

Good News Letter

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Faithful Stewards

In Biblical times, stewards were important trusted servants. They were responsible for their owner's property and affairs. During the famine in Egypt, Joseph's steward was the person the brothers had to deal with, but ultimately the steward was accountable to Joseph. God treats us like stewards by giving us the responsibility of caring for his world and his people. However, we are still accountable to him as to how we fulfill his mandate. God looks for trustworthy people that he can entrust with more responsibilities and resources.

To save money, a farmer decided to cut back on the amount of wheat seeds he used at seeding time. But as the seeds sprouted and grew, he soon found out that his wheat stand was too thin and the weeds quickly took over. However, his neighbor didn't skimp on the seeding and his crop quickly grew thick enough to stay ahead of the weeds and he was able to harvest a crop. In the same way, we cannot be part-time stewards hoping that we can do or give *just* enough. God looks for hearts that are fully committed to him.

Our commitment is to Jesus Christ first. The stewardship of all that we

have is a small token of gratitude for what God has done for us. It is also a visible expression of our trust in him. However, giving back to God is not payback. We are also committed to this local body of Christ, First Baptist Delaware.



November

2014 is quickly fading away, the holidays will soon be upon us and then a new year will begin. As the church, we are to be good stewards of what God has given us, first as individuals, and then as a congregation. Stewardship is an act of worship that involves our time, talents and finances and God expects us to use all of them wisely.

We continue to be in a time of transition — waiting hopefully and expectantly for what the Lord has in store for us. However, transition denotes movement of some kind and, hopefully, that movement is forward, not backwards. It's an exciting time to be partnering with

God for the future.

In November, we celebrate a time of giving thanks to God for all he has blessed us with. It's also the time when our church begins to plan for ministry needs in the coming year. We have just gone through a process of looking at our strengths as well as our challenges, assessing our needs, and setting some ministry goals. Now we must determine how best to meet the needs of those within the church as well as those outside our walls. In the next month, the congregation is asked to consider how much each individual can commit of their time, talents and finances to the ongoing ministries of the church. This is an important decision and one that should not be entered into lightly or quickly.

Do you have the gifts and abilities to fill some open positions on our ministry boards? Can you give time to one of our ongoing ministries? Are you passionate about some area of ministry in which our church could be involved?

The church needs vital growing disciples who are willing to serve Christ in a variety of areas. In worship on October 26, you will receive a **Stewardship Covenant Form for 2015**, which involves five areas of commitment to our mutual ministry. Four of them involve your time and talents. *"Each one you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace..."* 1 Peter 4:10

However, we do need your financial gifts as well because ministry cannot happen without resources.

Next Month

The December newsletter will be one week earlier than usual because Advent begins in November.

Articles must be submitted by November 16.

Deuteronomy 16:17 says, "Each one is to bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you." I ask you to prayerfully consider how God has blessed you and ask him to help you determine how much you can commit to giving of yourself to help further his kingdom. Remember, giving is an act of faith!

Paul writes, "We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that the supreme power belongs to God and not to us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). The treasure that he is referring to is the gospel, which is our greatest treasure and all others pale in significance. Each one of us must decide how much we are willing to participate in seeing that the gospel continues. We continue to stand on a growing edge as a church and the challenge is whether or not we will allow ourselves to be used by God.

Let's all be faithful stewards, so that one day the Lord can say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant."



Pastor Ellen
Interim Pastor

Guest Preacher

On November 16, we will welcome Rev. Dr. David Brown to our pulpit. Dave is the husband of our current Interim Pastor. He will be preaching on *Treasure in the Field*.

David, a native of Michigan, was born into an American Baptist pastor's family and is a graduate of Michigan State University (B.A.), Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div.), Princeton Theological Seminary (Th.M.), Temple University (Ph.D.), and the Certificate program of the Interim Ministries Network (in 2007). He was ordained by the Stelton Baptist Church of Edison, NJ, where he pastored for 5½ years. The Browns were then called to the Sunland Baptist Church in southern California where they ministered for 9½ years.

