



“SoJourn in this land, and I will be with you, and bless you!” (Gen. 26:3)

A Word from Wes

Come for Easter; stay for church.

That first Easter day, the faithful discovered something that evaded what seemed obvious to the world around them. The final word had not been uttered from the Cross. The WORD made flesh would dwell with the faithful.

In the encounters with the Risen Christ, his followers came to realize that they could not just go home and resume their “normal” lives. Things had forever changed for them and for the cosmos. Light had overcome darkness, love had overcome hatred, and life had overcome death. And, they could not merely take that truth home with them and be unconnected from each other.

God, through Jesus the Christ who was the creative WORD made flesh, had called into being a “Beloved Community”. Simply going home after Easter was not a viable possibility for them. Easter is not for isolated individuals or autonomous selves. Jesus was revealed to the company of witnesses.

So, I say, come for Easter; stay for church. That is to BE the church. The church is not a place we go; it is what we are called to be. The church is a sign to the world of the living Christ. His disciples (you

and I) are sent out into the world God “so loved”. Yet, in a paradoxical way, in that sending out there is also an abiding or staying. Jesus taught the early church that by “abiding in him” and by loving one another, they would be empowered by the Holy Spirit of truth and wisdom to pursue together God’s purposes in creation.

We are connected with God and with one another through what was accomplished in the saving work of Jesus the Christ. This is strangely redemptive. You see... no longer are our triumphs or tragedies merely individual. They become woven into the fabric of life in ways that defy our comprehension. The stuff of our lives becomes available to those around us who may be struggling with the circumstances of the times in which we live.

We contend with the whys and wherefores of our lives. Yet, when placed in the context of God’s abiding love made known in the suffering of Jesus and the power of the Resurrection, God’s love and light hits the prism and its multicolored rays strike a thousand places with hope and joy.

One cannot take that home and keep it to oneself.

So, come for Easter; but stay for church.

SENDING PRAYERS TO OUR FAMILY OF **FAITH**

Please remain in prayer for these people who are or have recently been under doctor's care: Patty Babian, Ray Sharp, Sandra Paran, Kelly Kestel, Vicki Schettling.

Please also keep in your prayers our homebound friends: Alice Adams, Enid Holliday, Norma Moore, Ray Sharp, Evelyn Morrell, Phil Lett, Frances Bramblett, Patty Babian, George and Margaret Edgington.

Use the following new phone number to reach Dave and Shirley McEwen in Florida: 239-596-0527.

We keep Myra and Collin Trask in our prayers as they travel to China as part of a school sponsored trip. Have a wonderful time!

We keep Tramale and Jackie Turner in our prayers as Tramale's grandmother passed away recently.

Many long-time members of FBC will remember Jack Akerly. He and his wife, Lela, were members of First Baptist for more than 50 years, members of the of the Stewardship Sunday School Class and active in every phase of the life of the church. Jack had been living in Florida. He died February 12, 2009 at the age of 96.



Happy April Birthdays!

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| April 1 | Thomas Howard |
| April 2 | David Van Doorne |
| April 4 | Kathy Charbeneau
Leona Frost |
| April 5 | Mac Schaffer |
| April 8 | John Trask |
| April 12 | Luke Murphy
Lynn Blocher |
| April 14 | Donna Ritchie |
| April 16 | Lyndsay Bennett
Mike Cannon |
| April 19 | Linda Sackett |
| April 20 | D J Martin
Midge Mills
Carolyn Switzer |
| April 22 | Donna Klipfel-Tuka
Madison Schaffer |
| April 28 | Keith Howard |
| April 29 | Tim Olsen |

2009 Officers: Moderator: Joan Trusty Moore; Vice Moderator: Dave Brault; Financial Secretary: Glenn Craig; Treasurer: Carol Olsen; Recording Clerk: Harriet Stewart; Membership Clerk: Kathy Charbeneau
 2009 Ministry Team Chairs: Jerri Poet (Deacons); Jodi Bly (Educational); Larry Phillips (Human Resources); Carol McWilliam (Physical Resources); Myra Trask (Stewardship); Robert Washburn (Outreach)

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 Director of Music & OrganistJack E. Ellis, M.M.



