



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

REMEMBER with **LOVE**
GIVE with **GRATITUDE**

Dear Friends,

Each fall over 3,000 checks are mailed to retired American Baptist ministers and missionaries, or their widowed spouses, who have shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with countless thousands. You can help say Thank You to these men and women of faith by contributing to the annual Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO).

Shortly after Thank you checks are mailed out, notes from grateful recipients begin to pour in. People see the checks not only as expressions of love and concern from the American Baptist family, but also as evidence of God’s continuing sustenance and care into their retirement years. Recipients who are widowed spouses often express surprise and amazement that they continue to receive a Thank you check as continued recognition of their late spouses’ ABC service.

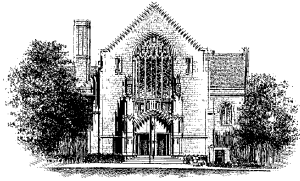
Juanita Godfrey (81) from Morgantown WV, wrote: “My late husband, Jack had told me that I would continue to receive an RMMO Thank you check after he died, but I had forgotten about it. So receiving it was a pleasant surprise. I am grateful to American Baptist congregations for their gift. The RMMO theme, Remember with Love, Give with Gratitude, is certainly appropriate.”

Please join me in remembering those who dedicated their lives to Christian ministry. Make a generous contribution to the RMMO on Sunday, January 4, 2009, or throughout the month of January.

Your gift makes a difference.

Sincerely,

Robert Washburn, Chair
FBCB Outreach Ministry Team



Keeping Up With Building Maintenance & Making Improvements!

- What wonderful new blinds in Fellowship Hall, replacing dated old curtains! The light-colored blinds really add a brightness and fresh sense to the room. Many thanks to Carol McWilliam who supervised this project! Well done!



A Look at the Financials

As of November 30, 2008

Pledged Income Actual	\$182,204
Pledged Income Budget	\$178,588
 Pledged variance	 \$ 3,616

Please continue to keep current with your pledges.

Prayer Breakfast Invitation

Plan to attend the 10th Annual Men's Prayer Breakfast for the men and boys of the Metro Detroit Association on Saturday, February 21, 2009, from 8:30–10:30 am. The event will be hosted by Bethel Baptist Church in Southgate. There is no charge for the meal, though a special mission offering will be received.



First Night at First Baptist! Happy New Year!

We again will be hosting First Night at First Baptist!
Join us for a wonderful night of music and activities!

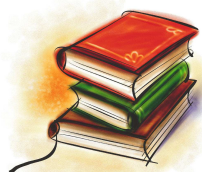
Volunteers are needed.

Please see Robert Washburn if you can lend a hand as we host our community!

Wednesday, December 31, 2008

The FBCB Downtown Readers

Our group will meet on Friday, January 2 at 12:30 pm at borders bookstore in Birmingham. Join us as we continue to discern the book, "Three Cups of Tea"



"From the Mountain Top"

We are invited to attend the 17th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Monday, January 19, 8am At the Community House in Birmingham \$25 per person including breakfast. Sponsored by the Race Relations and Diversity Taskforce.



January Communion Offering:
Retired Ministers and Missionaries
Offering (RMMO)

This annual ABC offering exists to provide support to retired persons who gave their life work in the efforts of American Baptist Churches. The RMMO is a tangible way American Baptist congregations can honor retired ministers and missionaries or their widowed spouses. This offering provides emergency and other financial assistance, based on financial need.

MOSES: A Community Organizing Organization:
MOSES Annual Banquet Save the date of January 19, 2009 for the annual banquet held in memory of Martin Luther King Jr. The banquet will again be held at Burton Manor in Livonia. Located on Schoolcraft Road on the I-96 service drive the location is easy to get to from all over Metro Detroit. For more information about the banquet check the MOSES website www.moses.org. For information about The Gamaliel organization look on their website www.gamaliel.org.

From abc-usa.org ...

Does your congregation have 'Good News' you'd like to share with American Baptists nationwide? We are currently looking for short, factual stories that show God working in your congregations and communities that will teach and inspire. Please share your stories with us by sending them via e-mail to webmaster@abc-usa.org with a subject line of Good News.

