



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

A Word from Wes

Daylight evaporated in last few weeks.

As I try to get out and walk in the afternoon, the other day, I said to myself, “All of a sudden, it’s getting dark early!” It seems especially so this year. I guess it is because of the shift from Daylight Savings to Eastern Standard Time. So, the cycles of nature were being compounded by the processes we use to regulate our lives. It just surprised me how quickly this happened..., and I am still walking toward winter.

The people of God long awaited the coming of Messiah. Mary and Joseph awaited the birth of their first-born. Their expectations were met in surprising ways. The Gospel account tells us that this surprise was announced to shepherds tending their sheep in fields by night. They were filled with terror when an angel appeared to them. However, the angel said, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy which shall be for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” They were given instructions as to how find the child.

Then, we read, “And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those on whom his favor rests.’” (Luke 2). Suddenly, everything had changed. The powers that held sway over the created order and humanity were beginning to be usurped.

Suddenly, God’s rule of hope, peace, joy and love were dawning in history and on the lives of the people. Suddenly.

I was surprised at the early darkness caused by the time change. Long ago, there came among us One who changed the times!

Even as there is darkness, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1: 5) God’s amazing grace has answered the cries of creation for liberation and life with the cries of an infant and the cries of the Son of Man from the Cross. In birth of the Christ Child the journey toward wholeness and salvation began to be completed.

So now, with the good news of the empty tomb, suddenly there is light and life of a new imagining. We can be empowered by God’s Spirit to the pursuit of God’s rule of justice/love in every season and in every time of history and of life.

Winter is approaching. I may have to walk in the shadows, in the twilight, and even in dark times. But, I can also hear the song of the heavenly host and words of the prophet, “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” (Isaiah 60: 1)

Wes Babian, Pastor

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, Barbara Diederich and Esther Houstina.

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.

Barbara Diederich's new address is: Arden Courts 24005 W. 13 Mile Road Bingham Farms, MI 48025

We continue to keep Collin Trask and his family in our prayers.

We continue prayers for Wes and Patty Babian and their family as they continue to work with doctors.

We keep our snow-birds in warmer climates in our prayers during this season.



Happy December Birthdays!

- December 1 Archie Black
- December 3 William Chartier
- December 4 David Drake
- December 7 Jon Burleigh
- December 8 Mark Sackett
Wendy Schaffer

- December 10 Marilyn Lin
- December 12 Tonya Cheney
Ray Gardner

- December 14 Margaret Edgington
- December 16 Robert Washburn
- December 17 Myra Trask
Christie Camaiore

- December 18 Janelle Jones
- December 19 Kelsey Darin
Glenn Howard
Marjorie Eberly

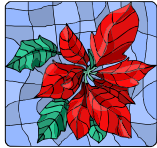
- December 20 Joyce Griffin
Kirk McWilliam

- December 24 Harriet Stewart
- December 26 Harriet Kleinfelder
- December 27 Chares Griffin

2010 Officers: Moderator: Dave Brault; Vice Moderator: Brian Blaesing; Financial Secretary: Glenn Craig;
 Treasurer: Carol Olsen; Recording Clerk: Nancy Nabors; 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)

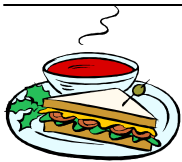
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 Director of Music & OrganistJack E. Ellis, M.M.



Poinsettia Plants

Christmas plants can be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one. The plants will adorn our sanctuary beginning Sunday, December 19th. Gifts will be recognized in the bulletins beginning December 19. Plants cost \$7.50 each. Cards are available in the Welcome Center.



Lunch Ladies News

The group will meet again on December 8 at 11AM at Peabody's Restaurant. All are invited to attend and enjoy this fellowship opportunity!



A Look at the Financials

As of October 31, 2010

Pledged Income Actual	\$149,975
Pledged Income Budget	<u>\$154,205</u>
Pledged Variance	(\$4,230)

YTD Total Actual Income	\$232,847
YTD Total Actual Expenses	<u>\$225,621</u>
Variance	\$ 7,226

Good Work!

Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard on our Fall Work Day. We accomplished much! Well Done!



HELP!!

Donations Needed: Here is a great opportunity to Recycle your used treasures and help feed those in need! FBC Ferndale will be having a Rummage Sale to benefit Covenant Ministries on Dec.2-4. If you have clean, gently used winter clothing, coats, gloves, hats, boots, bed linens, blankets, house hold items, books, toys or games that you would like to pass on for further use by others, please bring the items to the church (FBCB) and place on the stage between Nov. 25th and Dec.1. ABW will transport them to Ferndale for the sale. If you would like to help with the actual sale, contact Nancy Nabors for more information. Proceeds from the sale will help purchase food for distribution by Covenant Ministries.