Mark Your Calendar!

We will gather together, as a church family, on Saturday, May 2, and travel to the First Congregational Church in Detroit to tour the church and its Underground railroad history. We will meet at the church at 11:00 for this field trip, the church expects us at 11:30AM. \$7 adult, \$5 16 years and younger. This cost reflects savings from subsidy. See Jodi Bly for tickets.

Afterward we will enjoy an all-church picnic at the Riverfront, an area that has been wonderfully renovated in recent years. Brown bag lunch.



A Look at the Financials

As of February 28, 2009

Pledged Income Actual	\$23,913
Pledged Income Budget	\$23,224
Pledged variance	\$ 689

Please continue to keep current with your pledges.



Diversity Champion Honor Roll Breakfast

All are invited to attend the Race Relations and Diversity Task Force Birmingham/Bloomfield Area's annual Diversity Champion Honor Roll Breakfast on Thursday, April 30. Registration begins at 7:30 AM. \$25 per person. Limited

Seating. Make checks payable to The Community House.

Our own Joan Trusty Moore is being recognized. Call the church office for more information.



From the Library

Bible Study is an important part of Christian life and an important part in the life of this church. It is so important that it was included in the Covenant we made with one another and with God... to encourage spiritual growth through family and personal devotion, Bible study, and prayer...and to teach and learn as a community. Bible study helps us grow in understanding and challenges the living of our faith.

The Church Library has many books to help with Bible study... different versions of the Bible, commentaries, study guides, topical texts. We have recently added a commentary series by Tom (N.T.) Wright, the "...for Everyone" series. Rev. Wright, named by Christianity Today as one of the top five theologians in the world, has undertaken to translate the books of the New Testament and guide the reader through them with clear, easily understood, insightful comments or as Eugene Peterson says "commentary that is learned without being stuffy, accessible without being reductionist."

This series can be found on the Library's Current Interest shelf during the month of March. Come on up and check out a book. The Library is ALWAYS open.



April Communion
Offering: White Cross

For many years, American Baptist's "helping hands" have been reaching out to people in need. During World War I, many church

women assisted the American Red Cross by providing surgical dressings, bandages, and other medical supplies for U.S. service personnel. In 1919, following the end of the war, two American Baptist women from Cleveland, Ohio organized the "White Cross Service League," channeling the war effort into support for Baptist mission.

White Cross has been embraced by local churches throughout the United States. Congregations are eager to fill specific requests from mission workers. Through White Cross gifts, church members provide urgently-needed supplies that cannot be purchased with limited mission budgets.

Through the years, American Baptist women have given leadership in this ministry, which now provides some \$800,000 annually in mission support. And entire congregations often work together to fill White Cross requests. The importance of White Cross is undiminished today, and the need for both funds and practical items is greater than ever. American Baptists are generous and caring people with a true heart for mission.

Special Services for Holy Week

Please plan to join us for these special services:

- Palm Sunday, April 5, 10:30AM
- Maundy Thursday, April 9, 7PM, Church Parlor
- Good Friday, April 10, 12 to 1PM
- Easter Sunday, April 12, 10:30 AM

**The MDAABC and DBU
 are Proud to Invite You to:
 The 2009 Metropolitan Detroit Association of
 American Baptist Churches
 and Detroit Baptist Union Annual Meeting**

- Sunday, April 26, 2009
 - Registration begins at 2:30PM
 - Meeting begins at 3PM
- Graciously Hosted by: Friendship Baptist Church
- Lead by Reverend Dr. Samuel White III
 - 3900 Beaubien, Detroit, MI 48201
 - With Speaker Reverend Jon Good Pastor, Covenant Baptist Church

Following the meeting dinner will be served in the Fellowship Hall. Giving us the opportunity to share not only a delicious meal together, but the joy of our faith around the tables.

- * A love offering will be received for Camp Lael*
- **Please bring canned goods and pantry items for donation to Detroit Friendship House in Hamtramck**

Cost of Registration is \$10 and includes the price of the meal.

