

Tower Tidings



First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland

March 2014



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Love Came Knocking at the Door

by Kay Rolfs Massaglia

As we walked the final days of Martin's life, we were touched by GOD'S love in hundreds of ways. From January 4th to February 15th, the depth of our grief could only be tolerated because of the depth of the love, which came knocking at our door.

So how does one sum up the experience of those six weeks? It is nigh impossible. It is also nigh impossible to comprehend and express gratitude for the tender loving care graced upon our family during the darkest days of our lives, by our neighbors, by our family and friends, and by this church. There were so many angels, that GOD's presence was felt at every turn. To be more specific, whatever wish expressed was granted. From Pierre's chocolate chip ice cream hanging on our mailbox, to special pillows and monitors, to elaborate and delicious meals delivered non-stop. These gifts sustained our family with a soft cocoon of caring and God's love. Not only did they nurture our bodies, but they also blessed our minds and spirits. It would be remiss not to individually thank Anne and Paul Eickmann for coordinating and delivering the daily drop-offs. Their sacrifice of time, and smiling, understanding presence brought added comfort and sustenance.

The memorial service at FBC was another incredibly blessed outpouring of hard work, talent and love. The music and stories upheld us and touched us beyond words. So many people sacrificed time to be able to prepare and be present at the service. We were all overwhelmed by not only the beauty of the service, but the way it connected us to the number of people that have been touched by Martin's life. It has, and will, sustain us forever.

As our family reluctantly returned to their homes, each carried with them two opposite but connected experiences. First, grieving the death of our beloved Dad, Pop, Brother, Uncle, Cousin. But more importantly, a stronger and more powerful connection to Martin, and to each other, nurtured by the love and caring of this church. Thank you, my dear friends. I don't know how we would have gotten through it without you.

The love, which came knocking at our door, will never be forgotten. The only way we can hope to repay it, is to pass it along. Thank you FBCGC, and Thank You GOD.



Please Welcome Rev. David M. Brown Interim Minister

by Michael Skerritt

You have heard the announcements. Rev. David M. Brown has agreed to become an Interim Minister at First Baptist Church. And you probably heard a bit of enthusiasm in those announcements. It isn't just because David has an extremely impressive résumé, which he has, and which we are including in this issue of Tower Tidings. It is because David and his wife Ellen were here before as interims during an extremely difficult time of transition in the life of First Baptist. At that time the church was sorting through the rapid and sometimes contentious changes caused in part by the retirement of a beloved 20-year minister, a somewhat adversarial relationship with the style of his replacement, a brief residency of another minister whose family situation prevented him from fully participating in the life of the church, and finally over that same period of time, a series of interesting but largely ineffective interim preachers. The church managed to survive these difficulties under the steady leadership of Stephanie Allen and many, many devoted volunteers, but it badly needed someone to come in from the outside, without any preconceived biases, to analyze the situation, to begin a healing process and to help the congregation get moving in a positive direction.

Enter David M. Brown, the answer to our prayers! David not only helped the FBC members and friends understand the meaning of the events of the past few years and the contribution each individual had in re-directing the church towards growth and spirituality, but he was instrumental in helping the church identify and enthusiastically embrace that direction. His input helped tremendously in the identification of Martin Rolfs Massaglia as the perfect ministerial candidate to lead us into the future.

Some would say the loss of Martin and the departure of Stephanie is more serious than any problems FBC had before. Certainly there is a huge feeling of loss of two individuals who have done so much to make FBC the place we want to worship. This is new territory for all of us. So the selection of an interim who can provide the comfort and healing we all need while he helps us identify our future and move forward is critical. Based on our previous experience, we think David M. Brown is the guy who can do that for us all.

David will be with us on Sunday, March 16. He will remember many of you. He would like to meet all of you at some point. Welcome him and his lovely wife Ellen and make them feel at home at FBC.

David's résumé follows:

David M. Brown, a native of Michigan, was born into an American Baptist pastor's family and is a graduate of Michigan State University (B.A.), Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div.), Princeton Theological Seminary (Th.M.), Temple University (Ph.D.), and the Certificate program of the Interim Ministries Network (in 2007). In 1974, he married the former Ellen G. Longmore and was ordained by the Stelton Baptist Church of Edison, NJ, where he pastored for 5½ years. The Browns were then called to the Sunland Baptist Church in southern California where they ministered for 9½ years.

