

# Tower Tidings

First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland

February 2014

A congregation of the American Baptist Churches U.S.A.

Oh, the times,  
they are **NOT** a-changing!  
(at least, not yet)

Sorry for the confusion, but until our pastor  
can be with us again, our service times will  
remain the same:

Our contemporary service is still at 9:00 am  
Our traditional service is still at 11:15 am

The ELEVATE teaching time is moving to 10:10 am,  
with activities for children during both services.



**DON'T MISS OUT**

## Long Range Planning Workshop: February 15 in Spahr Center

by Suzanne Blum

In 2011, a congregational survey was initiated by the Long Range Planning Committee to gain insights into the future needs of FBC. The Long Range Planning Subcommittee summarized the survey results and analyzed the responses. The results summary and analyses were presented after both services on December 8<sup>th</sup> 2013. At that time the Long Range Planning Committee invited the entire congregation to attend a workshop on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2014, to begin a conversation about the long range vision of FBC, particularly the 6 opportunities identified in the survey analysis.

Opportunities to:

1. Enhance the Worship Experience
2. Create Christian Education and Leadership Opportunities
3. Engage and Connect Members
4. Support Youth and Families
5. Embrace Diversity
6. Expand the Kingdom

There will be supervised play activities for your children, so bring the whole family. Sign-up sheets will be circulated. Please include your phone number and or email address as contact information, and let us know if you plan on bringing children.

## Adaptive Leadership and Adaptive Change

The opportunities mentioned above are multi-faceted and complex subjects that require a unique strategy of leadership. We have been hearing about and have been training for Adaptive Leadership to guide the church through adaptive change. You **may ask yourself, 'what is adaptive change? Change can either be technical or adaptive.** *Technical* change involves people putting in place solutions to problems for which they know the answers. While this can be difficult it is not as difficult as **adaptive change, which involves addressing problems for which they don't yet know the solutions.** *Adaptive* change involves **changing more than routine behaviors or preferences; it involves changes in people's hearts and minds. Because the change is so profound, adaptive change can result in transformation.**

Adaptive leadership will work with the collective intelligence of the congregation to engage us all in solutions to adaptive challenges. It is a process of trial and error, since there is no known technical fix. It requires patience, understanding, and engagement.

Please join us in the adaptive leadership process on [Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:30am in Spahr Center](#). It is an exciting time of opportunity at FBC! Please be a part of the conversation.

As Paul states in his first letter to the Corinthians: The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts, and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (NIV 1 Corinthians 12:12, 18, 26, 27)



## Meet Rev. Mary Ann Short Interim Minister of Visitation

by Jeff Gordon

With the announcement of Rev. Dr. Stephanie Allen's impending move to pastor a church in the East, Rev. Mary Ann Short has been appointed as an interim minister of visitation for First Baptist Church. Rev. Short is a graduate of Central Baptist Theological Seminary, an American Baptist Seminary in Kansas City, Kansas. She has served as a pastor, an interim pastor, as the Chaplain of Pierce Retirement Community in Connecticut for ten years and most recently worked as a Chaplain for Harbor Light Hospice. She will be making hospital calls and visiting home bound members. Mary Ann has been a part of our church family for over a year and we're glad to welcome her in this new role.

## Work Focus Shifts Within The Office Staff

by Martin Rolfs Massaglia

When Grace Helmuth told us that she was going to retire at the end of 2013, it seemed appropriate to take the opportunity to re-imagine the two staff positions in our office. Just in the last ten years there have been so many technological changes, there are so many new ways of communicating that we had to consider the qualifications that were needed. We **also wanted to take some things off of Jeff Gordon's portfolio**, so we decided that the person replacing Grace would need advanced skills in the area of technology, communication and publishing. God blessed us by bringing Jessica Chapman Martinez at the perfect time, who comes with all the skills we need and more.

**Jessica's position title is *Executive Assistant /Communications Manager*.** She will of course share some administrative responsibilities with Star, but in the new role she will be responsible for updating and maintaining our website, designing and distributing E-blasts, an E-newsletter each month and ads in other media. She will help us maintain a presence on social media and design promotional videos for the website, stewardship campaigns and general promotion among other things.

After 9 years with us Star Knuckles is excited to be taking on some new challenges. Through the last year, in speaking with her about the pieces of her job and what would make it more meaningful and fulfilling for her, we have added some significant financial tasks while keeping many of them the same. Star will be our *Receptionist/Administrative Assistant*.