Un- Hanging of the Greens

We will fellowship together over a light meal after church in Fellowship Hall. After lunch we will "un-hang the greens" in the sanctuary & throughout the church building.
Time and Date: TBD
Please speak to Dave Brault for details.



A Note of Thanks from Judson Center

Dear Rev. Babian,

I would like to thank you and the First Baptist Church of Birmingham for the donation of food items to the Judson Center (ref: Will Olsen Sunday). Your generosity dedicated to the Food Pantry will help those whose tables and pantries are sparse and in need of assistance.

The donation was dropped off at our 13 Mile and Greenfield location by your parishioner David Brault.

Compassionate individuals, organizations and churches like first Baptist ply a vital role in ensuring that Judson Center is able to provide such services to people in need during times of crisis.

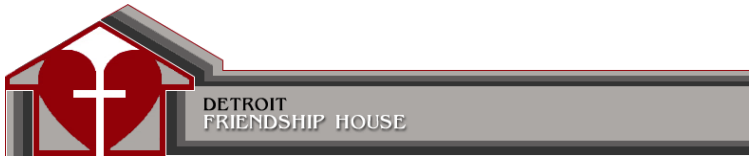
Once again thank you for your generosity. Your kindness brings a world of joy to those who normally would not be so fortunate.

Judson Center provides 360,000 service to bring better lives and brighter futures to children, adults and families each year. We thank you and are grateful for your support and welcome your involvement in our mission.

Sincerely,

Marn G. Myers
President and CEO

We collected \$455 from the Giving Tree!
Thank you for your generosity!



Friendship House Announces: The 4th Sunday Supper Club

In these tough economic times, Christ-followers need to step up to the plate (pun intended) to minister to those who have lost jobs and/or housing, are forced to choose between food and prescriptions, and feel disconnected from their community. With the suggestion posed by Rev. Tom Roberts, pastor of West Highland Baptist in Milford, Friendship House will pilot a new ministry called "The 4th Sunday Supper Club."

What: Once/month light meal for people in Hamtramck, especially homeless. Each meal should include something hot which could be soup, casseroles, stew, sloppy joes or beverages. Churches should also bring appropriate paper goods and utensils.

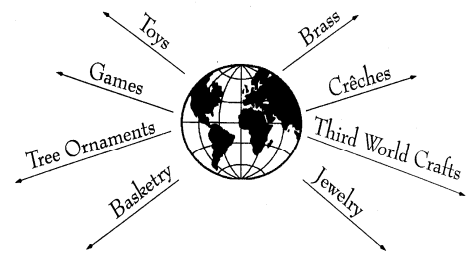
Who: 5-10 volunteers from churches who prepare, transport and serve the food

When: 4-6 p.m. on the 4th Sunday of each month January through May. If the response is good, the program will become ongoing.
Where: Friendship House, 9540 Conant, Hamtramck

Why: 1) Provide a meal to homeless and the poor on an evening when other local soup kitchens do not operate and toward the end of each month when people often run out of money. 2) Provide Christians the opportunity for hands-on ministry to the "the least of these."

A Friendship House staff person will be present at each Supper Club to assist with set-up, clean-up and people-management. Churches should recruit volunteers who will not only cook and serve food, but also some who would mingle with clients, befriending them and making them feel valued. We estimate the first group will need to bring enough food for 40 people.

Please call Friendship House at 313-871-7443 to sign up for a 4th Sunday.



Thanks to All!

Many thanks to all who volunteered and shopped at the Global Gifts and Craft Shop this year. Our efforts work to ensure a good living and fair wages to many third world persons!

What is the
General Secretary's
PrayerNet?

