



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

With Willing Hands

THE AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING

Dear Friends,

As I survey our community, I see countless people in need of Jesus’ love and healing touch. You may ponder, as I do, how you can reach out and make a difference in so many lives. It’s a difficult challenge to take on as an individual, but I am convinced that as American Baptists working together, we can make a difference by supporting the America for Christ Offering 2010. The year’s them—“With Willing Hands: Connect. Care. Celebrate.” - is a powerful reminder that Jesus’ public ministry was all about connecting and caring for people in need. Through the work of National Ministries, which is supported by the America for Christ Offering, we can participate with our Lord in connecting, caring, and celebrating the power of the Gospel:

- As people come to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ;
- As children in poverty are reached through the Penny Project;
- As youth, children and adults grown in discipleship;
- As communities are changed through Christian centers;
- As we increase church vitality through the Church in Mission trainings; and
- As we help to support and relocate refugees into church ad communities.

The America for Christ Offering 2010 strengthens our churches by providing support to our pastoral counselors and chaplains, designing leadership workshops and conferences, promoting excellent discipleship resources through Judson Press, and providing opportunities for churches, individuals and youth groups to participate in home mission through Volunteer Ministries.

We are encouraged by this year’s theme to come alongside people “with willing hands” to connect, care and celebrate. How do we see Jesus at work in our community and country? How can we help Jesus with this important work?

Please join me in giving generously to the America for Christ Offering 2010 and help us to reach our goal. Together we can touch and change lives for the cause of Christ. Together we can make a difference. “For the love of Christ urges us on ...” (II Corinthians 5:14-15).

Sincerely in Christ,
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.

Marjorie Charter remains under doctors care.

Charles and Frances Morse is at Evergreen Nursing facility recuperating

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

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

Audrey Holtz has returned from New York after a visit with her daughter.

Many thanks to Evelyn Morrell for her continued work recruiting cookies for our Communion Sunday receptions.

Keep our snow birds in your prayers.



Happy March Birthdays!

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| March 1 | Christopher Micheal |
| March 3 | Carol McWilliam |
| March 6 | Amy Howard |
| March 8 | Lindsay Cannon |
| March 9 | Hannah Darin |
| March 10 | Angela Kestel |
| March 11 | Keely Tyson |
| March 18 | Laura Lee Strawser |
| March 24 | Morgan Darin |
| March 28 | Norma Moore |
| March 29 | Joellyn Ellis, Patty Darin |

Adult Learning Community:

Pastor's Parlor Class is working with the book, "Reaching Out" by Henri Nouwen.

Jim Poe continues teaching the Christian Forum Class using the Judson Journeys curriculum.

All are encouraged to join a learning class today!

2010 Officers: Moderator: Dave Brault; Vice Moderator: Brian Blaesing; Financial Secretary: Glenn Craig; Treasurer: Carol Olsen; Recording Clerk: Harriet Stewart; Membership Clerk: Kathy Charbeneau
 2010 Ministry Team Chairs: Judy Phillips (Deacons); Harriet Stewart (Educational); Sarah Clarkson (Human Resources); Carol McWilliam (Physical Resources); Myra Trask (Stewardship); Robert Washburn (Outreach)

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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.



Flower Calendar

There are many Sundays available for congregation members to purchase flowers for the year

2010. Please sign up in the Welcome Center. Make checks payable to FBCB. The church office will call you to confirm type of arrangement you would prefer and the message you want in the bulletin in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Global Gifts Haiti Update

From the SERRV website where we get our merchandise for our Global Gifts Shop comes the following news.

"Staff in our New Windsor, MD, location prepared a shipment for Haitian artisans. In it were supplies that Gisele, the director of our partner Comite Artisanal Haitien, specifically requested for the artisans. These supplies include:

- 10 7' x 7' dome tents, 40 crank flashlight/radio combos (each unit is a flashlight and a radio), 40 single sheets
- 15 full-size sheets, 100 towels, 70 bars of soap, 220 cans of tuna, 5 cans of salmon, 200 bags of rice, 45 cans of pasta with sauce."

Please continue to support Global Gifts. By doing so you help support relief in Haiti and disadvantaged people around the world. Merchandise from Haiti can be found in the Global Gift Shop.



A Look at the Financials

As of January 31, 2010

Pledged Income Actual	\$16,827
Pledged Income Budget	<u>\$12,634</u>
Pledged Variance	\$ 4,193
YTD Total Expense	\$24,308
YTD Total Income	<u>\$24,209</u>
Variance	\$99

News from International Ministries Regarding Haiti



Contributions totaling \$328,454 have been received so far by IM for Haiti earthquake relief. A draft proposal identifying \$1 million in needs over the short and medium term has been received from our partner, the Convention of Baptists in Haiti.