Star will be the first point of contact for folks coming into our building and reaching out to us by telephone. In the new configuration she will pick up all the accounting duties formerly handled by Grace Helmuth, which includes working with contributions, invoices, and paying bills. Both Jessica and Star will be supervised by Jeff Gordon. Once again we have a remarkably gifted team in the office.

## Jessica Chapman-Martinez Joining the FBC Office Team

by Martin Rolfs Massaglia

Jessica and her husband Luis Martinez recently relocated to Cleveland from Nicaragua, where she has served with AMOS Health & Hope since 2007. She coordinated and led mission teams, community projects, created digital graphics and formed part of the **communications team that worked to share AMOS' most current news** with the international community.

Both she and Luis were members of our sister church, the First Baptist Church of Managua, and sang in its choir under the direction of Joan Parajon. They served on the coordination team for the youth group and later became Sunday school teachers for the younger youth.

**An excerpt from Jessica's portfolio follows: "Nicaragua has been my home and canvas for the last 6 years where I have enjoyed serving those in need by capturing life through video, sharing stories through photographs and promoting programs through creative graphics. Using visual art as my medium I hope to help others create and communicate their visions and dreams to the world."**



## Pray-ers Needed

by Mari Schroeder-Jenkins

As we embark on a season of much change in our church community, it is essential that we have adequate prayer support. Thus, in addition to what you are already contributing in your personal prayer time I am asking you to consider becoming part of the larger FBC prayer ministry. There are many levels of participation to enable you to choose one or some or all of the opportunities as your schedule will allow.

**Sundays at 8am in the Fireside Room:** Devotional and Corporate Prayer – Come as often as you can. The meeting is casual and consists of praise and prayer for personal requests, for your church and world.

**Tuesday evening - 7-8pm in Phillips Chapel:** Prayer with Pastor Martin or another leader begins with a short devotional followed by an hour of quiet prayer.

**Daily Prayer from a confidential list:** Set aside a time each day to pray in the convenience and comfort of your own home. A confidential list of prayer requests is provided by email several times per month.

Pray with persons individually after one or both worship services on Sundays – Basic training is available but no experience is necessary but faith and a compassionate heart. Speak with Mari personally, call (216)-543-1830 or email [mjenkins@firstbaptistcleveland.org](mailto:mjenkins@firstbaptistcleveland.org)

Please consider joining with a group to pray for the concerns of our church. Is this perhaps something God has been or is nudging you to do? Interceding for others is one of the most rewarding things you can do but it is also hard work at times. The good news is that God is with us at all times which enables all the inhibitions and fears **to take a back seat to God's grace. Prayer warriors get to partner with God to advance his purpose for his people individually and as a church body. Won't you prayerfully consider answering his call?**



## Martin's Musings: In Gratitude!

by Martin Rolfs Massaglia

Mike and Kathy Skerritt, along with **Mike's siblings, have a little farm in North East Pennsylvania.** At the first of the year I take a week-long retreat to rest, read, work out the sermons for the next year and mostly to be

quiet enough, for long enough to hear the still small voice of God. It is one of, if not my favorite weeks of the entire year. Soon after I arrived in Cleveland, after hearing Mike talk about the farm, I asked if there was any way I could use it for my **retreat! He loved the idea, I fell in love with the farm and I've been dragging myself back there every January since.**

**"Dragging myself" back there is an important phrase for understanding this story.** Normally when I say dragging myself back there I'm simply talking about the wear and tear of a year of ministry, finished off by Christmas at FBC. Every year **I'm exhausted; every year I'm in need of the replenishment of that precious week at the farm.**

This year, dragging myself to the farm had a few extra connotations. In addition to Advent and Christmas this year I underwent 10 radiation treatments on my shoulder to treat a tumor. The pain, by which we discovered the tumor in the first place, had only gotten worse through the course of treatment and was likely to last a few more weeks. So there was an extra layer of tiredness and some pain accompanying me to the farm this year. Then, to be honest, I was experiencing unusual shortness of breath whenever I exerted myself, even climbing the stairs to my office. The day after Christmas I was concerned enough about this to go get it checked out. The doctor was attentive, checked everything, told me I needed to make an appointment with the oncologist who would be able to tell if **there was any connection to the tumor. The doctor said, "I'm not finding any medical reason for this, I wouldn't be surprised if you just need some extra rest coming off of your radiation."**

These first three paragraphs are offered so that you might have at least the tiniest understanding of why I drove through a snow storm, not feeling at all well, to keep my appointment with God at the farm.