Happy News!

Hazel Boltwood has a great-granddaughter. Her adoptive parents are Erika, Hazel's granddaughter, and Robert Alexander. They have been "on a list" for adoption for a very long time. Bob's cousin, living in St. Louis, Missouri, is the parent of a child by adoption whose mother called to ask if they knew anyone who would like to adopt a new baby. This child would be born in Texas in the Spring! They did, and a process began months ago. Having completed all the legal requirements in the State of Texas and the State of Michigan during the ensuing months, Erika and Bob were approved. They were notified of the impending birth, flew to Texas, and were there when Carlie Mary was born on March 9, 2009. Carlie came home to Royal Oak on March 24. Congratulations!

Prayer Request

(shared by Nancy Nabors)

Sandi Hasenauer (National) sent the following note out to AB Women asking for prayer. From Sandi.... I attended a lengthy meeting last night with several of the refugee youth from Burma who are struggling to negotiate our American high schools. Difficulties with language and class work are often superseded by conflicts with other students, jaded teachers, and school policies which have unintended consequences. They expressed their frustration that they have been unable to learn as much as they would like because of these difficulties. They asked for our prayers to help them be more successful in their efforts to transition into American society, learn English, and graduate from high school. So I'm spreading that prayer request further than those of us who were in the room. Please hold in your prayers all the refugees with the difficulties they face, but especially, right now, high school students. Pray also for the schools in which they are placed, often some of the less functional schools to begin with. May all students find equal opportunity to learn and be successful.



We have Burmese refugees coming into Michigan...many of whom we are raising money for camp as our 2008-09 project. Sandi was speaking to high school students, but having spoken with those working with refugees in Utica, NY, I know that even the elementary and jr. high students have similar struggles. Please do pray for these young people who are trying to survive in our schools and for the teachers and other students, that they might have compassion in dealing with the new comers and their lack of understanding of our ways that often are so different from their ways.



Prayer Request From Missionary Dan Buttry

Please pray for the Christians in Orissa, India. A Hindu militant leader was assassinated by Maoists this week. A similar killing last August sparked bloody and pervasive Hindu militant attacks against Christians. Pray for calm, sanity, protection and reconciliation.



Camp Information Gathering Tonight

Please plan to attend the **CAMP INFORMATION** event scheduled for this Sunday, March 29 at 5:30PM.

This will be a great opportunity to discover the many camping opportunities available to you and your families at a number of ABC sponsored camps in our state.

A meal will be provided. Join us tonight!



Workdays Scheduled

Please help us tackle a few repair projects, and clean up the grounds of the church April 25.

If you have ideas as to projects you would like to see worked on, please call the church office. Refreshments will be made available. All hands on deck!

The 2009 Camp Lael Work Weekend will be May 15th & 16th. This annual event allows our local churches to give back to the camp and help prepare it for the upcoming Summer Season. This single day of work accomplishes as much work as a few weeks due to the generous volunteers. Exact projects will be determined later, but contact Jim Davis now if you are interested in helping out.





B'Jazz Vespers is a wonderful way to introduce your church to friends and neighbors! Invite someone today!

Celebrating Our 13th Year!

Our next Vespers ...

Sunday, April 19, 2009 6 to 8PM

Featuring

Ray Kamalay and his Red Hot Peppers

In the early 1930's, small-band jazz enjoyed a heyday the likes of which it has not seen since. Stellar artists like Jack Teagarden, Billie Holiday, Django Reinhardt and Lonnie Johnson recorded sides which remain some of the finest in the history of the music. Ballads, melancholy and blue, and hot tunes, laced with exciting improvisation, graced the stages and ballrooms of America, telling stories of tragedy and joy and providing dancers with rhythm for their feet. Ray Kamalay and his Red Hot Peppers are reminiscent of this peculiar era. With some of the finest musicians in the Midwest, they have wowed audiences at some of the finest venues in North America, including Interlochen and the Philadelphia Folk Festival.