You are invited to join American Baptist General Secretary and denominational Pastor, Dr. A. Roy Medley, in an exciting new prayer opportunity. By joining PrayerNet, you covenant to pray with and for our American Baptist mission and Dr. Medley. This page will have prayer requests and scripture that will be updated once a week. If you wish to subscribe to PrayerNet, a "reminder" email will be sent to you each week when this page is updated. These requests will focus on the mission and ministry that God has called us to as American Baptists. You will also have the opportunity to submit any prayer requests that you may have, and once a week, Dr. Medley and other staff will gather in the Mission Center chapel to pray for you and your requests. Even when Dr. Medley is traveling, staff members will gather and pray.

We acknowledge the need to pray. We are a people of "prayer, purpose and passion." Please be encouraged to covenant with us as we carry out the ministry to which God has called us. go to www.abc-usa.org for details and to register.



Celebrating Our 13th Year!

Our next Vespers will be held on
Sunday, January 18, 2009 6 to 8PM

Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of
the Benny Goodman 1938 Carnegie
Hall Jazz Concert featuring
THE DAVE BENNETT TRIO.

Dave on clarinet. Tad Weed, piano
and Doug Cobb, drums.

SOS Volunteers Needed

The South Oakland Shelter program will be at our church during the week of February 8. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be posted soon. Please mark your calendars! It takes many people to make this critical ministry happen!

Also, please note that the SOS headquarters has moved from Royal Oak to the First Baptist Church o Ferndale, Michigan.



American Baptist Missionary International Prayer Requests

Judy Sutterlin: Judy serves with the Nanjing Union Theological Seminary. She teaches English and Biblical studies, helping the Nanjing faculty and students improve their English ability. While this is Judy's main ministry she also has responsibilities through the Amity Foundation in Nanjing. She also serves as liaison to the other Amity projects including AIDS orphans in Henan Province and village clinics in Ningxia and Gansu.

- Pray for Judy as she serves the people of China for the sake of Christ.
- Pray for Judy's father Bill who is in the hospital with a broken pelvis and will face quite a number of weeks of recovery and therapy

Anita and Rick Gutierrez: Anita and Rick serve in Durban South Africa together with IM partners, the Baptist Mission of South Africa and the Baptist Association of South Africa. They deal with many health challenges especially those associated with cardiovascular diseases, HIV, diabetes, and other health screening services.

Anita writes: For the past few months, we have been training health builders in a squatter shack settlement in Cato Manor.

- Pray for Thandi and others in her village to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior and to grow in him.
- Pray for Rick and Anita as they serve the people of South Africa in the name of Jesus.
- Pray also for their children, Marc (14) and Paul (11).

Dan Buttry: Global Consultant

- Praise for on-going positive developments for Naga reconciliation
- Pray for key talks for the next pivotal stage in the reconciliation process just prior to Christmas-I'll be participating.



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 15 Elaine Blocher
 January 16 Collin Trask
- January 19 Paul Tyson
 January 27 Jonathan Nabors

A Good Quote

“If you think you can do a thing
 or you think you can’t do a thing,
 you’re right.”

Henry Ford
 1863-1947 (attributed)

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.

Sunday, December 28, 2008

Thank you, God, for the gift of Jesus. Fill our hearts with rejoicing as we embrace your promise to reshape and restore our lives and our world, through Christ. Amen.

Sunday, January 4, 2009

Prepare us, O God, to welcome the events and people that mark turning points in our lives. Stir our imagination to honor the dreams that send us in new directions. Give us courage to follow Christ’s call to take another road. Amen.

Sunday, January 11, 2009

God of power and of love, at his baptism you called Jesus your beloved son and sent your Spirit upon him. May we, born of water and of the Spirit, know ourselves to be beloved by you. Help us to rejoice in the new life to which you call us. Amen.

Sunday, January 18, 2009

God, our loving Creator, no matter how far we flee from you, you are always with us. You have known us from the beginning. You will be with us until the end. Teach us to love each other as you have loved us.

Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

Sunday, December 28, 2008
“Long-awaited Gift” ~ Luke 2:22-40

Communion Sunday, January 4, 2009
“Another Road” ~ Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 11, 2009
“Defining Moments” ~ Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 18, 2009
“Known and Loved” ~ Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

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

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

Periodical

December 28, 2008