I arrived in the wee hours of the morning. Taking my stuff from the car to the house I had an inkling I was in trouble. By the time I walked the first load up a slight, snowy incline to the front porch I was gasping for breath. I sat down for a few moments, recovered nicely, and decided that if I took breaks every few steps up the incline I would be fine. I was. Mission accomplished!

The next day I rested all day; no breathing issues. I called Kay and talked to her and told her that since I only experienced the shortness of breath on exertion what I really wanted to do was just take it easy and use the week for replenishment **and then I'd get back to the doctor just as soon as I got home.** I promised also to email my pulmonologist, which I did. Unfortunately after my beautiful first day, I woke the next morning experiencing shortness of breath while just sitting in the recliner chair in which I had chosen to spend the night. When I need divine assistance in making a decision, even in a panic, **I get as still as I can get and just wait....and almost always the**

next right thing to do comes to me. And this is how I made the decisions that got me up and dressed, with a plan for getting myself to the hospital.

One of my very best friends happens to be a chaplain at the Guthrie Clinic not terribly far from the farm. So I called him, he told me how to get there and promised to meet me at the entrance to the campus. Robert Packer Hospital is a big hospital in rural PA, and it was the right choice. What I was experiencing **at that moment was so unusual. I've had this unusual chronic disease for 27 years called thymoma which has recurred numerous times in my chest, and for which I have had lots of treatment that affects my lungs. I've had so much radiation over these many years that it's difficult for doctors to read CT scans of my chest because they don't know if they're looking at a tumor or the aftermath of radiation.**

The diagnosis was pneumonia; they admitted me primarily because they could not get my oxygen level to a safe amount. I was put on six liters of oxygen and they started broad band IV antibiotics while they waited on cultures to develop and test results to return. In the mean time, after they looked at the first CT scan, I urged them to contact my doctors at the Cleveland Clinic who had been treating me since 2007; which they did. Jeff stayed with me all day; his wife Jo Ann prepared for Kay to move in with them for the duration. The handprints of **God were already obvious everywhere on the journey....but it was just beginning.**

**Unfortunately I didn't respond to treatment. After consulting with my doctors at the Cleveland Clinic, my doctor at Guthrie concluded that the difficulty could well be related to the thymoma and/or the treatments I've gotten through the years,** and that I needed to get back to the Cleveland Clinic and the doctors who had been treating me.

There were several complications to this very logical idea. I was still getting 6 liters of oxygen (which is a lot) and no one felt it safe for me to make a six hour trip by ambulance or automobile. So I needed to be airlifted to Cleveland. Getting that approved by my healthcare provider would be challenging **under the best of circumstances....and we have anything but the best of circumstances with our insurance carrier right now.** At the end of last year our health provider sold to another company. In the transition following the sale the new health provider cancelled all their contracts with the Cleveland Clinic as of January 1 and switched them to University Hospital. I'd been given an extension to complete the radiation on my arm, but nothing more.

This meant that we were seeking approval for me to be airlifted to and then treated at the Cleveland Clinic knowing full well that the new provider no longer had contracts with the Clinic. I am a man of great faith in God; we had tons of people praying. **But I have to admit, I wasn't too optimistic about the chances of this being approved.** Guthrie put the requests in to the new carrier and they immediately denied all the requests, including coverage for my admission to and treatment at Guthrie.

Continued on pg 4

Guthrie persisted to press the new company without much success. And then, the head of social services at Guthrie insisted that the medical director of my new provider have a conversation with the young woman hospitalist, Dr. Acharya, who was treating me and speaking to all the Cleveland doctors. That conversation happened, and in one swipe of a pen, the medical director of the new health provider approved everything; treatment at Guthrie, the medevac to Cleveland, admission to and treatment at the Cleveland Clinic. When Dr. Acharya told me I thought I must **have misunderstood her....to me the only explanation is God and the power of prayer.**

Once we were assured that everything had been approved, Kay headed back home so she could be there when I arrived. Within a few hours all was arranged and The Cleveland Clinic sent their jet, two pilots, a nurse practitioner and an RN to nearby Elmira New York. They fetched me at the hospital, I was taken by ambulance to the jet, 45 minutes later we landed at Burke Airport in Cleveland and 30 minutes later I was admitted to the Cleveland Clinic. It was/is surreal. What a God we serve!

