrayal by our children of an Old English Christmas Carol entitled The Friendly Beasts, illustrated by Tomie dePaola. It's a song that describes the special gifts that the animals in the manger brought or provided for baby Jesus.

The evening will conclude downstairs in the Fellowship Hall with a time to visit together and "savor the moments". We are asking that each family bring 3 doz. cookies to share. Beverages will be provided. We will also be observing our traditional "Birthday Party for Jesus" during that time.

February 4 - Adult/History of Church class

How we started? Who affiliations?

As we make our preparations for the holiday, let us be mindful of the reason we celebrate in the first place! Hope you'll join us on the 23rd. Merry Christmas!

— *The Board of Christian Ed.*

Christmas Video

The Board of Christian Education is creating a holiday video in celebration of Christmas. From mid November through December 9th, after each Sunday's service we will be collecting these memories and will combine them into a special video production for the church.

You can help by providing a special photo from a past holiday, and/or by appearing on the video to tell a favorite holiday memory.

It will only take a few minutes after church to tape your memory and it will provide future generations with a look back at what has made Christmas so special through the years! Please see Scott Yant for more information.

—*Board of Christian Education*

Christmas Offering

This year our "over and above" Christmas offering is designated to help with fundings for PIN (People In Need). This agency serves our county all year long with food, housing, clothing, and medical needs. Their requests have been increasing monthly.

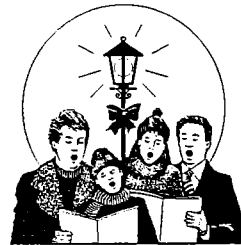
You will find a special Christmas offering envelope in your box of offering envelopes. You may also use a pew envelope, or simply indicate on your check its intended use.

Please give prayerful thought to your gift to our community.

— *The Finance Committee*

Christmas Caroling

Everyone is invited to join the choir for our annual Christmas carolling on Friday, December 14. We'll meet at the church at 6:30 and will spend about 90 minutes carolling at nursing



homes and the homes of shut-in church members. Then we'll return to the church for refreshments at around 8:00.

We'll be singing familiar Christmas carols that everyone knows, and everyone is welcome regardless of their musical abilities. We especially encourage our older church members to consider joining us so that our shut-ins will see some familiar faces. Hope to see you then.

Christmas Clearing House

The Clearing House is accepting donations of new toys, new clothes, food, and money.

Their headquarters will be open from Monday, Dec. 3 to Sunday, Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will be at the Delaware County Fairgrounds Coliseum, 236 Pennsylvania Ave., phone 363-6528.

- Senior Baskets Packing Day— Wednesday the 5th from 9 to 5.
- Family Baskets Community Packing Day— Saturday, Dec., 8 from 9 to noon.
- Toyland Setup and Decorate Coliseum— Saturday, Dec. 8 from 1 to 3.
- Distribution Day for Families— Sunday, December 9 from 9 to 3:30.

The Clearing House is sponsored by People In Need (PIN). If you are part of a group that would like to volunteer, please call Kevin or Carolyn

at 363-6284. If you would like to volunteer as an individual, it's not necessary to call in advance.

Service of Installation

A service of installation and celebration for Rev. Tim Chesser was held on Sunday, November 11th at 4:00 p.m.

The sermon, "Expectations", was delivered by Rev. Ronnelle Armstrong, pastor of the Christ Community Church in Marion, Indiana. Rev. Armstrong and Pastor Chesser were colleagues and friends in Marion.



Rev. Gibbons, Rev. Chesser, and Rev. Armstrong at the reception

Rev. Jane Gibbons, the North Area Minister for American Baptist Churches of Ohio, presided over the litany, prayers, and declaration of installation.

Also participating were Jean Wickum, chair of the Board of Deacons, Rick Van Brimmer, moderator and co-chair of the Pastoral Search Committee, Deacon Betty Porter, Mary Lou Lovell, organist, Jim Stephenson, choir director, and of course Rev. Tim Chesser.

A reception for Rev. Chesser and his family was held in the fellowship hall after the service.

ABW

ABW will meet Thursday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

We will pack boxes for shut-ins of our church family. Please bring your favorite item, cookies, candy, fruit,

small loaves of bread; your choice.
We will pack about 12 boxes.

Remember your love gift boxes and you do not have to be a regular part of ABW to come and celebrate in the joy of giving to others.

—Jeanne Ekelberry

ABY

I've missed the last few newsletters so let me tell you what ABY has been up to this fall. We purchased two youth study Bibles, a Christian CD, and a youth activities book to help me lead better devotions!

