



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

Remember with Love ~ Give with Gratitude

Dear Friends,

Thank You check recipients and others who received financial assistance from the 2009 Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering were overwhelmed 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 Bap-

tists 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 2, 2010.

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 been under doctor's care: Patty babian, Ray Sharp, Collin Trask, Kelly Kestel, Vicki Schettling, Sandra Paran, Barbara Diederich and Ester Houstina.

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

Congratulations to Jason Nixon on his recent graduation from Oakland University.

Church member Marilyn Howard wanted to share with the congregation that she became a new grandma on Nov. 15. The family also celebrated the birth of twins in June 4 of this year, and another baby on June 26. This means that long-time, deceased, and much beloved church member Margaret Smith now has four great-grandchildren, and her daughter, Marilyn says "She'd love it!".

Keely Tyson was recently hospitalized earlier this month. She is now home and doing much better. Blessings!

We continue our prayers for Patty Babian who is awaiting word on a bone marrow transplant.

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



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

**First Night @ First Baptist!
December 31, 2010**

Sanctuary: Magician
Timeframe: 6pm-9pm

Fellowship Hall: Spaghetti dinner, salad,
bread, refreshments
Timeframe: 5pm-8:30pm

Additional charge paid by attendees if they
want dinner (see detail below)
CCBB (Cultural Council) will provide
workers for setup, preparation, serving,
clean-up

CCBB will decorate with balloons, table
covers, centerpieces.

In addition to dinner offering will also
have in Fellowship Hall: Clowns doing face
painting, Cookie decorating.

Other locations:
Birmingham Museum - hands-on craft
activity & museum exhibits
1st Christ Scientist - tentative - performance
in auditorium

Admission: \$6 per adult - kids 12 yrs
& under = free
Dinner: tentative pricing
\$6 per adult
\$3 per children's meal

Leader Needed:

We are in need of a Dinner Leader for the
South Oakland Shelter program that we will
host in February. Please contact Robert
Washburn for more details. This could be a
co-leader position if necessary.

A Look at the Financials
As of November 30, 2010

Pledged Income Actual: \$157,450
Pledged Income Budget: \$167,830
Pledged Variance: (\$10,380)

YTD Total Actual Income \$247,091
YTD Total Actual Expenses \$247,600
Variance (\$509)

Camp Lael Fundraiser

Save the Date for the 3rd Annual Comedy
Fundraiser benefiting Camp Lael and
Friendship House. Date: February 10, 2011.
Place: Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle,
downtown Royal Oak. Details to follow!

**Women In Leadership
Conference Scheduled**

Ecumenical Theological Seminary will
host the Women and Leadership
Conference March 30 - April 2, 2011.
The conference theme is "How Shall We
Lead?: Women in Leadership in the
21st Century." Plenary speakers include
Dr. Emilie Townes, Dr. Renita Weems,
and Dr. Claudette Copeland. There will
also be workshops, times for worship,
and an evening with women and the
arts! For conference schedule, see the
Welcome Center notice.

The conference fee is \$100 if you
register before February 28, 2011 and
\$125 thereafter.

Legacy Initiative Webinars Planned

A series of three seminars will be offered by Rev. Dr. David Nichols, ABCMI Church Consultant for Stewardship and Discipleship, in conjunction with the Legacy Initiative introduced at the October 22 Ministers' Council program.

The Legacy Initiative will focus on preparing churches for major gifts and bequests. Dr. Nichols explains that such preparation can forestall potential problems such as individuals choosing not to leave major bequests to the church out of concerns that the church would end up fighting over the money.

Each of the hour-long Webinars will be offered twice. Topics and times are as follows:

- Articulating a Legacy Vision (Monday, Jan 10 at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, Jan 19 at 10:00 a.m.)
- Developing a Legacy Process (Monday, Jan 24 at 7 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb 2 at 10 a.m.)
- Promoting a Legacy Fund (Monday, Feb 6 at 7 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb 16 at 10 a.m.)

Although these Webinars are open to anyone, they should be of special interest to Pastors, Church Treasurers, and members of Finance Teams or Boards of Trustees.

For further information or to indicate your desire to participate, or call at 1-800-440-3579. (ABCMI.org/E-Link)

Helping the Homeless

Please see the sign up sheets in the Welcome Center to volunteer for the South Oakland Shelter program that we will host in early February.

Learning Community News

Church member Jim Poe will begin teaching the Christian Forum class on January 9. Bible studies will get going again in early January as well.

Friend News ...

Rev. Laura Lee Strawser has been appointed as the interim minister for Michigan Ave Baptist Church in Saginaw. She began her ministry in October. She follows the Rev. David Van Brakle, who served the church for three years and has moved with his wife Erica to DeWitt Community Church in New York. They have both taken positions of pastoral leadership with Dr. Mark Sommers who is the lead pastor of the church. Strawser previously served as co-pastor with her husband Ray at First Baptist Church, Owosso, and as Associate Pastor at First Baptist Church, Birmingham/ She is a member at First Baptist Church, Owosso, where her husband Ray is the pastor.

ABC Missionaries Available for Speaking Engagements

ABC missionaries, Pieter and Nora Kalkman, will be on home assignment for another 6 months and welcome opportunities to tell about their ministry at your church for a worship service, Bible Study group, or at men's prayer breakfast, women's meeting or Sunday school time.