Forgive a drastic oversimplification but after looking at all the new data and examining the scans my doctors at the Clinic concluded that my pneumonia was caused by the radiation treatments I'd received in December. **This changed the course of treatment and very slowly but surely I am improving.** The challenge is to get my lungs well enough so that I don't require the oxygen. It will be hard to preach on oxygen.

From my perspective the handprints of God are all over this journey; in small ways, in dramatic ways, in an astounding number of ways. **As a person of faith I believe this. I don't have doubts about God's involvement in this journey nor doubts about the power of the hundreds of people who have been praying since they learned of my crisis.**

**Still, I readily admit that I don't understand it. God is not a magician or a celestial Santa Claus that can be summoned for our purposes. God doesn't love some of us more than others. Philip Yancey's studies have led him to conclude that the Bible makes it clear that God's chief commitment is the commitment to human freedom. We're not puppets on a string with God in control of our every move.** And in honoring this commitment Yancey says God acts only rarely in a way that contradicts the laws of nature.

Throughout the ages there have been large numbers of the faithful that wanted to remove all the supernatural, all the mystery from our faith...and in the process some of them have insisted that prayer is for the delusional; that God doesn't intervene in response to our praying and so they've stopped praying. I've read as many books on prayer as on any other single topic and I will tell you that after all that I've read, though I've been helped immensely by the reading, I don't understand it. I can't answer my own questions about prayer, let alone yours.

But I can tell you this story, and I can tell you, having seen it as up close and personal as anyone else, that mountains were moved in this journey when people were praying for them to be moved. I received the exact guidance I needed in a given moment and met up with exactly the right person for a particular situation. Kay and I are daily being sustained in ways that make **no sense under the circumstance and that I'm alive today to tell the story.** All of this has happened and is happening under the umbrella of literally hundreds of people who are praying for us.

**I don't understand it but it seems to me that the proper response to it, what my heart cries out to sing, what I believe most pays tribute to the God from whom all these blessings have come whether I understand it or not is THANK YOU! Thank You God! Thank you!**

In gratitude for all your love, support and PRAYERS!



Martin

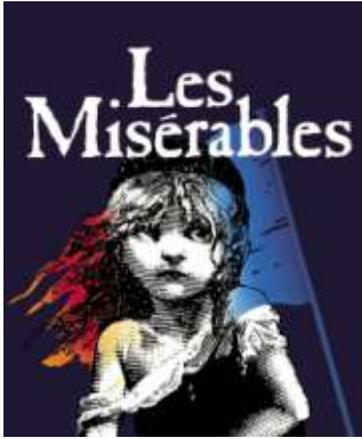


## The Children's Center Connection

by Jane Pernicone

The process of our pursuit of NAEYC Accreditation (National Association for the Education of Young Children) is nearly complete! The final step is in sight! We are eagerly awaiting the visit from our NAEYC Assessor. We know that she will spend two days with us during the last three weeks of February. To prepare for the visit each classroom and the office prepared a portfolio full of evidence of quality work with children. **We've reflected on the hundreds of criteria in the areas of relationships, curriculum, teaching, assessment of child progress, health, teachers, families, community relationships, physical environment, leadership and management.** Many policies and practices have been improved and documented. The assessor will evaluate our program using five sources of evidence: family surveys, teaching staff surveys, program portfolios, classroom portfolios and observation. She will observe in at least six of our eleven classrooms and interview the teachers. The staff of the center has worked on this process for about 18 months. Our hope is to be a nationally accredited center and we should know the decision by May. The accreditation process not only served to document the **quality of care at The Children's Center, but also strengthened relationships, which is the best outcome of all.**





## Les Misérables: Now in Rehearsal

by Mike Skerritt

If there was any doubt that *Les Misérables* is one of the most popular shows, that doubt was put to rest in early January when 102 actors showed up for **auditions at FBC. That's double** our second largest audition turnout ever, which was for *Fiddler on the Roof*, and about three times as many that show up for a traditional Happy Ending Lyric Players Broadway production.

But such a bonanza of talent also created some casting difficulties. Many only wanted leads, and when offered lesser roles or chorus parts, they dropped out. This was particularly troubling as the traditional lack of men at auditions was exasperated by the defections. Nevertheless, the quality of the lead singers, as demonstrated at the FBC Annual Meeting by Erin Burke, who will play Eponine in the production, is exceptional and the chorus will astound you with its quality and energy.