In 1995, David and Ellen were commissioned as American Baptist missionaries to the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague, Czech Republic. David held the position of Director of Continuing Education, Assistant Professor of Practical Theology, and was a member of the seminary's Directorate. During that time, he traveled widely throughout Europe, leading seminars and teaching. In July of 2000, the Browns joined the home staff of International Ministries, where David designed the *Global Specialist* initiative and led the *Mission Explosion* team, a position which for financial reasons was terminated in December of 2003. From 2002 - 04, he founded and directed the part-time *Russian Institute of Preaching* where he trained 21 preaching teachers for the Russian Baptist Union. He was the Bible study teacher at the *World Mission Conference* in 2001, *Conference for Overseas Missionaries* in 2002, and *Former Missionaries' Retreat* in 2004 (all at Green Lake, WI), and, in 2007, was the keynote speaker for the 35th annual Bible and Missions' Conference for ABC of Ohio. He remains a Visiting Lecturer at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague and *Global Consultant for Preaching* with International Ministries (he has taught three two-week Master's level courses since 2005, two in Prague and one in Odessa, Ukraine). In August of 2007, he became the Executive Director of the American Baptist Theological Center at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, but, because of declining funding, his position ended a year later. Since then, he has served in five full-time interim pastorates: at First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, First Baptist Church of Twin Falls, Idaho, Granada Hills Baptist Church in Granada Hills, CA, Market Street Baptist Church in Zanesville, OH, and First Baptist Church of Lebanon, NH. Just prior to his ministry in Lebanon, he served for 9 months as Interim Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island. He "officially" retired in April of 2013.

David's first book, *Dramatic Narrative in Preaching*, was published by Judson Press in 1981. His major preaching textbook, *Transformational Preaching: Theory and Practice*, was released in 2003 (in both English and Russian), and its revised English edition was published in February of 2008. An abridged version of this text (*Transformational Preaching: The Basics*) was completed in 2010, and his fourth book, *All the Parables of Jesus: a Guide to Discovery*, was released in July of 2012.

Continued on pg. 3

Ellen, also raised in an American Baptist pastor's home, graduated with a two-year degree from Eastern Seminary in 1974 and, for the next 25 years, founded and directed two Christian preschools. She also developed women's ministries and was the first Director of MK (Missionary Kids') Care for International Ministries (for 7 years). She then served as Director of Discipleship at the First Baptist Church of Glendale, CA, and, in September of 2011, was ordained by the East Livingston Baptist Church of Reynoldsburg, OH. She has served part-time interim pastorates at the First Baptist Church of Newark, OH and the First Baptist Church of Pawtucket, RI.

The Browns have two adult sons. Matthew (with his wife, Beth), is an ordained American Baptist pastor living in Ohio (though not currently serving a congregation). They have two children, Canaan (6) and Charis (4). Nathan is married and living in Philadelphia with his wife, Kim. Their son, Justus, was born in November of 2012. Nathan is trained in Economic and Community Development and is currently serving as the *Christian Commitments and Client Education Manager* for World Vision International.

The Pastoral Search Process: What Happens Now?

by Jeff Gordon

When a senior pastor leaves a church for any reason, the church begins the process of searching for a new leader – the pastoral search process. If you've become a part of First Baptist Church in the past eight years, you've never seen this process in action, and probably have questions about how FBC will undertake the search. Let's look at the process.

It's helpful to know that in Baptist churches, pastors are not "assigned" to a church by denominational leaders, as often happens in Methodist, Lutheran or Presbyterian churches. Baptist churches are free to ask whomever they choose to be their pastor. At the same time however, there is a structure within American Baptist Churches to help congregations become aware of pastors who are actively seeking a new ministry setting. There is also a recommended process for undertaking the search – a process that has been shown to be helpful and effective.

Our search for new leadership will begin with the appointment by the Church Council of a pastoral search team, made up of a dozen persons representing the congregation. The Council will do its best to appoint a team which represents the diversity of our congregation. Once appointed and commissioned by the congregation, the search team will first do an in-depth congregational assessment. The assessment has two purposes – it provides the congregation an opportunity to consider its past, present and future, and to give intentional thought to our needs, goals and

hopes as we consider future ministry. The assessment will also become the means of introducing our congregation to pastoral candidates – it's their "first look" at our church. This assessment does not happen quickly. It's important for us to take the time needed to carefully consider our priorities and vision, and the type of ministry and minister we're seeking. We will need to gather some demographic data about our congregation. The search team will want to hear from every segment of the congregation as they prepare the assessment.