Kristy Engel, a pediatric nurse practitioner and IM missionary in the Dominican Republic (DR), leads weeklong rotating volunteer medical teams to Port-au-Prince. During one four-day rotation period they treated nearly 1,000 patients. Ketly and Vital Pierre, IM missionaries in Nicaragua, and Dr. Adalia Schellinger-Gutierrez, IM missionary in Mexico, have joined these teams.

Madeline Flores-Lopez, IM missionary in the DR, works with her colleagues to provide medical care to Haitian victims being brought to the Contreras Hospital in Santo Domingo.

Dr. Steve and nurse Nancy James, IM missionaries in Haiti are working with earthquake victims in clinics in the north and coordinating the response with our partners.

Note: The ten people arrested for child trafficking in Haiti are not members of churches affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA or International Ministries. (abc-mi.org/ELink)

For more information go to abc-mi.org.

AB Women's Ministries Events July 10-15, 2010

Ramada Plaza Hotel & Conference Center in Columbus, Ohio

An array of workshops to help you explore God's purpose for you and the church

Exciting off-site tours and activities

Interaction with AB Girls

Inspiring Worship

Speakers to include:

Rev. Dr. Christine Rousch, Bible Study leader, VP of Church Relations and Advancement for Rainbow Acres, an American Baptist Home for developmentally disabled adults in Arizona.

Rev. Marilyn Turner, Sunday morning preacher, associate executive director, Program Ministries for National ministries, ABCUSA

Rev. Dr. Adalia Gutierrez Lee, Missionary Speaker, IA Missionary ministering to survivors of domestic violence at Deborah's House, Mexico

Pam Noah, Music & Worship Leader, Christian recording artist, choir director and worship leader from Ohio.

Also being held that weekend...

The National Gathering for Girls

is planned for all girls who have completed grades 6 to 12. Highlights include two day-long mission trips off-site; teach and learn, lead and follow, and serve Jesus by serving others.

Time for fun at a pool party, ice cream social and talent show!

Find ore details on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center.

Many Thanks to Gateway School

If you see someone from Gateway while you are in the building be sure to thank them for all of the fresh fruit they provided for South Oakland Shelter. This is not the first year that the parents and staff have supported SOS in this manner. Having fresh fruit this time of year is a luxury for some. Their wonderful contribution should not go unnoticed. So say Thanks!

March Communion Offering

Will go on support
of America for
Christ, an annual
offering that funds
program in the
USA.



Many Thanks!

Many thanks to everyone who lent a hand during the week we hosted South Oakland Shelter. It was a wonderful group effort to share hospitality with a truly grateful group of people.

Daylight Savings Time:
Spring Ahead
March 14th!
(Come on Spring!)

Rev. Ed Willingham Honored

WACC is pleased to announce that four outstanding communicators have agreed to become Honorary Life Members of the Association. This brings to only 19 the number of members acknowledged through Honorary Life Membership.

The Honorary Life Membership is awarded by WACC's Board of Directors to communicators who have served WACC, religious communications and the cause of communication rights throughout their careers and whose work is characterized by dedication, integrity, and achievement.

Ed Willingham, a Baptist minister, worked for three decades with the Council of Churches of Detroit and Windsor (a USA/Canadian border city alliance), first as communication officer and eventually as Executive Director. During his years at the Council, Ed became well known on both sides of the border and to this day takes some pride in celebrating religious, civic and cultural events in both Canada and the USA.

He was a delegate to the conference in 1968 that gave birth to WACC, where the old WACC (once WACBroadcasting) was merged with the North American committee, RAVEMCCO.

Ed is well known for his work with the North America Broadcast Section of WACC. Present in Toronto at the founding meeting of a group of North American ecumenical communicators that decided to form NABSWACC, Ed was the Business Manager (a ¼ time position) of NABS for nearly 30 years.

During that time, NABS held yearly conventions of one-week duration in which ecumenically minded communicators from the faith communities of Canada and the USA gathered for inspiration, information, renewal and fellowship. The annual gathering was recognized as the largest annual ecumenical event held in the world. Each convention held premieres of about-to-be-released Hollywood films, theme speakers from the field of broadcasting, workshops on new technologies and production techniques, worship, evenings to share latest productions by attendees, and lots of time for networking. Even though NABS has not met since 2001, Ed has continued to keep the network alive through a monthly newsletter in which past attendees report on current travels, life experiences and professional developments.

Our Lenten Journey...

- We will have a very special **Maundy Thursday** service in The Upper Room (church parlor) on April 1.

The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin name for the day, *Dei Mandatum*, which means "The day of the new commandment." The service is linked with four elements of faith—the serving of each other and our being prepared to be served by Jesus, the New Commandment, the origins of the Eucharist, and the journey of Jesus towards the cross.