You will recognize many in the cast. Kelley Pernicone returns to the HELP stage as Madame Thernadier, the bawdy wife of the unsavory innkeeper Thernadier played by old favorite Eric Sofer, **last year's director of West Side Story**. Dan Mizener has the role of Prouvaire, one of the student leaders who sings of revolution. Sharon Lloyd returns from sunny Florida, sprained ligaments and all, to sing in the chorus with several solo lines. Jessica Chapman-Martinez joins HELP for the first time. Kat and Claire Pernicone, Helene Safarova, Ryan Jenkins and Maggie Zetzer contribute in the dynamic choruses, the songs of which we hope you will go home singing.

Bob Schneider is the Musical Director and Conductor this year for the first time, and Betty Meyers is one of our accompanists. We are assembling a dynamite orchestra of excellent musicians including Pete Cumming to round out what promises to be an incredible musical event at First Baptist.

Jeff Gordon has been successful in putting our ticket sales online through our web site. Look for the Les Miserable logo in the right hand column of the FBC Home Page. The seating for the production, which will be in our Gothic Sanctuary is divided into three sections.

**VIP Seating** – the first one or two rows. An Intermission dessert reception will be held in the Fireside Room for our **VIP's who purchase a ticket at \$100 or more.**

**Preferred Seating** – the next six rows will be held for those purchasing tickets at \$25 each.

**General Admission** – seating in the balance of the pews will cost \$19 each.

A group rate deduction of \$4 per ticket in Preferred Seating and General Admission is available for groups of 10 or more; ask Mike Skerritt or Jeff Gordon for the online code used to get the group rate.

The number of tickets in each section will be limited so everyone will have a comfortable seat. Viewing in all sections will be enhanced by two-camera projection on the big screen.

### Performance Dates:

7:30 PM Friday – March 28th  
 7:30 PM Saturday – March 29th  
 2:00 PM Sunday – March 30th  
 7:00 PM Tuesday – April 1st  
 7:30 PM Friday – April 4th  
 7:30 PM Saturday – April 5th  
 2:00 PM Sunday – April 6th

**So, don't miss this landmark production at First Baptist.**  
 Check your schedules and purchase your tickets today!

[www.firstbaptistcleveland.org](http://www.firstbaptistcleveland.org)

## New Years Resolutions

by Debbie Cornelius

It has been about a month since we made those New Years resolutions. We were determined to make one that is in our best interests; **but maybe we were being "resolute" at our favorite holiday celebration. How is it going so far? Many people act in haste or have not given the proper thought to this process. Let's discuss how we (and they) can set and achieve our resolution goals.** Using your best self-management skills and determination to succeed at your goals: Set yourself up for success!

### Specific actions + set timeframe + positive attitude = goals achieve

- \* Set realistic goals with measurements at set milestones. This requires making a specific plan with actions leading to **the target of your goal(s). Don't set any part of your plan to be too difficult to achieve; slow and steady wins the race!**
- \* Ask for direction or research information that will aid in your success. Wise family members, clergy, friends, a life coach or a credible source of information can add fuel to your journey.
- \* Interject some fun elements and rewards along your journey. **Be cautious that you don't interfere with any progress already made!**
- \* Most importantly\*, Own your process! Be responsible to your own success by being honest and sincere to yourself. Use your positive energy to ensure your success in your dedication to your efforts.

**This process will lead you into success in any journey of your life; business or personal. Best of luck and don't forget to include God in all of your life plans.**

THE POWER



OF FBC YOUTH



**WHO?** Youth, parents, advisors & friends

**WHEN?** February 16th at 12:15 pm

**WHERE?** The Fellowship Hall

**WHAT?** Annual Lunch and FBC Youth Meeting &



## FBC Youth: Annual Christmas Tree Fundraiser Gives Back to the Community

by Jae Williams

This year's Christmas Tree Fundraiser was so successful that we were able to give back to the community through several donations:

- ◆ \$1,000.00 donation to Troop 179
- ◆ \$300.00 to Church of The Savior
- ◆ \$100.00 to P.A.D.S.  
(Pride Among Daughters)
- ◆ \$75.00 to Church of the Covenant

We will come together to discuss our plans for 2014 including mission projects, teaching materials, exploration trips, scholarships, praise dancers, youth choir, participation in Sunday worship, basketball, CONVERGE, summer jobs and Youth Advisory Committee. **You wouldn't want to miss it!**

Lunch will be provided and will include baked chicken, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, **greens, corn bread, salad, desert and Jae's home-made lemonade.** For further information please contact Jae Williams at [Jwilliams@firstbaptistcleveland.org](mailto:Jwilliams@firstbaptistcleveland.org)

**Youth Praise Team** is growing under the direction of [Nehemiah Spencer](#)

Join us every Wednesday and Thursday nights at 6 m. Prime-Time dinner is offered on Wednesdays at no charge to youth.