In 1995, David and Ellen were commissioned as American Baptist missionaries to the International

Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague, Czech Republic. David held the position of Director of Continuing Education, Assistant Professor of Practical Theology, and was a member of the seminary's Directorate. During that time, he traveled widely throughout Europe, leading seminars and teaching. In July of 2000, the Browns joined the home staff of International Ministries, where David designed the *Global Specialist* initiative and led the *Mission Explosion* team, he founded and directed the part-time *Russian Institute of Preaching* where he trained 21 preaching teachers for the Russian Baptist Union. He remains a Visiting Lecturer at the International Baptist Theological Seminary (now in the Netherlands) and *Global Consultant for Preaching* with International Ministries. Dave also served as the Executive Director of the American Baptist Theological Center at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena. He has served as interim pastor at First Baptist Church of Philadelphia, PA, Lansdowne Baptist Church of Lansdowne, PA, First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, First Baptist Church of Twin Falls, Idaho, Granada Hills Baptist Church in Granada Hills, CA, Market Street Baptist Church in Zanesville, OH, and, First Baptist Church of Lebanon, NH. Just prior to

his ministry in Lebanon, he served as Interim Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island. He is currently serving his second interim pastorate at the First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland.

Dr. Brown's first book, *Dramatic Narrative in Preaching*, was published by Judson Press in 1981. His major preaching textbook, *Transformational preaching: Theory and practice*, was released in 2003 (in both English and Russian), and its revised English edition was published in February of 2008. An abridged version of this text (*Transformational Preaching: The Basics*) was completed in 2010, and his fourth book, *All the Parables of Jesus: a Guide to Discovery*, was released in July of 2012.

Stewardship Sunday

Sunday, November 23 is our annual **Stewardship Sunday**. In preparation for that day, a **Stewardship Covenant** form will be handed out and explained on Sunday, October 26. (For those not in worship that morning, forms will be included in your November newsletter.)

The covenant involves 5 areas of commitment (worship, hospitality, faith development, mission &

PRAYER LIST

This list is prepared by the Deacons. Prayer requests will be removed after 2 months unless "renewed". Please send changes to Larry Faulk (Lfaulk01@aol.com).

Church Contact	Name	Reason for Prayer
The Deacons	Don Elliott	Health issues
	Ken Frische	Surgery recovery
	Christina Kilhefner	Transplant recovery
	Bertha Van Brimmer	Health issues
	Penny Hagaman	Health issues
	Steve Baker	Health issues
	Bora Porter (Janet's daughter)	A patient at Childrens' Hospital
	Betty Porter	Health issues

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

service and financial.) Each area has a personal covenant commitment statement that is between the individual and God. However, we are in community so, it is also a commitment to the whole body. You will also be asked to check opportunities in which you already are or would like to be involved. In planning for new opportunities, you may check areas in which you have an interest and/or would like to hear more about it. This will help our ministry boards determine future programming.

Everyone in the congregation above Middle School is asked to prayerfully consider your responses and to bring the form on Stewardship Sunday, which is November 23rd at which time we will commit ourselves and our resources to continued future ministry. (If you are unable to be present on that day, please mail your commitment form to the church no later than November 30.)

November 23 is also **Thanksgiving Sunday** so, as we give thanks to God for all of his gifts to us, we will also dedicate our time, talents and resources to Him.

May it be said of First Baptist Delaware, *Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the LORD with a whole heart.*
1 Chronicles 29:9a

Get Connected Slips

The yellow *Get Connected* Slips in our weekly worship bulletins serve many important purposes. It provides guests an immediate way to give us their contact information so that the pastor can immediately follow up with a welcome letter as well as any ongoing contact.

This slip is also the means by which we update the church Prayer List each Sunday. Our Prayer List provides current requests, praises, answers to prayers and ongoing prayer needs. It's very helpful to have these requests in writing so that we have the specific information, the correct spelling of names

and the name of the person who submitted the request.

Whether or not you share your requests verbally in the worship service, you are asked to please put it on the *Get Connected* slip and put it in the offering plate. If something is shared verbally but we do not receive it in writing, we have to assume that you do not want it on the printed Prayer List.

Lastly, with the *Get Connected* slip we are able to collect needed information, such as who and how many will be attending any upcoming events. So, this small slip of yellow paper is very important and helpful to our ongoing ministry.

Poinsettias

You're invited to order poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary during Advent. They can be given in memory or honor of someone, and you can take them home after our Christmas Eve service.



The cost is to be announced (probably around \$9). Place your orders with Melissa Mercer or Jim Stephenson by Sunday, Nov. 23.

