

# Good News Letter

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Dear FBC family:

I recently came across the following interview with Brent Walker, who is the executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. I reprint it here with permission from the Associated Baptist Press News. For other news of interest to Baptists go to [www.abpnews.com](http://www.abpnews.com). In a time when some are willing to give up on the idea of separation of church and state I hope this will remind you of why that doctrine is a Baptist distinctive.

Your Pastor,



## Questions and Answers with Brent Walker on Modern-day Baptists and Separation

*From Associated Baptist Press*

Baptists have, since their earliest days, been advocates of religious liberty and its corollary, the separation of church and state. But different groups of modern-day Baptists in the United States interpret church-state separation — and the Constitution's provisions for it — in different ways.



J. Brent Walker, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, explains the differences between Baptist groups on the issue in this interview with Rob Marus of the Associated Baptist Press.

**Q** What are the main schools of thought on church-state separation in the United States, and how do different Baptist groups fall on those lines?

**A** Seventy years ago, the original partners in the Baptist Joint

Committee — Southern Baptists, Northern (now American) Baptists and National (historically African-American) Baptists — adopted “The American Baptist Bill of Rights.” In it, they outlined four different conceptions of the relationship between church and state:

- ❖ **Church above the state** — a theocracy in which religion controls the government.
- ❖ **State above the church** — a secular government that is hostile to religion.
- ❖ **Church alongside of the state** — where one particular religion is privileged, with toleration for others.

❖ **Church separate from the state** — [which the document said has been] “championed by Baptists everywhere and held by those governments that have written religious liberty into their fundamental law.”



## OCTOBER

Clearly, these three Baptist groups — and I would hazard a guess 99 percent of Baptists in the pews — thought that the fourth conception was the right one, the Baptist one and the American one.

This is the understanding of the church-

state separation that finds its roots in Roger Williams, expression in the writing and life witness of [early Baptist champions of religious freedom] John Leland and Isaac Backus, fruition in [Texas Baptist pastor] George W. Truett's Capitol Hill speech in 1920, and life today in the work of the Baptist Joint Committee.

This view sees the separation of church and state as an insurance policy protecting our God-given religious freedom. It is not an end in itself. This view of separation, on the constitutional level, takes seriously both protections in the First Amendment for religious

liberty: no establishment and free exercise. That is, the government should not try to help religion (no establishment) and it should not try to hurt religion (free exercise), but should be neutral towards religion. Just leave it alone.

Today, there is less agreement on church-state separation among Baptists than there was in 1939. Some Baptists embrace the third model expressed in the American Baptist Bill of Rights. They are all for government staying out of the churches' business and protecting individuals' free-exercise rights, but are quite willing to accept government's help in the form of posting the Ten Commandments or funding religious ministries.

Not many Baptists, however, would embrace the other theories. I see very few who really would like to have a theocracy — even a Christian theocracy — and I know of very few who would want a highly secular government in which religion would be completely banished from public life.

**Q** While many conservative, historically white Baptist groups have gotten involved in secular politics in the last couple of decades, African-American Baptists have long been politically active. Does this stem from a historical difference in the way white Baptists have viewed church-state separation?

**A** For most Baptists, the separation of church and state has never meant the divorce of religion from politics or the stripping of the public square from religious discourse. The antipathy to political engagement historically has been more the hallmark of our Anabaptist cousins than our Baptist forebears. Baptists, from the very beginning, have been willing to be engaged in public life. This has been reflected over the past half century or more in African-American Baptist

life. Fundamentalists' aversion to engaging in the political arena before the 1970s was more an exception to the historical practice of Baptists than an expression of it.

**Q** Do you envision increasing immigration — and increasing numbers of foreign-born Baptists in our ranks — to further change the way Baptists in the United States interpret their heritage of church-state separation and the First Amendment?

**A** Baptists from around the world have varying opinions on church-state separation. Many who emigrate from countries fleeing persecution, either at the hands of a theocracy or anti-religious totalitarian government, are much more willing to embrace the traditional Baptist understanding of the need for church-state separation. They know existentially what it's like for a religious minority to suffer under the tyranny of the majority — something many Baptists in this country have forgotten.