In our youth room we created a prayer wall for the kids to add their prayer concerns to throughout the year. As each prayer is answered they will circle it on our prayer wall.

Jarrold and I took the youth to Magic Mountain Fun Center for laser tag, go-karts, and video games. Sam is quite the laser tag player and the Riedmiller girls are fierce drivers on the go-kart track!

Six of our youth walked with 13 others from our church for the annual CropWalk. Way to go 1st Baptist, we raised \$1,063!

The kids have been busy helping out with community service this fall. In October they served meals at Andrews House. They also helped babysit at the Army National Guard. Twice a month the National Guard holds meetings for families with loved ones called to active duty. Chris Riedmiller contacted ABY about offering child care.

At our last meeting we raked 29 bags of leaves! After that task we made "smores" and had devotions about spiritual fruits.

Our next big event will be Saturday, December 1st. We will be heading to Nationwide Arena to see the Columbus Landsharks, the indoor lacrosse team. Tickets are \$10 each.

On Saturday, December 8th we will be working at PIN's Christmas Food Drive. It will begin at 9:00 a.m.

—Nichelle Trigg

John Linn

John W. "Red" Linn, 83, a lifelong resident of Delaware and a member of First Baptist Church, died Monday, November 12, at Grady Memorial Hospital.

He was born Jan. 13, 1918 in Delaware to James A. and Louise B (Bauereis) Linn. He attended Alfred University. A World War II



Army Air Corps veteran, he was a surveyor and drafting engineer who worked as an engineer for Delaware County and more recently as a drafting engineer for Franklin Engineering LTD in Worthington. He was also a commercial real estate agent.

John is survived by two sons and a daughter-in-law, Mike and Beth Linn of Delaware, and Staff Sgt. Ed Linn of California City, California; three daughters and sons-in-law, Annette "Andi" and Jim Ringley, Alison and Joe Mowery and Beth and Archie Trigg, all of Delaware; nine grandchildren, Chris Treese, Jarrod Trigg and his wife, Nichelle, Evan Trigg, Emilie Trigg, Adam Mowery, Laura Mowery, Natalie Campbell and her husband, Sam, and Andrew Linn and Douglas Linn.

His wife, Anne, died on May 3, 2000. Mr. Linn was also preceded in death by a brother, Jim.

Visiting hours were on Friday, Nov. 16 at Robinson Funeral Home from 10 to 11 a.m., followed by the funeral service with Rev. Tim Chesser officiating.

Burial was in Oak Grove Cemetery, with members of the Delaware County Veterans Association performing military honors.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), 21 South Henry Street, Delaware, OH 43015, or the World War II Memorial Fund Campaign, in care of American Battle Monuments Commission, P.O. Box 96766, Washington, D.C. 20090-6766.

All of us at First Baptist extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

Thank You

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

Thanks to all of you for the support given during Dad's illnesses and at his death.

The beautiful flowers and expressions of comfort were much appreciated.

Sincerely,

—The Family of John W. Linn

+ + +

It is once again time for me to take the opportunity to thank those who have given so graciously of their time and effort to support our Children's Ministries. I cannot thank those enough for their involvement. You all have made my job on the Board of Christian Ed. that much easier and pleasurable to carry out.

As I draw to a close the three years that I have served in this capacity I have witnessed some wonderful things. I have seen some folks serve in the nursery for the first time - or for the first time in a long while - and enjoy it. I've seen others that have served their time now able to take a break. I have watched the children graduate from the nursery to Junior Church. And for me personally, I watched my daughter, Jane, as a baby be able to stay in the nursery with a little greater ease each Sunday she went (a personal huge thank you to those that helped with that - you know how difficult that can be!) I have watched our youth of three years ago, grow up and "graduate" to serving in roles with our younger

children, where they used to be not so long ago.

Once again, thank you all for what you have given. It's imperative for us to remember that our children are gifts from God. If we have the gift, to whatever degree, to work with children, isn't it a blessing to use that God-given gift toward a gift He gave us?!

In His Service,
-Melissa Mercer

Trustees Notes

• The electric furnace and heat pump at the parsonage was checked over and cleaned out. The ash door on the outside of the fireplace was repaired. The work was done by Don Patrick. The cost was \$60.00.

• The pipe organ was tuned and serviced by John Muller. The cost was \$180.00.

