

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

Remember with Love and Give with Gratitude

Dear Friends,

Thank You check recipients and others who received financial assistance from the 2009 Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering were over whelmed by the generosity of American Baptist congregations in the midst of the most severe recession since the Great Depression.

George and Charlotte Gillespie, Moorestown, NJ wrote: “We deeply appreciate the members of our ABC congregations—many of whom may have been dealing with their own financial problems—who contributed to the RMMO our of their love, loyalty and faith.”

Contributions to the RMMO in 2008 totaled \$1,383,537. Of that amount, 57% was distributed as Thank You checks to 3,238 retired American Baptist ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses. The average check was \$258.69.

Thirty-eight percent was made available to people with emergency and other heavy financial needs, and 5% was used for administrative expenses.

Please join me as we Remember with Love and Give with Gratitude to those who have dedicated their lives to Christian ministry. Please make a generous contribution to the RMMO on Sunday, January 3, 2009.

Your gift makes a difference. Please use the enclosed envelope to share your gift.

Sincerely,

Robert Washburn, Chair
Outreach Ministry Team

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, Collin Trask, Kelly Kestel, Vicki Schettling, Sandra Paran.

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

We keep Collin Trask in our prayers as he continues to work with his doctors.

We keep Patty Babian in our prayers as she continues under doctor's care.

Phil Lett would love to hear from you
2761 Bella Vista Lane, Boulder, CO 80302
Tel: 303.442.3896

Esther Houstina was briefly hospitalized this month. She is home now. She sends her thanks for birthday cards and reminds the congregation of her new winter address at: Inn at Cass Lake, Room 125, 900 N. Cass Lake Rd., Waterford, Michigan 48328, Phone 248-681-0694.

Happy January Birthdays!

January 1	Eve Tyson
January 2	Fran McEvoy
January 3	Paul Arnegard
January 6	Erik Arnegard
	Jackie Nixon Turner
January 11	Sue Charlick
January 13	Leta Rensahw
January 15	Elaine Blocher
January 16	Collin Trask
January 19	Paul Tyson
January 27	Jonathan Nabors

I Am The New Year

"I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.

All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.

All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have—these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, "Behold, I make all things new."

(Bible Illustrator/www.appleseeds.org)

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)

Published on the last day of the month by First Baptist Church, 300 Willits, Birmingham, Michigan 48009-3300. (248) 644-0550
Second Class Postage paid in Birmingham, Michigan.
Notices for the SoJournal should be in writing to the Church Office.

Ministers All Members of this Church
PastorRev. Dr. J. Wesley Babian
Office Manager/PublicistLeslie Eldh Jaquez, M.P.A.
Director of Music & OrganistJack E. Ellis, M.M.



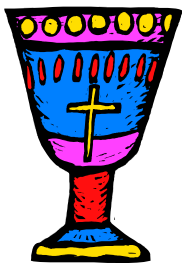
SAVE THIS DATE!
11th ANNUAL MEN'S
PRAYER BREAKFAST

For the Men and Boys of the Metro
Detroit Association
Saturday, February 20, 2010
8:30 - 10:30am

1st Baptist Church of Detroit
21200 Southfield Rd.
Southfield, MI.

Our guest speaker will be
Rev. Jerome Stevenson
Pastor
Transforming Ministries,
Dayton, Ohio

There's no charge for the meal.
A special mission offering will be
received.



Our January
Communion Of-
fering will go in
support of the Re-
tired Ministers
and Missionaries
Offering.



A Look at the Financials

As of November 30, 2009

Pledged Income Actual	\$172,643
Pledged Income Budget	<u>\$182,340</u>
Pledged Variance	(\$ 9,697)

Please keep current with your pledges.

YTD Total Expense \$255,387
YTD Total Income \$251,337
(~~\$4,050~~)

Our spending is exceeding our income.

Friendship House Opportunity

Any bored retirees out there? Empty-nesters? Unemployed recent college grads? Stay-at home moms looking for a little diversion (and adult conversation)? Friendship House is looking for volunteers to assist with answering phones, scheduling appointments, and if the interest is there, completing client intake forms for our food pantry. The hours can be flexible, but we would like coverage for as much of the following as possible: Mondays 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (*We are closed on Wednesdays*) Thursdays 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Fridays 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It would be possible to volunteer to cover a couple of hours. Perhaps two friends could split a shift (job share). If you can volunteer for any of these time slots or partial time slots, please call Kim or Linnea at 313-871-7443. (ref:ELink)

The Giving Wreath

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Giving Wreath program this year for Judson Center. Sharing God's gifts with those less fortunate is truly a two-way blessing!