Baptists from other parts of the world — such as the British Commonwealth, where Christianity has been privileged by government — will bring that understanding in, as well, and are more open to accepting government support for religious activities even if they remain adamant that government should not interfere with the free exercise of religion.

In sum, Baptists continue to be nearly unanimous in their insistence that government not interfere with the autonomy of Baptist churches

## Geneva Evan's Meatloaf Recipe

I've received requests for this recipe!  
It's from Geneva Evans.

— Jane Moore

1. In large bowl beat together:  
1 egg  
3/4 cup milk
  2. Stir in: 4 oz. (1 cup) shredded Cheddar cheese  
1/2 cup quick oats  
1/2 cup chopped onion  
1 tsp. salt
  3. Add: 1 pound ground beef
  4. Mix all together and form into loaf. Top with sauce and bake at 350° for one hour.
- Sauce: 2/3 cup ketchup  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
1-1/2 tsp. prepared yellow mustard

or burden the free exercise of religion. They tend to disagree when it comes to how much, if at all, government should support religion in general or their religion in particular.

The challenge of the Baptist Joint Committee is to make sure all Baptists understand that the First Amendment goes both ways. Just as our grandparents understood in 1939 — and before — religious liberty is as much threatened when government tries to give religion a helping hand as when it tries to hurt religion.

As soon as government meddles in religion, for or against, or takes sides in religious disputes — favoring one over another — someone's religious liberty is denied, and everyone's is threatened. We Baptists should be as concerned about the religious liberty of others as we are for our own.

## Retreat Follow-Up

We had a great time at this year's retreat. Many thanks are due to our leader Tim Chesser and all of the committee. If you attended, how are you coming along on the special commitment you made to make a difference? Did you remember to pray for your 7 people? Remember that you can continue to pray each week for any 7 people.

– Pam Faulk

## You Can Make A Difference

*"If many little people in many little places do many little deeds, they can change the face of the Earth."*

African Proverb

One of the sessions at our retreat focused on how we can go about sharing our faith and thus allowing it to grow by each person doing ONE thing to make a difference. In the next few newsletters, I shall be sharing with you some suggestions that came out of that experience. Here are the first 10, not in any order of importance. Please make a commitment to do more than what you are currently doing.

1. Pray for others
2. Attend church more regularly
3. Take part in "Make a Difference" Day
4. Save the parking spaces in front of the church for guests or those who need to park close (if you can)
5. Return your grocery cart to the corral
6. Take on a church office or get involved with a church committee
7. Become more involved in Sunday school
8. Support the Crop Walk
9. Be friendly to visitors
10. Telephone someone to let them know you are thinking about them

– Pam Faulk

## Sunday School

We had a great Rally Day for Sunday school and are off to a good start this year. I am very proud of our Sunday school program. It has lots of participation from young and old alike. Please take a moment to thank our Sunday school teachers

## Prayer List

*Please give additions or corrections to a deacon.*

Church Contact	Name	Reason for Prayer
Larry Faulk	Bill Faulk	Recovering from stroke
Jane Moore	George Corder	Health issues
	Cathie Corder	Continued recovery
	Olivia Langwasser	Leukemia
The Deacons	Pam Debasio	Health issues
	Jim VanBrimmer	Health issues
	Julie Wilson	Has moved to Alabama; seeks employment
Jeanne Ekelberry	Her step-son John	Recovering from surgery for colon cancer
Matt & Marci Cooper	John & Shea Cummings and Family	Death of 4-month-old daughter, Sydney
Jean Wickum	Martha Green	-
	Fran Cook	Heart problems
	Mary & Steve Sealey	Health issues
The Bakers	Victoria Baker	Health issues
	Heath Baker	Auto accident injuries
The Chessers	Toosie Eggers	Health issues & auto accident injuries
Evelyn Lee	Mary Tilson	at Willowbrook
	Bertha VanBrimmer	Health issues
	Florence Faulk	at Delaware Court
Barb Reed	Regan Riedmiller	-
Beth Trigg	Connie Coy	Brain cancer
Carol Grubbs	Haycox Family	Children's health
Lisa & Tim Fogle	Tyler Wayne Fogle	Baby Tyler in home from the hospital; continued prayer for his good health

for doing such a great job. They are Tim Chesser, Randy Turner, Vic Fogle, Erin Faulk, Sam Chesser, Mary Lou Lovell, and Debbie Fogle.