First Night @ First Baptist!

We will host events on First Night again this year . A group from the First Night organization will be selling and serving spaghetti dinners in our Fellowship Hall. Building hosts are needed. Please see Robert Washburn if you can lend a hand. First Night is a healthy and safe alternative to serve the needs of families on New Year's Eve. Join Us!



Christmas Around the World Through the Eyes of AB Missionaries : Saturday – Dec. 4 – 9:30 – 12:30 ~ Last year the women of FBCB hosted and enjoyed a spirit filled MDA “Advent Tea.” This year the Advent Program will be hosted by the women of New Calvary Baptist Church. All women of the church are cordially invited to join with our sisters from across our Southeast area as we begin to celebrate the coming of Christ thru the eyes of our Missionaries. Registration details can be found on the Bulletin Board in the Welcome Center. Interested in car pooling or a Ride? Contact Nancy Nabors on Dec. 3rd.

Estate Sale Nets \$900 for Friendship House

Keely Tyson, a member of First Baptist Church of Birmingham, conducted an estate sale at a home in Troy belonging to former church members who moved to Florida. Keely’s late mother was an antiques dealer and she taught Keely a great deal about the value of household items. With help from her sister and a host of volunteers from First Baptist, Keely set up the sale and researched the value of items via the internet. In a few cases, what looked like \$5 to \$10 items were actually much more valuable upon investigation.

Sale proceeds were shared with Friendship House as well as First Baptist Birmingham. We are grateful to Mr. & Mrs. Charles Morse, Jr. who flew in from VA to help, as well as Mrs. Francis Morse of FL who authorized the sale of the estate. If you would be interested in hiring Keely Tyson to organize an estate sale that would in part benefit Friendship House (or another charitable cause of your choice), call her at 248-591-0458. (source: *Friendship House website*)

“Look to the Fields” 2010 Stewardship Campaign

The 2010 FBCB Stewardship Campaign packets have been mailed. Please prayerfully consider your gift to the church.

Many Thanks!

We thank Phyllis Bourgois for her service as Bible Study teacher these last months. We are blessed to have such a wonderful teacher in our midst. Safe travels to her and Ron!

Save the Date

We will gather for fellowship on Saturday, December 18, for an evening Adult Christmas Party. More details to follow.



Founded by the American Baptist Churches as an orphanage, Judson Center has been caring for children and families since 1924. Through the years, the agency has responded to the crucial needs of those with mental health issues, neglected and abused children and their families, and individuals with developmental disabilities. Our church was instrumental in starting this important community resource.

Visioning ...

There will be a special session on Sunday afternoon Dec. 5th., to have church council members review and analyze the Visioning responses, come to grips with what they really mean and then prepare logical, coherent, and complete statements that fully describe them. Each statement should also be followed by several follow up, or next steps necessary to begin the implementation process.



FBCB Youth Group News!

- We will celebrate Christmas with an all-youth party on December 4. We will meet at church, in the newly revamped Youth Lounge, which we will decorate for the Advent season, share in a white elephant gift exchange and enjoy yummy snacks! All are welcome to join in the fun!

The Nominating Forms have been included as inserts in the previous two Sunday Bulletins. Church Council will review all Nominating Forms submitted at their 1st Meeting in January. Recognition will be presented at Annual meeting in January.

Christmas Eve Services

We will again have two services on December 24. A Family Service at 4:30 PM and Beautiful Candle-Light Service at 11PM. Please join us!

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree for Judson Center is up in the Welcome Center. Please take an envelope and return financial donations in the offering plate or to the church office. Funds donated will be used by Judson Center to purchase most needed gifts for the Center's participants. Please return them by December 12.

Beds For Haiti

Have you donated to the ABW "Beds for Haiti" project? Give a little or a lot! Buy a bed for a girl's dorm in earthquake ravaged Haiti. The giving jar is in the Welcome Center or church office.



Blessings!

The following people have shown and interest in or have become new members of First Baptist Birmingham. Blessings!

Barbara Campbell
 Donald Diehl
 Katie Gentry
 Lew and Joyce Gentry
 Grace Harrison
 Olive Inman
 Chris and Dennis Schultz
 Bill Wagoner

Blue Christmas Service Planned

We will offer a "Blue Christmas" service on December 5th at 6PM. This service is intended for those for whom Christmas is a difficult time, which can happen for many reasons, including a recent personal loss; or separation from loved ones. This is an excellent opportunity to reach out to neighbors, friends and family who may need this kind of special worship service as we walk through the Advent season.