Breaking The Chains of Slavery:

January 11 is the
official Human
Trafficking Awareness Day
Sponsored by AB Women

Advent Luncheon a Wonderful Event

The Metro Detroit AB Women's Ministries Advent gathering, Dec. 5th, was a great success, thanks to the ladies of FBC Birmingham. Women from throughout the metropolitan area came together in our Fellowship Hall for worship, lunch, and this year, for shopping!

The women used song, scripture and Chrismons, to help them focus on the amazing event that is Christmas. They learned about work of Global Gifts, as a way to help poor and marginalized women feed their families. They enjoyed fellowship and a delicious meal served by our young women and girls.

Here are some interesting side effects of this event:

- ♥ We renewed friendships and strengthened goodwill within our Metro area,
- ♥ We encouraged our young women and girls and in turn were encouraged by them,
- ♥ Global Gifts sold around \$1000 in goods, much to the area women. That will support a third-world family for a year.
- ♥ 30% of the cost of our meal went for locally grown milk, eggs, apples, onions, or fair trade (coffee) thus supporting our economy and Michigan farmers, as well as small South American coffee-growing families.
- ♥ With the proceeds from the luncheon, we were able to send over \$100 to support the Hungpung Clinic in Manipur, India. Hungpung Clinic was started as a direct result of our 2007 Mission trip to the Naga people.
- ♥ The dessert Christmas Cookies that were left over were sent to Covenant Ministries for the 200 patron who will seek food help for their families during December.
- ♥ And last, but not least, our guests enjoyed the meal so much, they bought 8 of our church cook books! These proceeds will go to the organ fund.

"Thank you" to all who made the day such fun:

- . you who organized the room setup or took pictures,
- . you who cleaned and made the ladies' room inviting,
- . you who decorated Fellowship Hall and made the tables so lovely,
- . you who cooked, brought Christmas cookies or homemade rolls,
- . you who served with such beautiful smiling faces,
- . you who helped with clean-up,
- . you who shared with the women words about God's love.

Each of you were a part of making the day come together in such a special way.

God blessed us and accomplished good work through us. What a perfect way to begin our wait for the coming of the baby God sent to be our Savior!

SAVE THE DATE
for the joint Camp
Lael/Friendship
House Comedy
Fundraiser

**Thursday, January
28, 2010**

Mark Ridley Comedy
Club, Royal Oak;
Tickets: \$25
Details to follow

GLOBAL GIFT SHOP MEWS

We had a
TERRIFIC
year! Thank you
to everyone that
made our Shop a
wonderfully
success mission!

Playground Progress!

The fence has been installed, the flower and vegetable beds are completed and awaiting their spring planting, the back new safe and sturdy stair case is being installed.



Many Thanks

To the members of the Church Council and The members of First Baptist Church

Jo and I are humble and blessed to have received such an amazing monetary gift in celebration of our twenty years of service in Birmingham. We know that we are the ones that should be giving the gifts back, because we have always received far more from our friends, our fellow workers, and our God than we could ever completely acknowledge. We ran into a former student of ours this week who performed in a number of special musical presentations with us. Although its been more than seven years since she's been here, she still recalls with great clarity the love and appreciation that she received from so many in our congregation. What a great acknowledgment of the "Love song" that always runs through this great group of God's people! The choir sang Joseph Martin's new anthem "I Thank You, Lord" this fall. It was sung this summer at Green Lake, and we knew that this was "right" for us. The words say far better than we can our appreciation for our service here. Thank you again!

Jack and Jo Ellis

*Lord, when I think upon the music of my life, Your songs of joy,
your love songs in the night. I'm filled with wonder and with
praise At the beauty of your grace. I thank you, Lord, I thank you,
Lord And when I gather in this house, your sacred place, And
when I sing the hymns and anthems of my faith, I'm filled with
hope and gratitude as I lift my heart to you, I thank you, Lord,
I thank you, Lord.*

Local Church Seeks Assistance with SOS Program

First Baptist Church of Ferndale is scheduled to host SOS January 3 through 10. They are in need of help with the food portion of this project - mainly casseroles. Please call Judy McRobb - 248 840-2408, if you can help.

FH's 4th Sunday Supper Program Seeks Support

Friendship House's 4th Sunday Supper Program has openings on March 28 and April 25. If you can bring and serve a light supper for about 45-50 people between 4-6 p.m., call Kim at 313-871-7443.

Mark Your Calendars!

South Oakland Shelter Coming to First Baptists Birmingham February 7-13.