If you are not yet participating in Sunday school, it is not too late to make a commitment. Just come and join us any Sunday.

– Pam Faulk



**Classes for All Ages**

## American Baptist Churches of Ohio Annual Gathering

The 184th Annual Gathering of the American Baptist Churches of Ohio will be held this year on Thursday, October 15, through Saturday, October 17, in Columbus, Ohio.

The Mohican Baptist Association will host the gathering at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North Hotel (the same location as last year). The theme will be "Discipleship: The Joyful Journey." The keynote speaker is Rev. David Putman, who is a pastor at Mountain Lake Church—a congregation of almost 2000 people in North Atlanta, Georgia. He has been instrumental in the church planting movement. Rev. Putman will lead worship on Thursday and



Friday evenings and seminars on Friday and Saturday mornings.

The American Baptist Women's Luncheon and Meeting, the American Baptist Men's Luncheon, and the Ohio Baptist Education Society Luncheon and Annual Meeting will all be held at 11:00

A.M. on Thursday. The Celebrating Healthy Church Ministry Banquet is at 4:30 P.M. on Thursday, and the ABC/Ohio Mission Banquet is at 4:30 P.M. on Friday. The Roger Williams Fellowship and Baptist Peace Fellowship Breakfast

is at 8:00 A.M. on Friday. The Ministers Council Luncheon for ministers and spouses will be at 11:30 A.M. on Friday.

For more information about these meal functions and also other

meetings and events during the Annual Gathering, please contact Kathy Russell (740-362-5465) or Rev. Tim Chesser. Registration forms are available for clergy, delegates, guests, and child care. The Child Care Registration deadline is October 1. Rates for entire days (one day only) or all three days are cheaper if registrations are received by October 8. All registrations and cancellations are encouraged by October 8.

Come and enjoy the meal programs, the exhibit tables, the "bookstore," and many other opportunities at the 2009 Ohio Annual Gathering!

—Kathy Russell  
Adult Leadership Education

## Support Our Missionaries

It is said that until you walk in someone else's shoes, you can't begin to know how others live or all they endure. So let's walk in others shoes and try to understand their struggle. Many people want to learn about Jesus Christ and need leaders. These people want to live in freedom, in peace. They need help with the HIV-AIDS problem and rescued from human trafficking.



The four Sundays in October will be our chance to support the many missionaries who will continue their work with so many concerns.

—Carol Serviss  
Mission Coordinator

## Sanctuary Painting Project

I would like to publicly thank Della Dove for her contribution to our Sanctuary Painting Project in remembrance of her husband (John Dove) and Ben Turney. Her note will be displayed on the bulletin board for anyone who might wish to see it.

Thanks to all who have contributed and pledged to make our Sanctuary Painting Project a reality. As of September 20, 2009, the Sanctuary Paint Project has received more than \$3,150 in donations and an additional \$5,260.00 has been pledged. Additional pledges and donations will be needed to fully fund the project but we are off to a great start. Thank you First Baptist and friends!

—Randy Turner  
Financial Secretary



## PLEDGE FOR SANCTUARY PAINTING

I pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per:  week  month  year (check one)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Update Your Church Directory

Julie's Wilson's new address is:

6555 Lynn Circle  
Leeds, AL 35094

## Trustees Notes

The Trustees would like to introduce you to our new renters. They are Joel and Jaqulynn Scott. Joel works at Advance Auto Parts and Jaqulynn is a dispatcher for the city police. They both attend High Point Nazarene, where Jaqulynn's mother is on the staff.