Pieter joined participated in October at the Annual Gathering and spoke briefly about their ministry. Their mission is to share the love of Jesus and to glorify God through networking with Baptist churches in Europe, developing Mission awareness, and coordinating skills and interests of Short Term Mission volunteers with the needs of the 50+ Baptist Conventions. They are based in the Czech Republic and serve through International Ministries with its partner the European Baptist Federation. With only 2.4% Evangelicals, Europe is a priority mission field. Their ministry impact multiplies through volunteers that help people COME to Christ, GROW in Christ, and CHANGE their world for Christ.

If you are interested in this opportunity, you may contact Debbie Hart at 800.632.2953

Local Church Opens Warming Center in January: Donations Needed

Once again this January, First Baptist Church, Ferndale, will open their doors for the first weeks of January for their annual Warming Center. The Church invites any person to seek refuge in their building for the evening to stay warm and receive a warm meal. The Church is in need of gently used blankets and socks. If you can donate these items, please contact Leslie in the FBCB church office for more information. Thank you!

Race Relations & Diversity Taskforce Invites the Public



The Race Relations and Diversity Taskforce invites the public to their annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast. "Dr. King's Dream: Are We Moving Forward or Accepting the Status Quo?" Monday, January 17, 2011 at 8AM at the Birmingham Community House. Plated breakfast. General tickets are \$25 and student tickets are \$15. Advanced reservations are advised.

Camp Lael News



Maybe you would like to give money to Camp Lael but cannot afford to give a large gift all at once. Camp Lael participates in the Meijer Community Rewards program which donates 1% of all purchases at Meijer back to Camp Lael. Just use organization code 551056 when

Ecumenical Theological Seminary will host the **Women and Leadership Conference** March 30 - April 2, 2011. The conference theme is "How Shall We Lead?: Women in Leadership in the 21st Century." Plenary speakers include Dr. Emilie Townes, Dr. Renita Weems, and Dr. Claudette Copeland. There will also be workshops, times for worship, and an evening with women and the arts! For conference schedule see the notice in the Welcome Center. The conference fee is \$100 if you register before February 28, 2011 and \$125

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)

FBCB Annual Meeting

We will have our Annual Meeting at the end of the month of January. We will receive ministry team reports, and new address books. We will also share a meal together (\$7 per person). Please have all ministry team reports submitted to the office no later than Monday, January 18. Thank You.

Workshop Offered

Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit will hold a Discernment Workshop, January 27, 6-8 pm. This workshop will help folks discern their call to ministry, including going to seminary and entering particular degree programs. We will also discuss the various types of calls to ministry including pulpit ministry, chaplaincy, etc. For additional information, please contact Rev. Dr. Julie J. Kilmer by calling 1-313-831-5200, ext 224.

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!

Please Note

The Office will be closed on Friday, December 31 and Monday, January 3



Our first Program of the New Year!
January 16 ~ 4 to 6PM

Friendship House News ...

479 Families Received Thanksgiving Turkeys and Meal Ingredients

Forgotten Harvest called us up and asked if we would be willing to give away 150 turkeys and food boxes on their behalf. We did so on the Friday before Thanksgiving. Then on Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving week, we helped 274 more families. The previous Saturday, we gave food to 55 residents of Hamtramck's Senior Plaza.

Volunteers from Associated Community Services, a company based in Southfield, helped us pass out the goodies. When it looked like Friendship House was running out of turkeys, they ran around to several grocery stores and purchased an additional 64 turkeys. The company also brought along a check for \$1,332 which represented proceeds of one of their "dress down" days. Let's not forget the 40+ boxes loaded with canned goods which were also collected on "dress down" day. It was Christmas in November

Daily Prayers For This Month

Each morning when you get up, take a brief moment to sat 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 26, 2010

Creator God, we praise you for the wonders you have made and for our lives, which some from you. When we feel separated and alone, bring us back to our true selves. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, who shares our humanity and reaches out to us in love. Amen.

January 2, 2011

We praise you, Holy One, for visions of your loving ways. Stir our hope and fill us with courage to imagine how we might journey in the paths you illuminate with the brilliance of the Christ child. Amen.

January 9, 2011

Holy One, we give thanks that you call us "beloved". Open us to receive your bountiful Spirit as our companion, and inspire us to embrace the life revealed in the unfolding possibilities you place before us in Christ. Amen.

January 16, 2011

Faithful God, you create us and give us life. You know all that we are and can be. Help us discern your call and recognize the gifts you have given. Strengthen us to bear your light in the world, so that your ways may be known to all people. Amen.

January 23, 2011

Turn our hearts to you, O God, and open us to the gradual unfolding of your call in our lives. Bind us together as one Body of Christ, and be our hope as we seek to live into your mission of

Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

December 26, 2010

“Cosmic Praise” ~ Psalm 148

January 2, 2011

“Epiphany” ~ Matthew 2:1-12

January 9, 2011

“Possibilities Unfolding” ~ Matthew 3:13-17

January 16, 2011

“All That We Are” ~ Isaiah 49:1-7

January 23, 2011

“Called Together” ~ Matthew 4:12-23

SoJournal

First Baptist Church

300 Willits

Birmingham, Michigan 48009-3300

(USPS 528-560)

*Postmaster: Address correction requested within
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Periodical

December 26, 2010

Visit Our Websites at: firstbaptistbirmingham.org and bjazzvespers.org

E-Mail: firstbaptistbirm@sbcglobal.net