Ray Kamalay is the singer, guitarist and leader of the group. He has worked in concert with many fine artists, including James Dapogny, Jethro Burns, and Howard and Ralph Armstrong. In 1998, Ray's work with Howard Armstrong was nominated for the W. C. Handy Award. Ray also lectures on the college level with a talk called, "Freedom, Slavery and American Popular Music". His anecdotes are often highlights of the show.

Gary Shunk, on piano, is another musical powerhouse. For the past thirty years he has been the top studio pianist in Metropolitan Detroit. As such he has toured and recorded extensively with the Temptations, the Spinners, Gladys Knight, and Funkadelic. But he is best known for his superb jazz playing. His CD, "Key Player" received the "Keyboards On Fire" Award from Jazziz Magazine. He has had successful collaborations with Joe Williams, Earl Klugh, Sonny Stitt, Kenny Burrell, Anita O'Day and Mark Murphy. Gary's playing fills the Red Hot Peppers with fire and aplomb.

Paul Keller brings up the bottom on bass. A stunning talent, Paul is simply one of the most accomplished bassists in the United States. Many national appearances with such luminaries as Diana Krall and Tom Saunders are only part of the story. Paul's big band, the Paul Keller Orchestra, has long set the standard for bands in this part of the country. And Paul is no stranger to the Jazz Vespers Series, but in this appearance it's a simple trio of old friends.

A Message from ABCUSA General Secretary A. Roy Medley

The situation in Darfur remains one of severe suffering and oppression as the genocide continues. But it has been with us so long that for some its horrors have become muted by other ensuing crises.

Christians across the country are being asked to remember Darfur and to act on its behalf as April has been designated a month of sermons and service by the Save Darfur coalition.

Jerry Fowler, president of Save Darfur has written "Over 200 years ago, twelve men met in an ordinary printer's shop in an ordinary London neighborhood. What they started that day eventually changed the world...They set out to abolish the slave trade...Today we are engaged in the struggle to end a genocidal catastrophe in the Darfur region of Sudan."

I invite American Baptists to add their voices to those of others who seek justice for Darfur and the suffering of the Christian Church there. Dr. Michael Kinnamon of the NCC reminds us that even as their suffering "...brings Christians back to the horrific death suffered by Jesus on the cross, we also believe that his resurrection brings everlasting life to all the world...It is therefore fitting that, as we approach our celebrations of the Resurrection, we try our best to restore life and dignity to those suffering in Darfur."

You will find many resources available on the Save Darfur website: savedarfur.org. (ref. abc-usa.org)

A Good Quote

"Try not to become a man of success but rather to become a man of value."

Albert Einstein

US (German-born) physicist (1879 - 1955)



Daily Prayers For This Month

Each morning when you get up, take a brief moment to say the prayer written below. See if, by the end of the week, having made this time for God's word, somehow, your life has changed for the better, your outlook has become brighter, your spirit, stronger. These prayers are taken from the "Seasons of the Spirit" lectionary materials.

March 29, 2009

We seek you with our whole hearts, O God. Draw us into the embrace of your loving and merciful promise, and teach us to live in your ways. Then make us bold to reach out and draw others into the joy of living in communion with you Amen.

April 5, 2009

Holy God, we rejoice in this day you have given us. Be gracious in our times of questioning, and make us bold followers of Jesus he Christ. Amen.

April 12, 2009

Alleluia! We praise you, O God, for Christ has conquered death! Make all things new in our lives this day. Dwell in us, that we may proclaim to the world the good news of Easter Day. Amen.

April 19, 2009

Risen Christ, breathe upon us your spirit of new life. Where we cannot see, help us to keep our minds open toward faith. Strengthen us as we seek to know you, and help us to grown in love fro you and for each other. Amen.

Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

March, 29, 2009
“Deep in Our Hearts” ~ Jeremiah 31:31-34

April 5, 2009
“Into Jerusalem” ~ Mark 14:1-15:47

April 12, 2009
“What Now?” ~ Mark 16:1-8

April 19, 2009
“Marks of Faith” ~ John 20:19-31

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