Leadership Retreat Gets Results

At the end of the all-church leadership retreat on September 27, each board met separately with others filling in who were not on a board. We were focusing on what we felt were significant needs in the church. Each group was asked to come up with three goals to be considered for the next few months and then to set in motion action plans for those goals. Members of the Board of Christian Education, along with a few other attendees, arrived at the following goals to be pursued in the next few months.

1. More youth activities

At that meeting we were able to plan a movie night at the church for our youth. This occurred on October

Birthdays & Anniversaries



- | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Nov. 12 | Jackson Trigg |
| 15 | Harold Van Broekhoven |
| 17 | Jim and Ann Brown
Emily Inscho |
| 19 | Steve Ferguson |
| 20 | Randy Turner
Molly Grace Kennedy |
| 22 | Peter White |

Please report any errors or omissions to Jim Stephenson.

16 and was very well attended. We do intend to plan more youth activities throughout the year and have requested more money in the church budget for activities.

2. Pursue a "Youth Pastor."

Pastor Ellen has already talked to Tammy Wilder at Methesco. We need to come up with a job description. Melissa Mercer also has a friend who might be able to give us some advice.

3. Sunday School Service Project.

We planned a church clean-up day which occurred on October 18. We also are sponsoring the "Change Your Clock And Bring Your Change To Church Sunday" to be held on November 2. (See the separate article about this.) A big thank you goes out to the 12 people who showed up for the clean-up day.

Change Your Clock and Bring Your Change to Church

The following came from the Oct. 19 lesson from the Judson adult Bible series "Journeys" which the Adult I class is using this quarter. I have checked with class members and also members of the Adult II class, and we would like to sponsor this project.

"A staggering 14 million children, newborn to age 18, in the U.S. and

Puerto Rico struggle with poverty and poverty-related issues.

Children in Poverty (CIP) is an initiative of American Baptist Home Mission Societies, ABC Churches, USA. It encourages and equips American Baptists to respond to the needs of children in poverty through ministries of caring and prophetic justice.

The Penny Project seeks to raise awareness of the extent of child poverty throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico, and to raise support for programs and ministries responding to the needs of children in poverty. Inspired by the example of the youth of First Baptist Church in New London, New Hampshire, who raised 60,000 pennies to represent the number of children living in poverty in their state, ABC Home Mission Societies is encouraging the youth of ABC churches USA to raise 14 million pennies to represent the number of children living in poverty in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

Churches are encouraged to have a Change-Your-Clock-and-Bring-Your-Change-to-Church Sunday twice a year. In 2014, there is an opportunity to hold one of these events on November 2."

So, our Sunday school classes are opening this up for the entire church. On November 2, when Daylight Savings Time ends, we ask that you come forward during the worship service that morning and put all your change in the jar, not just pennies. Let's see how much we can raise for this cause!

– Pam Faulk

Nominations Needed

The nominating committee is still in need of some officers for 2015. If you are interested in serving as assistant moderator, assistant treasurer, trustee, Board of Christian Education member, or deacon, please let us know. Please contact Ken Shears, Dave Lovell, Pam Shears, or me of your interest.

– Larry Faulk

Critical Search Committee Event

On Sunday, November 9th, the Search Committee will host a very important "Core Values" meeting after the worship service. Rev. Jane Gibbons will lead us in a review of our "Core Values at FBC" in preparation for our church profile to be used in the pastoral search. A light "soup and sandwich" lunch will be provided. Your participation is critical to the search process.

– Larry Faulk
Search Committee Chair

Deacon's Goals

At the leadership retreat, Sept. 27, the board of deacons set three goals to be addressed in the next four months. The first is to create a drawing of the church's floor plan. This drawing would be incorporated into a welcome brochure for visitors indicating where important areas of the church are and their functions. A second goal is to determine and fulfill a "Sunday School service project". The Board of Christian Education also has this as a goal which suggests that we might find a couple of projects to support. The third goal was to support and work closely with the board of Christian education in seeking to secure a youth coordinator/facilitator to work with our youth. If you have an interest in helping with these goals, your ideas are appreciated. If you would like to join the board of deacons as a member, please let me know.