They contacted us the first day that Jimmie Moore put the "for rent" sign in the window! They wanted to redecorate the entire inside of the old parsonage in turn for us holding the rent at \$575 a month for the first year, which we were happy to do. They have been working inside since the middle of August and are doing a great job.

They will move in around the first of October, which is when the rent will start. They will pay all utilities. It was also agreed there will be no pets or smoking.

The gas had been shut off and the gas company required us to fix four small leaks in the basement lines. This work by Sunbury Plumbing and Heating cost \$219. After the gas was turned on, a small leak in the gas valve for the boiler was discovered. This required a new gas valve, pilot light assembly, and other work. A broken bolt in the boiler door had to be drilled out and replaced. A leaking water line in the basement had to be repaired. This work by Don Patrick cost \$697.31.



A graffiti artist has been drawing on the side and back doors of the church. The police were called. A thank you to Jimmie Moore for washing it off at least three times.



Jimmie Moore and Jerry Palmer power washed the aluminum siding on the exterior of the parsonage. It looks much better. Thank you, guys.

– Peter White  
Reporting for the Trustees

## Jean Wickum Honored for Her Military Service with a Trip to Washington, D.C.

*The Honor Flight Network ([honorflight.org](http://honorflight.org)) is a non-profit organization created to honor America's veterans. They transport veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at the memorials. Veterans of World War II are given a special priority and receive their trips free of charge.*

*Recently Jean Wickum was honored with a trip to Washington, and she tells about the trip in her letter below.*



Wow, what a Saturday!

On September 12th I was privileged to go on an Honors Flight to Washington, D.C. Eighty-some World War II veterans flew to Washington to spend a packed day of viewing memorials in our capitol city, with the special place the WWII monument. It is truly beautiful, and for those of us who served then, a very fitting memorial. (It even had "Kilroy Was Here" in four places!)

The Honor Flight organization has as its goal to get every WWII vet to see it, all for FREE. Each veteran who needed help in getting around was with a Guardian—someone to help on the bus steps, and to push your wheelchair. Mine was Carolyn Kay Riggle, Delaware City vice mayor. She was a big help, making sure I was comfortable, and that I didn't miss anything. We had a sunny day, with a breeze, so we got lots of pictures.

There were only three women vets on the flight. On the way to Baltimore I got to sit with Dorothy (in her 80s) who was a Navy Cadet nurse. She was still leading an active life. On the way back to Columbus I sat with Ruth, age 96, still living in Gahanna in a condo, still active in her church. She had been an Air Force radio operator in England during the war.

Perhaps most thrilling of all were the greeters in the airports. In Baltimore they were a bevy of young people newly in the services. Each shook your hand and thanked you for your service. But better still the huge welcome back in the Columbus airport. The place was full of Scout troops, both boys and girls, the DAR, service organizations, etc.

There was a little ceremony, the Scottish bagpipes played Amazing Grace, speeches were given, and much was made over us. We all sang "God Bless America", then we went home. Victor and Debbie Fogle were there and they brought me home.

I left home at 4:00 am, got back at 11 pm. It's taken a week to get my get-up-and-go back to normal.

And I'm glad to know that Victor is involved in this wonderful project.

–Jean Wickum

## Young at Heart

Young at Heart met last month for their usual good food and conversation. Pastor Tim was about to read us a poem by Edgar Guest about getting used to bifocals, but only one or two of us remembered Edgar Guest and his folksy poetry until I asked, "what if I said, 'It takes a heap of living in a house to make it a home' "? Then almost everyone recalled that poet.

We spent some time discussing the four basic tenants that are important to American Baptists, the Bible as our guidebook, the priesthood of the believer, the autonomy of the local parish, and the separation on church and state. Which ones were truly of importance to us, and we felt that *are* all very important. See, even though we have lots of fun times (Mostly poking fun at the problems of getting older) we also can get very serious.