Once the assessment is complete, it's time to look at candidates. All ordained American Baptist pastors have what is called a "profile". A profile is a "snapshot" of a pastor, and includes a summary of his or her ministry experiences, their spiritual gifts and leadership abilities, evaluations from their peers, and a short narrative in which they can describe themselves and their ministry goals and purposes. A church might look at dozens of profiles, and can quickly eliminate candidates whose experience level or qualifications do not match what we're seeking. The search team also has the option of looking outside the pool of ABC-ordained pastors as they feel is appropriate or necessary.

(I want to make it clear that I am not a candidate for this position. My current ministry is an excellent match for my spiritual gifts and abilities.)

After the search team has prayerfully and carefully narrowed the field down to a handful of candidates, in-depth phone conversations and interviews take place. These conversations allow candidates to tell more about themselves, and ask questions about our church. The search team will listen to sermons preached by candidates. Typically, a few candidates may excuse themselves from further consideration for a wide variety of reasons. It is the ultimate goal of the search team to choose a single candidate to present to the church for consideration. Only one candidate at a time is ever introduced to the church.

The final candidate is then brought before the church so the church can meet him or her through face-to-face meetings and hear them preach. There will be a forum during which the church can ask questions of the candidate. Ultimately, the congregation must vote to accept the candidate, requiring an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the church's membership.

It's important for us to allow the necessary time for the search process – even if it feels like we need to move quickly. Be prepared for the search to take 12-15 months or even longer. Because of the nature of Martin's death, we have grief to work through before we are prepared to welcome and accept a new pastor. In the meanwhile, we will have the help of Rev. Dave Brown, and possibly one other interim minister, who will temporarily assume the role of senior pastor, providing continuity of leadership until we have completed our search and are ready to welcome a new spiritual leader.



A Mission Opportunity

by Jessica Chapman-Martinez

Every summer a group of excited people head down to beautiful Nicaragua, opening their hearts to serve impoverished communities alongside our partner organization, AMOS Health & Hope. This year, from **June 20th—July 2nd**, the team will head back to the community of San Jose de la Mula for a water filter supervision project, helping families gain access to clean drinking water. "Access to safe water is a fundamental human need and therefore a basic human right," says Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General. And so we go because we must "learn to do right, seek justice and defend the oppressed" (Isaiah 1:17).

It's not too late to join the group, so if you or someone you know is interested please contact the trip leader Rev. Dave Chapman at:

dchapman@oh.rr.com

Combined Worship to Continue Through March

by Jeff Gordon

The response to the combined service – initiated following Martin's death – has been surprisingly positive! People have commented again and again how much they are enjoying seeing the church as a whole, and have liked worshipping together. Additionally, our soon-to-be interim minister, Rev. Dave Brown, has suggested that we continue the one-service concept at least through the end of March, so he too can speak to us as a unified congregation. Consequently, the worship leaders have decided to continue worshipping in **one service at 10:00 am during the month of March**. Knowing that both traditional and contemporary enthusiasts are making an equal sacrifice to accommodate the blend of styles, we appreciate everyone's patience and understanding. Martin was preparing for a big "experiment" in worship; it has just changed in ways no one could have anticipated. Thank you for making this possible.

Town Hall Meeting

Join us after worship on March 16th to meet Rev. Dave Brown and discuss the interim period together as a church body. "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ" (1 Cor. 12:12).



A Special Plea During This Interim Period

by Jeff Gordon

With our loss of Martin and Stephanie, many of the usual lines of communication between the congregation and the church office and staff have been disrupted. Volunteers may help with tasks that were previously taken care of by Martin or Stephanie. When that happens, it's all too easy to assume that the office is aware of something when, in fact, they may not be. We would appreciate knowing when special events are planned, when people are hospitalized, in crisis, or in need of pastoral care. Because clear communication is so important during this interim time, **please make a special effort to let the church office and staff know what's happening within the congregation**. A phone call, an email or a text is all it takes to make sure that important events do not slip through the cracks.