• Pastor Chesser donated his old computer to the church after purchasing a new one for his own family. He feels this is sufficient for now. Church funds set aside for this from the Jones estate will be put in escrow until needed. A small computer table that fits beside the pastor's desk was purchased. The cost was \$28.00.

• A major job was finished at the old parsonage next to the church by Joe Mowery. First, he power-washed the metal roof, getting off all the old asphalt coating. Next, he put heavy tar on the seams, and then a new asphalt coating on the entire roof. Then he did a great job repairing the underside of the old box gutters and painted them. Finally, the trap doors to the basement on the back porch were repaired. The cost was \$2,600.00. These funds came from the Jones estate, as approved by the church.

• Peter White cleaned out the gutters at the parsonage and put up the Christmas decorations.

-Peter White, Chairman

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- Dec. 4 Erin Faulk
- 5 Zachery Grubbs
- 11 Holly Kauf
- 13 Tammy Grubbs
Geneva Evans
- 24 Frances Cook
- 25 Carol Grubbs
Steve & Karen Stoner
- 28 Sharon Baker
- 29 Arianna Yant
Harold & Deborah
Van Broekhoven
- 31 Scott Yant

Please report any errors or omissions to
Jim Stephenson.

Personals

• NATALIE GRIFFITH is recovering from a very serious case of viral meningitis that required hospitalization at Grady Hospital and Children's Hospital.

• ALISON MOWERY vacationed in Tennessee and toured the Biltmore estate.

• BERNICE TURNEY spent Thanksgiving in Cleveland with her son, Wayne, and his family



• Congratulations to JEAN WICKUM, who received an outstanding veteran award from AMVETS Post 101 during their Veterans Day ceremonies. In the Gazette photo above, she is given the award by Delaware County Commissioner Don Wuertz.

continued on back of calendar



THE RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING

RMMO goal: \$ 350

On Sunday, Dec. 16, we will receive the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO). Your gift can be A Tribute of Thanks for Their Love and Service to retired American Baptist ministers and missionaries who have strengthened the body of Christ by their service.

The Offering will be distributed to retired ABC ministers and missionaries, or their widowed spouses. 43% of the Offering helps meet emergency and special financial needs; 57% is distributed in the form of ABC Thank You checks to over 3,000 recipients. Please help us meet our RMMO goal.

Poinsettias

The following people purchased poinsettias to decorate our church during Advent.

If this list contains any errors or omissions, please tell the pastor and a correction will be made during morning announcements.

From the Lee family, two poinsettias in memory of Dick and Bruce Lee

From Jeanne Ekelberry, given in thankfulness for church and community

From Carol Grubbs, children and grandchildren, two poinsettias in memory of Charles and Ruth Brown, and Teresa Griffith.

From June and Fred Grubbs, in memory Fred Grubbs Sr. and Edith Hall

From Linda White, in memory of Charles Seckman

From Mike, Natalie and Katherine Griffith, in memory of Teresa Griffith, mother and wife, and in memory of Win and Kim Bailey

From Betty Porter, in memory of Jim "Billy" Porter

From the Foor family, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Foor and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Shively

From Willa S. Corder, in memory of her husband, Nathan G. Corder

From Calvin, Ben and Claire Turner, in honor of their grandparents and great-grandparent

From Nichelle and Jarrod Trigg, in memory of John Linn and Ruby Griffith

From the Stephenson family, in memory of Rev. James B. Stephenson

From Barbara Van Brimmer, in memory of Topper Hill

From the Fogle family in memory of Gene Lathrop, Cap and Myrtle Gabriel, and Will Fogle

From Tim Fogle's family, in honor of Jim Van Brimmer, Larry Faulk, and Peter White

From the Mowery family, two poinsettias in memory of John and Anne Linn and Francis Johnson, and Joseph G. Mowery and Guy C. Mowery