SPECIAL GUEST



Rockin' robot





## CBA's Own Rev. Yvonne Carter Selected as Executive Minister

by Martin Rolfs Massaglia

Rev. Yvonne Carter has been unanimously called to serve as the new Executive Minister for the Cleveland Baptist Association (CBA) by the region's board. Carter comes to the CBA from a role serving in the Missional Life and Leadership Division of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS). She is a member of Grace Tabernacle Baptist Church and serves as an assistant pastor to the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Pryce.

Before entering ministry, she spent years working in the corporate and non-profit sectors. Rev. Carter was licensed to ministry in 1995 by Grace Tabernacle Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio, graduated from Ashland Theological Seminary in 1998 with the Master of Arts degree in Christian Education and was ordained as an American Baptist minister in 1998 by the CBA. She is currently enrolled at Ashland in the Doctor of Ministry program with a focus on Transformational Leadership.

Rev. Carter comes to this position following a long affiliation with the CBA, serving as a member of the Board of Trustees and chair of the Department of Christian Education. She also served as director of the Youth Empowerment Project, the region's youth at risk intervention program, from 1997-2000.

Martin Rolfs Massaglia, President of the CBA Board of Trustees commented, "Rev. Carter knows the CBA, she knows CBA's professional and lay leaders. She has been involved personally in some of our more successful endeavors. In addition Rev. Carter knows, loves, cares for and has a heart for Cleveland. And finally, Rev. Carter is completely knowledgeable about The American Baptist Churches, USA, our denomination. Instead of a lengthy period of orienting herself to the CBA, to Cleveland and to the ABC, Rev. Carter will be able to begin immediately to put her knowledge and her passion to work to move CBA in the direction of God's vision. God has blessed us in this process.

The Cleveland Baptist Association is happy to announce that its offices have relocated to the campus of Fairhill Partners. You can now reach CBA at: 12200 Fairhill Road, Suite B421, Cleveland, Ohio, 44120. Telephone: 216-291-3040; fax 216-291-3041.

## Health and Pocketbook Strategies Plus Seminar Series

by Dr. Tobili Sam-Yellowe

Despite the glut of information available about food variety and nutrients, confusion abounds regarding what to eat and what to avoid. Terms like antioxidants, omega-3 fatty acids, LDLs, HDLs, triglycerides, MUFAs and PUFAs are being used increasingly. Without intervention or changes in the diet, bad dietary food choices started in childhood can lead to debilitating chronic diseases such as obesity, type II diabetes and cardiovascular diseases later in life. If you want to know how nutrients can prevent chronic diseases, how a balanced diet rich in nutrient variety combined with moderate exercise can help you maintain a healthy weight, or how to budget effectively, shop and plan meals to save money, attend one of our seminars. Seminars will be held twice a month in Wheaton Center at First Baptist Church beginning in January 2014. All seminars will be at 7 pm. Registration for each seminar is \$20.00.

### Topics:

- February 21: Vitamins, Minerals and Phytonutrients
- February 28: Fighting Inflammation: Good fats, fiber and gut flora
- March 14: Dealing with credit problems, meal planning for high nutritional value and saving money
- March 28: Does God care about what we eat? The Daniel Promise
- April 4: Versatility of grains, greens and legumes: reducing the risk for cardiovascular diseases
- April 11: Credit restoration, shopping the perimeter to save money
- May 2: Nutritional deficiencies and immunity
- May 16: Complex carbohydrates, blood sugar and type II diabetes
- June 13: Genetically modified foods: health benefit or detriment?
- June 27: Nutritional and financial homeostasis: meal planning on a budget for nutrient variety

For more information, contact Dr. Tobili Sam-Yellowe at 216-272-4245 or e-mail [tyellowe@att.net](mailto:tyellowe@att.net).



## Dynamic Duo: Another Blessing! Schneider-Meyers Organ-Piano Recital

by Mike Skerritt

At 2 PM Sunday afternoon, January 19th, members and friends of First Baptist were treated to another incredible Solo and Duo Recital by Bob Schneider and Betty Meyers.

This duo, who does so much to enhance our worship experience each and every Sunday, demonstrated once again why First Baptist has the best musical direction team in NE Ohio!

While all the pieces on the program by Gigout, Bach, Liszt, Ginastera, Collingsworth and Burkhardt, three stood out for me for their complexity, musicality and energy.