- The Good Friday service this year will be held at First Presbyterian Church, however, we will open our sanctuary to the public as well.



The M.O.S.E.S. Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 6 at 6PM at the Burton Manor in Livonia. Anyone interested in attending should contact MOSES at 313-962-5290. \$35 per person.



Upcoming Youth Events

- Friday, March 5, 2010 ~ Supper at church ~ Make birthday kits for Friendship House ~ Fun and games
- Friday, April 30, 2010 ~ Camp night/lock-in/overnight at church ~ Bring gently used stuffed animals for donation to Friendship House ~ Fun and games
- Saturday, May 15, 2010 ~ Help church seniors with yard work
- Friday, June 4, 2010 ~ Go to IMAX movie
- June 2010 ~ Do project with Greening of Detroit

Paper Vs. Electronic Newsletter

If anyone receiving a paper version of this newsletter can take it as an emailed electronic file instead, please call Leslie in the office at 248-644-0550 or email her at firstbaptistbirm@sbcglobal.net. Electronic distribution is much more affordable for the church. Thank You!

NOTICE: We are collecting for Friendship House Birthday kits packs of balloons, napkins, plates, cake mix and frosting, birthday candles, streamers or any decorations. Please bring donations to the church office.

Camp Task Force Update – February 2010

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

The Camp Task Force held its second meeting on January 19, 2010 at Crosspointe Meadows Church in Novi. The meeting agenda centered on presentations given by leadership from Camp Lael and Camp Lake Louise. Each presentation included a 2009 Report and a preliminary 2010 Business Plan. The production of written business plans was an important milestone in moving Camp Lael and Camp Lake Louise toward independence. The one year business plans are intended to serve as a foundation for the development of comprehensive, multi-year plans. I appreciate the time and effort that Mr. Jim Davis and Mr. Mark Stephenson put into developing each of their respective plans.

I am pleased to report that both camps ended the year 2009 with revenues exceeding expenses. Furthermore, Camp Lake Louise paid off all debt owed to the Region. Camp Lael made significant efforts toward repaying its remaining debt, which as of December 31, 2009, totaled \$58,375.21 (without any 2009 audit adjustments).

Both camps have given thought to the areas of fundraising, operating capital, future endowments, and facility improvement needs. They are carefully reviewing their camp program offerings and are seeking to expand and revise their offerings to meet current trends in camping.

The January Camp Task Force meeting was positive and exciting. We continued to build a cooperative spirit by reaffirming our definition of “independence.” With this common understanding and goal in front of us, additional action steps were identified which are now being worked on.

It was my pleasure to inform the ABC-MI Executive Committee of the notable strides that have been made since November 2009. I look forward to delivering another positive report at the ABC-MI Region Board meeting in April.

Thank you for your continued support of Camp Lael, Camp Lake Louise, ABC-MI, and the work of the Camp Task Force.



***Our next program will be held on
Sunday, March 21, 2010
from 6 to 8 PM.***

Bring a friend!

Notes to Consider

- We need delegates for the ABC-MI Metro Area Annual Meeting that will be held on March 11. Pick up an information packet in the Welcome Center.
- See recent news of the Haiti Relief effort from Wayne Niles, International Missionary posted next to the church office.
- Plan to attend a special Concert for Haiti Relief on Sunday, April 25, 4 to 6 PM with the Paul Keller Trio. \$20 minimum donation. Paul and his Ensemble will present their version of a "Nat King Cole Trio" Should be an excellent show for a very important cause.



**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.

February 28, 2010

O God, our light and our salvation, show us the splendor of your promises. Whether we find comfort or discomfort in your ways, send your Spirit to strengthen us as we follow. Amen.

March 7, 2010

God of table and God of open door, thank you for your invitation. You feed the deep places in our spirits and speak the words that evoke turning for the good. Send your Spirit to guide us in turning toward and trusting in you. Amen.

March 14, 2010

Your embrace, O God, is our life and our hope. Receive us when we drift off into recklessness and despair. Receive us when we drift off into self-righteousness and resentment. We thank you for grace that embraces us, and all, with love. Amen.

March 21, 2010

God of creation, form us as your people. Form us to learn from the past, but not live in it, as we move into your future. Form us to listen for your voice—springing forth in creation, breaking out in Spirit, and calling all to something new. Amen.

February 28, 2010

Visit Our Websites at: firstbaptistbirmingham.org and bjazzevengers.org
E-Mail: firstbaptistbirm@sbcglobal.net

Sofournal
First Baptist Church
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Birmingham, MI 48009-3300
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Periodical

Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

February 28, 2010
“Strong and Tender” ~ Luke 13:31-35

March 7, 2010
“Open Invitation” ~ Isaiah 55:1-9

March 14, 2010
“Embracing Love” ~ Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 21, 2010
“Something New” ~ Isaiah 43:16-21