– Jean Wickum, Convenor  
Young at Heart

## Car for Sale

Shirley Parker's daughter, Allison, sent this letter:

Dear All,

We have decided it's time to sell Mom's car. If any of you know someone who might be interested in a 1993 Buick LeSabre, let us know. I think the mileage is around 80,000. Kelly Blue Book sets it at \$1,200. We're asking \$1,000.

Andy will be in Delaware the weekend of September 25 to 27, so if you know anyone who might be interested, they can look at the car then. His cell is 267-251-9820.

They can also email (poaf449@windstream.net) or call me at 770-345-1779.

Thanks a lot,

Allison

## Andrews House Second Friday

Thanks to all who worked at Second Friday Dinner in September. We served 42 in-house and sent out 52 dinners. They all enjoyed the peach pies you furnished and so

my appreciation to all who made a contribution for pies.

At the September planning session, I again signed up for First Baptist to be Mixers and Greeters at the dinner on October 9. We need six volunteers to do this. Please let me know if you would like to be one of these six.

We will not be working again until after the January planning session. Andrews House appreciates all we do as a Partner Church.

— Evelyn Lee, 362-9107

## Kitchen Cupboard

Andrews House Fundraiser—The Kitchen Cupboard—will be held December 6. Once again we will have the huge cookie sale and the bake table. Please keep this date in mind and be thinking up what kitchen goodies you can contribute. More details will follow, but save the date.

— Evelyn Lee

## Pioneer Days

Pioneer Days will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, October 11 at Gallant Woods Preserve, 2151 Buttermilk Hill Road. It will feature crafts, demonstrations, apple-butter making, hay rides, and activities of living off the land in pioneer days of 1700–1850s.

Delaware Piecemakers Quilt Guild will give demonstrations and will have quilted items for sale.

Part of our proceeds will be used to purchase something to use in the Fellowship Hall, where we meet. One suggestion is a wheeled cart for folding chairs, like the one we used at Camp Christian to contain and move chairs when moving tables and/or cleaning floors. The Guild will, of course, work with the Trustees on any purchase.

Come join the fun!

— Jeannie Ekelberry

## Personals

- Fran Cook was hospitalized twice last month.
- Jean Syler is doing well after being treated for retina problems.
- Jim and Bertha Van Brimmer's son-in-law suffered a heart attack and had heart surgery with five by-passes.
- Betty Porter is staying temporarily at Sarah Moore Home.
- Tyler Wayne Fogle, son of Tim and Lisa Fogle, was dedicated during morning worship on August 23.
- Deborah Van Broekhoven attended our church with Harold on September 6. Deborah is executive director of the A.B.C. Library in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Will Fogle played violin recently during morning worship, accompanied by his grandmother, Mary Lou Lovell.
- Barbara Smith will be receiving a Master's Degree on Sunday, September 27, from the University of Phoenix. Congratulations!
- Claire Turner will attend Junior Leadership Conference in Washington.
- Jerry and Lana Palmer's grandson, a marine, is stationed now in Honolulu.
- Dave and Mary Lou Lovell visited Mary Lou's father in New York State.
- While playing golf on August 28, Jimmie Moore had a hole-in-one! And he has some pretty reliable witnesses, as he was playing with Pastor Tim and two area ministers. Jimmie has had only one other hole-in-one in his life, and his three golf partners that day had never seen one before. Congratulations!

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



- |        |                                                                 |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct. 1 | Bruce Bowman<br>Kathy Chesser                                   |
| 3      | Janet Lathrop<br>Jarrod & Nichelle Trigg<br>Tim & Kathy Chesser |
| 7      | Ann Brown                                                       |
| 20     | Jim Brown<br>Genevieve Peterson                                 |
| 24     | Emily Bowman                                                    |
| 26     | Adam Davidson                                                   |
| 28     | Bora Porter<br>Ed Linn                                          |
| 30     | Jean Osborne                                                    |
| 31     | Melissa Claire Turner                                           |

Please report any errors or omissions to Jim Stephenson.