**Bob's rendition of Bach's Concerto No. 1 in G on the mighty Skerritt-Cumming Organ** demonstrated the wide range of musical instruments and subtle nuances available to the serious organist on this magnificent instrument.

**Not to be outdone, Betty impressed us with Ginastera's Suite de Danzas Criollas.** If not the beautiful melodic lines, then the sheer power and majesty of the elements of the Suite brought thunderous applause, and a few whistles a la rock concerts. **It's a good thing we don't pay Betty by the note or FBC would be broke!**

But perhaps the most entertaining piece for many was watching tall Bob and shorter Betty share the organ bench, keyboards, and pedals **in Burkhardt's Praise to the Lord, the Almighty** Organ Duet. Four hands flying over the keyboards and four feet tapping the pedals created a spectacle as entertaining visually as it was phonically.

**A wonderful encore and festive reception completed the afternoon's festivities, to the delight of the many in attendance.**

**Thank you, Bob and Betty! We can't wait until next year!**

## Building Renovation Update

by Jeff Gordon

### Why Is the Sanctuary So Cold?

**Yes, we're aware that the sanctuary is cold on Sunday mornings – between 64-65 degrees. No, we're not trying to economize by turning the thermostats down.** There are actually 3 factors which help explain the lack of heat. **First, the obvious: it's unusually cold outside – even for Cleveland.** Second, our sanctuary has virtually no insulation within it – none in the walls, and none in the roof. Stained glass windows let the cold come right in. **Our church was built when energy costs weren't a consideration, and it's extremely difficult, if not impossible, to add more insulation.** Finally, we looked within the walls and discovered that over the years, roughly 25% of the radiators lining the side walls have been disconnected – likely **due to leaks. It's possible to replace them, but it will be an expensive project for some future time.** For now, **we're pumping as much heat as possible into the sanctuary, so we encourage you to dress warmly until mother nature raises her thermostat!**

### Shelburne Men's Room Refurbished

The maintenance team has just completed a renovation of **the men's room in the Shelburne hallway. New paint, new lights, new flooring and a more secure privacy curtain have helped make the men's room cleaner, brighter and no-longer-embarrassing for the time being, until a major capital program of restroom renovations can be undertaken.**

Steve Rosen reinstalls baseboard trim along new carpeting



## Help Needed Within the Children's Ministry

by Jeff Gordon

**We are in need of volunteers willing to help oversee planned children's activities during sermon times.** The Elevate teaching time has been moved to the Discipleship Hour at 10:10, but we still want to provide activities for the kids, who have a hard time sitting still through sermons. Pastor Jeff and his team of volunteers have planned activities, crafts, videos and games for each Sunday, and have asked parents to help out during one service every two months. Still, we could use another eight persons who **would be willing, occasionally, to help out. If you're one of those willing persons, please see Pastor Jeff or Carly Marino for more information.**

## The 2014 Annual Meeting: A Success For All

by Paul Eickmann

The FBC Council recommended the Annual Meeting be preceded by a single worship service, combining practices of both the contemporary and traditional services, followed by lunch and then the Annual Meeting. This took place Sunday, January 26. In excess of 200 participants attended the combined service in which both the Chancel Choir and Praise Team led a wonderful blend of contemporary **and traditional worship music. Senior Pastor Martin's involvement was sorely missed but his spiritual and emotional presence was certainly felt.**

Following the service, approximately 180 people attended lunch, filling the fellowship hall to its capacity! The meal was preceded by several pieces of music, including two works from "Les Miserables", the Happy Ending Lyric Players Spring production, and one from, Kaitlyn Gocan, a youth at FBC. It took time and dedication from many to organize this event, without whom, it would not have been possible.

**The meeting's emphasis was "God's Unexpected Blessings". After a brief report by the Moderator, Mike Skerritt read the Senior Pastor's Report which highlighted many remarkable achievements accomplished over the past year and included challenges yet to be met.**

Treasurer Ralph Hise provided a concise financial report. A highlight of his presentation was that the funds, transferred previously from Missions in 2012, were completely restored in 2013. He also explained that less was taken from the endowment with the goal of continuously reducing that draw. To the sound of applause, the 2014 budget was unanimously approved by the assembly.