From Jean Wickum, two poinsettias in memory of Wilbur Wickum




DECEMBER 2001

First Baptist Church

101 North Franklin Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015

Rev. Tim Chesser, Pastor Office 363-7021 Parsonage 362-6033

Office Hours: Mon. to Thurs. 9 to 12 Days Off: Friday and Saturday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
First Sunday in Advent 2 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship 	3 7:00 Boy Scouts; Deacons; Piecemakers	4	5 10:00 Sewing Group 7:00 Choir	6	7	8 9:00 ABY at Christmas Clearing House
Second Sunday in Advent 9 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship <i>Distribution Day at the Christmas Clearing House</i> 	10 6:30 GLBT Christians 7:00 Boy Scouts	11 7:00 Board of Christian Education	12 7:00 Choir	13 7:00 ABWM 12:00 Young at Heart	14 6:00 2nd Fridays 6:30 Carolling 	15 8:30 Men's Breakfast
Third Sunday in Advent 16 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship with offering for Retired Ministers and Missionaries 	17 7:00 Boy Scouts	18	19 7:00 Choir	20	21	22
Fourth Sunday in Advent 23 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship 7:00 Christmas Program 	24 7:00 Christmas Eve Service	Christmas 25 	26 7:00 Choir	27	28	29
30 9:15 Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship <i>Last day to submit newsletter articles.</i>	31	January 2002 1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2 10:00 Sewing Group 7:00 Choir	3	4	5

NORTH AREA NEWS

American Baptist Churches of Ohio

December 2001

Unwrapping Gifts

Last year in the weeks leading up to Christmas, I spent some time at the mall near my home, not shopping for gifts, but wrapping them. Volunteer wrappers were invited to donate their time to provide free gift-wrapping service to shoppers. The mall made donations to local charities rather than paying workers for their service. It was a wonderful experience for me, in part because I love to wrap packages, and in part because I enjoy talking with people and hearing their stories... a grandmother shopping for her grandchildren who live in another state... a mother doing her daughter's shopping since she recently had surgery and couldn't get out to do it herself... students shopping for a family they adopted for the Christmas holiday... children wanting their gifts wrapped really quickly because their mom – the recipient – was just down the hallway... a boyfriend buying a gift for his girlfriend on their first Christmas together. Each gift was valuable – whether it was a pair of striped socks with toes, a leather jacket, or diamond jewelry - because it was carefully selected for the one who would receive it.

This season, I'm guessing you've been thinking a lot about gifts, too. Most people I know have two lists – what they are giving, and what they would like to receive. In all this talk about Christmas gifts, something else almost always comes to mind for me... the Spiritual gifts God has given to us... the ones we have received. Hundreds of Spiritual gifts are mentioned in scripture, from the very practical ones given by God to the Hebrew people as they built the tabernacle – weaving, embroidery, masonry, carpentry, working in bronze and silver... to the ones the Apostle Paul speaks of in his writing – wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, prophecy, teaching, preaching, helping, administration, encouraging, and giving. As a Baptist who holds fast to the concept of the priesthood of believers, I am convinced that just as God has called each of us to ministry, God has also provided us with the gifts necessary to carry out those ministries. Tom Bandy, contemporary author on church renewal, often states that everyone has been given a gift that the world can't do without. It is one that God has carefully selected and given to you. Many people have never unwrapped the gifts and put them to use. As you go through the Advent season, a time for preparing for the coming of the Christ child (God's very best gift to us ever), I encourage you to seek to discover the ministry

gift that God has given to you and to allow God to prepare your heart to use it in ministry in the coming year. It will be the best gift you unwrap this Christmas.

May you have a blessed Christmas!

Rev. Jane Gibbons
North Area Minister
899 Dickson Parkway
Mansfield, OH 44907
(419) 774-9886
jgibbonsohio@aol.com

North Area Notes

Congratulations to...

- ❖ **Rev. Al Wilkes** on his retirement as pastor of *First Baptist Church of Tiffin (North Central Association)*. His final day at the church will be December 31.
- ❖ **Rev. Tim Chesser** who was installed as pastor of *First Baptist Church of Delaware (Marion Association)* on Sunday, November 11.
- ❖ **Rev. Dan Brown**, new pastor of *First Baptist Church of Bellevue (North Central Association)*, whose installation service is set for Sunday, December 6.
- ❖ **Rev. Mary Wood** and the *Haskins Federated Church (Toledo Association)* who celebrated ten years of ministry together during a worship service on Sunday, November 11.

Welcome to...

- ❖ **Rev. Tom Lewis**, who is serving as interim pastor at *First Baptist Church of St. Marys (Northwestern Association)*.

Please pray for these churches as they search for new pastoral leadership...

- ❖ First Baptist Church of Lorain (*North Central Association*)
- ❖ First Baptist Church of Lima (*Northwestern Association*)
- ❖ First Baptist Church of Mount Vernon (*Mohican Association*)
- ❖ First Baptist Church of St. Marys (*Northwestern Association*)
- ❖ First Baptist Church of Tiffin (*North Central Association*)
- ❖ Grand Prairie Baptist Church (*Marion Association*)
- ❖ Radnor Baptist Church – Youth Ministry

ABC/OHIO

REGIONAL NEWS

December 2001



NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE MINISTER

What is a Hanging of the Greens Worship Service?