WINTER WEEKENDS AT CAMP LAEL

The theme for the 2010 Winter Weekends is
"My Comfort, My Shelter"
2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Dates:

February 5-7 Family Camp
February 12-14 Junior weekend for 3-6 grade
February 19-21 Junior/Senior High
February 26-28 Junior/Senior High
Speakers and Music leaders to be announced.

Cost: \$75 for students, \$65 for adult
Chaperones.

Camp Lael is located in Lapeer about 60 miles
north of Detroit.

Cost includes two overnights, four meals,
snacks, lodging and program.

Update on Camping Task Force

by Rev. Heidi DeMott Shanes, ABC-MI Immediate Past President

It was a pleasure to serve as ABC-MI President, 2008-2009. During my term, the Executive Committee charged me with appointing a new camping task force. As I shared in my annual report to delegates in October, "The task force is not another layer of bureaucracy, nor does it signify a change in direction as it applies to camping ministry in our Region. Instead, the appointment of the camping task force signals a reaffirmation of the decision made by the Executive Committee on September 23, 2008, that both Camp Lael and Camp Lake Louise must achieve independence by September 2011. It also represents an intentional effort to keep consistency and continuity in the process through the final two years of transition."

It is my pleasure to report to the ABC-MI family that the Camp Task Force held its first meeting on November 11. The meeting was positive and productive, and all parties agreed to several next steps which are currently being executed. The next task force meeting will be held on January 19, 2010. (ref: abc-mi.org/E-Link)



International Ministries

For the latest journal entry from missionary Dan Buttry go to the following link:
<http://www.internationalministries.org/read/15837>

The article is also posted in the Welcome Center.

FBCB Annual Meeting

We will have our Annual Meeting at the end of the month of January. Please have all ministry team reports submitted to the office no later than Monday, January 18. Thank You.



Race Relations & Diversity Task Force

at The Community House, 380 South Bates, Birmingham

Regional Roots: The Birth & Evolution of Detroit and Its People

March 23, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

The Diversity Task Force is proud to present this remarkable video and discussion.

There is no charge for this event but please RSVP to mw01bps@birmingham.k12.mi.us

FBCB Hosts Local Non-Profit Event

FBCB will be the host site of the Birmingham Bloomfield Community Coalition's Band Jam. This is the second time we will have this group using fellowship hall. The organization's mission is to provide healthy recreation alternatives to youth and young adults. They will be here Friday, January 15, in the evening. The youth who attend this event call FBCB "The Little Stone Church" and very much appreciate our willingness to support their efforts.



A New Year's Prayer:

May our days be satisfied with nothing more than we need.
May our words be filled with nothing more than grace.
May our actions be filled with nothing more than love.
And may our lives be filled with nothing more than God,
that this world might be transformed by compassion.

(Seasons of the Spirit)



The next Jazz Vespers is Sunday, January 17, 2010 Celebrating Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday with the GEQ Jazz Quartet.. 6 to 8 PM.

Announcements

- We will again host First Night events in Fellowship Hall on December 31. If you can lend a hand, please call Robert Washburn.
- Learning Community Classes and Bible Study Groups will begin again shortly. Please call the church office for further details.
- The FBCB Downtown Readers have just started the book *Simply Christian* by N.T.Wright. All are welcome to join this learning and fellowshiping group. Call the church office for their next meeting date.



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.

December 27, 2009

We seek you, Jesus. Open our eyes and minds, our ears and hearts, to your presence among us in infancy's wonder, in childhood's growth, in youthful searching, and in adult's stature. Guide our seeking, that it may lead to wisdom's source and path. Amen.

January 3, 2010

Hold us close, Creator God, and whisper your words of love and transformation into our hearts. Reveal your Christ at work in the world among us, and give us the courage to listen and follow. Amen.

January 10, 2010

How we long to be affirmed, O God, to be told we are loved and valued. To hear such words would be almost too good to be true. Strengthen our hearts to hear your voice speaking those words to us. Open our hearts to cling to your all-embracing love. Amen.

January 17, 2010

God of feast, Holy One of abundant joy and overflowing grace, open us to you. Open us to trust in love that never runs out, open us to follow your leading to amazing renewal. Open us to the Christ who comes to make all things good. Amen.

Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

December 27, 2009
Who Is This Child? ~ Luke 2:41-52

January 3, 2010
Close to God's Heart ~ John 1:(1-9), 10-18

January 10, 2010
Affirmed By Love ~ Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17, 2010
Extravagant Sign ~ John 2:1-11

SoJournal
First Baptist Church
300 Willits
Birmingham, MI 48009-3300
(USPS 528-560)

*Postmaster: Address correction requested within
30 days of mailing.*

Periodical

December 27, 2009