Gregg Jenkins, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented an extensive report of committee action. Numerous recommendations were all approved and special gratitude is due to this committee for their hard work and dedication. The following members were newly elected to serve a three year commitment:

Tony Peebles returns to FBC Council as Leader for the Stewardship Cluster. This past year he served as Cluster Leader Associate for Outreach and Communication. His vocation in the finance profession in addition to his council experience make Tony an ideal person for this new role.

Rebecca Chapman becomes Cluster Leader for Worship and the Arts. Her extensive activity in churches and her deep passion for serving through music make her well qualified for this position. Richard Freshwater, outgoing leader of this cluster, will work closely with Rebecca during this transition.

Lynne Liu assumes the position of Outreach and Communication Leader. Lynne, as a former Chair of Evangelism, was the originator of the annual "Faith In Action" Sunday. In addition, her extensive and ongoing activity in the hunger garden brings another perspective to Council.

The Annual Meeting as well as the entire day itself concluded with the Chancel Choir singing "The Lord Bless You and Keep You". Success was the prize for all at FBC. Thank you for your continuing support and prayers as we enter a new year of challenges and possibilities.

## March Birthdays

<u>1st</u>	Maggie Fox Martha Thorpe
<u>3rd</u>	Alex Cardwell David Parajon G. Michael Skerritt
<u>4th</u>	Joyce Berry Jane Helwig
<u>5th</u>	Alice Brightup
<u>7th</u>	Alwin Miller Diamond Miller
<u>8th</u>	Teresa Rae Drotar
<u>9th</u>	Cynthia Burke Rosemarie Dabson
<u>11th</u>	Robert Gill
<u>12th</u>	Zoe Cook Elle Frey Tyler Stuart Gates Cynthia Gill
<u>15th</u>	Marvin Cooper Tobin Howell Carolyn Menges Mona Robinson
<u>16th</u>	Len Borders
<u>18th</u>	Caroline Shelley
<u>19th</u>	Ethan Chaney Miles Chaney Lauren Lumpkin
<u>20th</u>	Maya Anderson Wilma Hall
<u>21st</u>	Kyle Davis
<u>22nd</u>	R. Daniel Hise
<u>23rd</u>	Jacquelyn Berry John G. Heerlein
<u>25th</u>	Moira Burke Patricia L. Olexa
<u>27th</u>	Faith Arnold Nancy Eisele Celeste Hamdan
<u>28th</u>	Charie Babcock
<u>30th</u>	David Case Ranen Howell
<u>31st</u>	Carolyn Lang

Happy Birthday



# Tower Tidings

The First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland  
3630 Fairmount Blvd.  
Shaker Heights, OH 44118

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Dated Material: February 3, 2014  
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## FBCGC Lay Leadership

Moderator: Paul Eickmann  
Vice Moderator: Stephanie Fallcreek  
Treasurer: Ralph Hise  
Clerk: Lindsay Evans  
Children's Center: Sheri Stevens  
Communication & Outreach: Lynne Liu  
Marketing, Greeters/Welcome Center,  
Communications, Barnabas Ministry  
Discipleship: Carolyn Neal  
Discipleship Classes, PrimeTime,  
Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry,  
Covenant Groups  
Fellowship and Nurture: Jim Ankenbrandt  
Stephen Ministry, Deacons,  
New Member Orientation  
Missions & Social Concerns: Tamara Turner  
Stewardship: Tony Peebles  
Property and Finance, Stewardship Campaign,  
Endowment and Audit  
Worship and Fine Arts: Rebecca Chapman

## FBC Church and Office Staff

Rev. Dr. Martin Rolfs Massaglia, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Stephanie Allen, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Jeff Gordon, Associate Pastor / Administrator  
Rev. Mary Ann Short, Interim Minister of Visitation  
Dr. Robert Schneider, Director of Music and Organist  
Mr. Jae Williams, Director of Youth Ministries  
**Mrs. Jane Pernicone, Director of Children's Center**  
Mr. G. Michael Skerritt, Director of Planned Giving  
Mrs. Sharon Anderson, Director of Arts Outreach  
Ms. Star Knuckles, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant  
Mrs. Jessica Chapman-Martinez, Executive Asst./ Communications Manager  
Ms. Betty Meyers, Associate Director of Music  
Mrs. Margo Jerome, Accountant

## Tower Tidings Staff

Editors: Martin Rolfs Massaglia, Jeff Gordon,  
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Thanks to the many volunteers who help assemble the  
Tower Tidings mailing each month!

The Next Tower Tidings Deadline: February 20. The next issue will be mailed: March 3, 2014 Please submit articles or news via e-mail to Jessica@firstbaptistcleveland.org
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