Special Concert

A local Christian School will have a children's Christmas concert program in our sanctuary on Dec. 17 beginning around 10AM. All are invited to attend. Call the office for more details.

Sharing Our Blessings

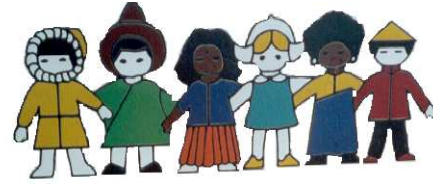
What an extraordinary response to the Will Olsen ingathering for Judson Center. Many thanks to all who shared food and pantry items. God is Good!

Advent Devotionals Available

Advent Devotionals Available in the Welcome Center. This is a wonderful way to keep the celebration of the season alive at home!

Friendship House News

Adopt a Family for Christmas: So far, 41 families have signed up to be adopted for Christmas and 14 families have been adopted. A family can only be adopted once in a lifetime. Donors are given the first names, genders, sizes, ages and suggestions for gifts for each family member. Donors can request a small family, a large family or one in between. If you are interested, please contact Kim as soon as possible at 313-871-7443.



GLOBAL GIFTS

Remember that Global Gifts our Fair Trade Shop is open after church each Sunday. When an individual purchases Fair Trade merchandise they can shop with the knowledge that all goods and food products have been produced under standards that guarantee children are not enslaved, people are paid a living wage, the environment is not harmed, to name a few of the 10 principles fair trade. Please pick up a couple of brochures to give to your friends, family and neighbors and spread the word, or better yet bring someone with you during the week to shop. New merchandise is coming in weekly. Together we can continue to change the world helping people make socially responsible purchases whenever possible. We are now open Wednesday through Saturday 10 -3. Thanks from the Global Gift Volunteers



Local Church Offers Christmas Concert

St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook presents 2010 Annual Christmas Concert Entertainment for the Whole Family! Featuring The Mosaic Youth Theater of Detroit St. Dunstan's Choir Guest Organist: Dr. Glen Burdette Soloists + Group Carols. Lots of interactions for the little ones. Saturday, December 4th, 3 p.m. at Christ Church Cranbrook Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Free parking right across from the church. Open seating. No reservations required. Free-will donations accepted. Lasts about one hour.



Our next B'Jazz Vespers will be held on the
Second Sunday in December!

December 12, 2010, 6 to 8PM

“A Special Christmas Concert for Jazz Lovers
(and all music lovers).”

featuring the Paul Keller ensemble:

- Paul on bass • Ellen Rowe, piano
- Bill Lucas, trumpet • Keith Kaminsky, sax
- Terry Kimura, trombone • Shawn Dobbins, drums • Susan Chastain, vocals

Special Christmas Music Program



We will present Special Music in worship on Sunday, December 19. This is always a wonderful and moving program. Plan to bring friends or family members to this special day. It is a wonderful way to begin Christmas week.

Attention Out-of-State SoJournal Recipients

Email vs. Snail Mail

If you are receiving this newsletter in the regular mail but you have email and would like to receive the newsletter that way, please contact the church office. Email versus snail mail saves money and is more ecologically friendly. The version is better too!



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.

November 28, 2010

We long for the fullness of your peace and justice in our midst, O God. Help us to be alert to signs that your reign is breaking into our lives. Strengthen us to do our part in bringing your promises to life in our waiting world. Amen.

December 5, 2010

Open us, O God, to your unfolding vision of peace. Shape us for shalom by the power of your Spirit. Make us bold to hope and dream, living as your trusting children In the name of Christ. Amen.

December 12, 2010

O Mighty One, we rejoice this day that you come to save. We rejoice that you invite all to join with Mary in proclaiming this news and sharing in your works. Make our hearts beat with your heartbeat of justice. Amen.

December 19, 2010

O God, in the birth of Jesus you came among us embodied in human flesh, to bless and to save. Come now and be among us today. Give us courage and hope to live in faithful obedience to your will. Amen.

Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

November 28, 2010
“Ready and Waiting” ~ Matthew 24:36-44

December 5, 2010
“Vision of Peace” ~ Isaiah 11:1-10

December 12, 2010
“Heartbeat of Justice” ~ Luke 1:47-55

December 19, 2010
“God with Us” ~ Matthew 1:18-25

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