During the Advent Season many churches host a "Hanging of the Greens." The purpose of such a service is to more closely connect traditional holiday decorations with the real meaning of Christmas. Some services include hymn and carol singing, musical interludes, solos, scripture reading, poetry reading, and narration. The narration serves to explain the meaning behind the decorations as they are placed within the building. Just as the cross and communion table signify certain attributes of Christ, Christmas symbols can point us toward additional attributes.

The purpose of such a service was even more critical in the early stages of Christianity than it is today. As the Christian faith spread, people were faced with the dilemma of what to do with their old customs and practices. While some customs were discontinued, others took on new meaning. Just as people find new life in Christ, sometimes the meanings behind certain customs were transformed in order to reflect various tenets or beliefs within the Christian faith.

Below, I have listed some of the symbolic meanings carried by our modern Christmas decorations...

Candles – represent Christ as the light of the world and the star that guided the worshippers to Jesus. We are called to shine our light and not hide it under a bushel.

Advent wreath candles – mark various themes during the four Sundays in advent. One set of themes includes hope, love, peace, and joy.

Greenery – reminds us of God's creation; more specifically, the laurel and bay symbolize triumph, the holly...Christ's blood, the yew and cypress...eternal life, and mistletoe...peace.

Poinsettia – reminds us of God's transforming power as the leaves turn to red.

Evergreen – symbolizes protection and the wreaths embody eternal life

Tree – signifies the glory of Lebanon, while various ornaments can be constructed to denote other Christian ideals

Nativity scenes – obviously depict the night of the savior's birth

Whatever symbols you choose to enhance your Christmas celebration, may the glory of the Lord come to you in new ways this Christmas season.

Sincerely, Dr. C. Jeff Woods

* * * * *

"The ABC/OHIO summer camping program is in need of a few healthcare professionals who might be willing to volunteer a week of their time at a camp this summer. If you are a physician, an RN, or an LPN, and would be willing to experience a life changing week of summer camp, please call the ABC/OHIO office at 740/587-0804."

* * * * *

Mission Support Memo - Giving Gifts

Sunday, December 2, is the first Sunday of Advent, the time when once again Christians anticipate the coming of Jesus into the world. God loved the world so much that he sent his son to live among humans. It is that coming to earth of the "Word made flesh" that is celebrated with special times of worship, music programs, candlelight services, and parties. Also, because of this greatest gift ever given to the world and the gifts brought to Jesus by the wise men, it is a tradition that gifts are given to loved ones and friends at this time of year.

The search for the best gift, the greatest gift is never an easy one. What will that special gift be? Will it be clothing, a new fragrance, jewelry, the newest electronic game or hand-held computer, something personal or something for the home? Will the gift be something that meets a need or is something that is wanted? How will you know if it will really be the right gift?

In times like these purchasing gifts may be the farthest thing from your mind, but gift giving is still easy to do. To honor a loved one or in memory of someone ... give the gift of yourself - volunteer your time by reading, mentoring, or using other "gifts." Give the gift friendship - reach out to a neighbor who is from another country or another faith. Give the gift of new life - give a Bible and tell your own story of Jesus.

In fact, this year the greatest gift doesn't need expensive paper or beautiful ribbon. The greatest gift has already been given and it needs to continually be given away. Give someone Jesus for Christmas this year.

Many people have given through their churches in the past few months to help provide relief for those who have lost family members, homes, and jobs because of terrorist attacks. **ABC/OHIO congregations gave \$37,819.00** in September and October through One Great Hour of Sharing. These gifts make a difference in the lives of those who need rent, food, counseling, and other assistance. We do this as partners in ministry with other Regions and agencies.

In these days, when the economy is not growing as it has in past years, the ministry opportunities for the people of God continue to grow. As a Region, ABC/OHIO has a vision to **Support** our Church Leaders in a changing world, **Offer** ourselves as a tool for God's work, **Address** needs beyond ourselves, and **Renew** our congregations as mission agencies. As your congregation looks for opportunities to give to ministry during next year ... plan to **SOAR** with ABC/OHIO through specific gifts to the Region and increased support of United Mission.

May the Peace, Joy, Hope and Love of this time of Advent be yours as we welcome Jesus into our lives and homes.

Rev. Daniel L. Taylor, Minister of Mission Support
740/587-0804;MMS4OHIO@AOL.COM