– Larry Faulk

Personals

• Bertha Van Brimmer fell and broke her hip on Sept. 28. She had surgery the next day and came through well. She went back to Sarah Moore but to the skilled care unit for a while for rehab. Pastor Ellen has been to see her and Bertha is improving. Please remember Bertha with your cards, prayers, phone calls and visits.

• Jerry and Lana Palmer's daughter

November Sermon Titles and Scripture

November 2

How Many Times is Enough?
Matthew 18:21-35

November 9

Are You a Stigweard?
Matt 6:19-21, Luke 12:13-21

November 16

Treasure in the Field
Matthew 13:44
Rev. Dr. David Brown, preaching

November 23

Name Your Blessings One by One
Luke 17:11-17
Thanksgiving & Stewardship
Covenant Sunday

November 30

You Better Watch Out!
Luke 19:1-8
1st Sunday of Advent

Jennifer was in a car accident and received bumps and bruises mostly to her head and leg from the air bag, but no serious injuries.

• Genevieve Peterson has returned to church and thanks everyone for their cards and prayers.

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- Jeanne Ekelberry has had two glaucoma surgeries and will have two cataract surgeries in November. She thanks everyone for their help.
- Erin Faulk fell down several steps and injured her back but is slowly improving.
- Pam and Larry Faulk have closed up their trailer at Geneva- on-the-Lake for the winter and took a driving trip around Michigan.
- Ken Frische fell and broke his shoulder blade. He is improving but has to wear a sling which makes it difficult to maneuver with his walker.
- Ken and Genevieve Peterson are celebrating the birth of a third great-grandchild in Oklahoma named Elena.
- Claire Turner sang a solo at the Hayes choir concert recently. Claire is a member of the symphonic choir and the prestigious show choir.
- Mary Lou Lovell's sister Raeleen George recently visited and played the piano for our worship service. Will Fogle played a violin prelude at that same service.
- Jerry and Lana Palmer traveled to Gatlinburg, Tennessee.
- Pastor Ellen and Jane Moore represented our church at the ABC Ohio gathering in October.
- Jeni Pedzinski, a new missionary, spoke during our Sunday school time and our morning worship on October 19. A number of our church fellowship also enjoyed having lunch with her after church.
- Sam and Lindley Chesser are expecting their first child in May.

– Pam Faulk, Personals' Editor

Save the Date

Andrews House reminds us that the annual Christmas Cupboard fundraising event will be on Saturday, December 6th from 9am–3pm. We'll have more info in next month's newsletter.

Trustees' Goals from Leadership Retreat

At the recent leadership retreat each board was asked to list three goals that would be completed during the last quarter of 2014.

The Board of Trustees list is as follows:

1. Repair of steps on southeast corner of the church.
2. Improved lighting over the altar area.
3. With the extra grassy area that became a reality with the old parsonage being torn down it will be necessary to purchase a new self propelled mulching lawn mower.

Respectfully submitted by

*– Jerry Palmer
Chairman Bd. of Trustees*

Mission Update

What an amazing congregation we are! The Lord has touched hearts (and wallets!) and we have surpassed our goal for the World Fellowship Offering! As of Sunday, October 19, we have received \$717... and there's one more Sunday to go! Randy challenged us to raise the goal to \$750. We can DO it!

*– Jane Moore
Mission Coordinator*

Jeni Pedzinski

Once again the Lord has blessed our fellowship with a visit by one of our aspiring Missionary candidates. Jeni Pedzinski visited Delaware and spoke to us on Sunday, October 19. She told of her call to the mission field. She also explained the process she is experiencing whereby she goes from church to church, raising her support money. Jeni was truly called by the Lord, and she is eagerly looking forward to being part of the staff at the New Life Center Foundation in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The Center serves young ethnic minority (tribal) women who are at risk for, or victims of, human

trafficking, forced labor, and sexual abuse. Residents are provided with shelter, education, vocational and life skills training, and legal assistance.

Jeni is uniquely qualified to provide support to NLCF staff in areas of administration, Christian discipleship, and financial literacy. She will be responsible for writing grants, overseeing outcome management, and leading public relations — among many other duties and opportunities.

Let us, as a church, pray about being one of Jeni's supporters as she ventures into this mission field. We already send money each month to Emerson and Ivy Wu who are ministering in Macau. Surely we can stretch our means and be part of Jeni's important work in Thailand.

*– Jane Moore
Mission Coordinator*