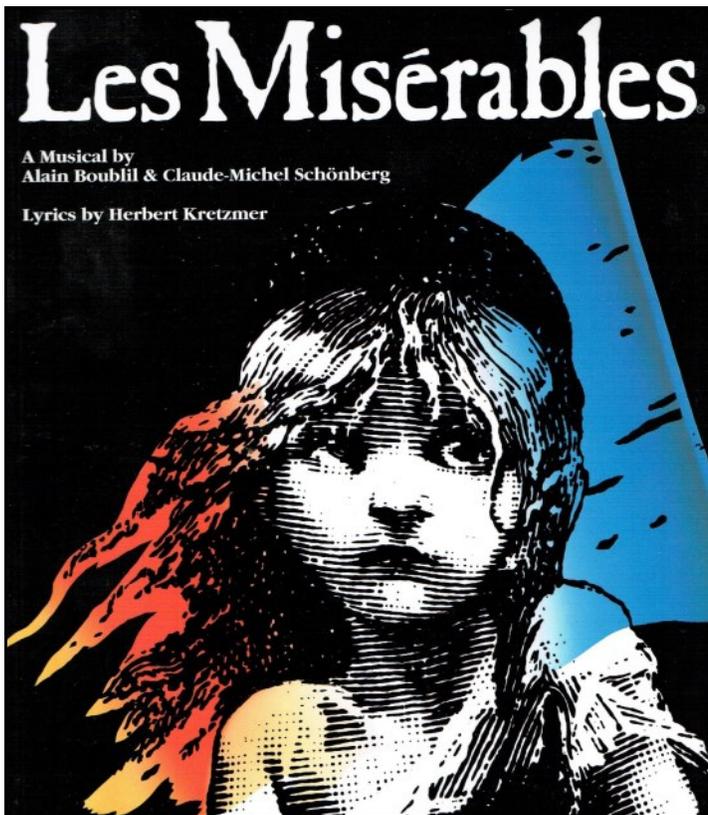
The Children's Center Connection

by Jane Pernicone

"You'll nail it...no doubt about it." That was part of the last correspondence I had with Martin. I was giving him an update about our pending site visit for NAEYC Accreditation. Martin always supported us in our quality initiatives and encouraged us with his words. You may recall that our window for the site visit was the last three weeks of February. We would only find out the day before, that the visit would be the next day. As it happened, the first day of our site visit was planned for the day of Martin's funeral. We tried to change the day, but we could not afford the delay. We felt some anxiety, but the sentiment of the staff echoed Martin's words, "We got this!"

The site visit turned out to be much less stressful than we anticipated. All during the day I felt Martin's calm assurance, saw his characteristic smile and heard his voice telling me, "You'll nail it...no doubt about it."

The decision about our accreditation now rests at NAEYC. They will review the notes from the site visit, as well as documentation that we submitted. We will share news as soon as we find out the result.



7:30 PM Fridays, March 28 & April 4
 7:30 PM Saturdays, March 29 & April 5
 2:00 PM Sundays, March 30 & April 6
 7:00 PM Tuesday, April 1

TICKET INFORMATION

VIP SEATING

(Front Pews and Reception in the
 Fireside Room at Intermission)
 \$100 or more per person

PREFERRED SEATING

(Middle Section of Sanctuary)
 \$25 per person

GENERAL SEATING

(Remaining Pews)
 \$19 per person

GROUP DISCOUNT AVAILABLE
 (10 or more; see Mike Skerritt)

Order online at:
www.firstbaptistcleveland.org

*Semi-Staged
 Concert Production!*

*Set in the Beautiful FBC
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Fantastic Costumes!

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*Your Favorite Songs from
 Les Misérables!*

Director Mike Skerritt and Music Director Robert Schneider have assembled a cast of superbly qualified singers and actors to tell Victor Hugo's incredible story of the social injustice of the early 19th century in France. This story, put to music by Boublil and Schonberg, is still applicable to many countries and societies today, including the USA, as the disparity between the haves and have-nots continues to grow.

Could it happen here?
 Of course not!

Are you sure?

Don't miss this powerful story!

Order tickets online NOW!

THE POWER OF FBC YOUTH



**FBC Youth will always remember
Rev. Dr. Martin Lewis Rolfs Massaglia
Rest in the arms of Christ Jesus**



Reflections from Youth Annual Meeting

by Jae Williams

- A. Youth Advisory Committee (Madison Peebles, Chairperson)- The committee will meet once a month to brainstorm ideas and goals for the youth department. Madison's number one goal is to create a mission project to aid young people.
- B. Teaching Materials (Mr. and Mrs. Alwin Miller)- We are teaching from the book by David C. Cook "The Bible In Life". The lessons focus on applying scripture to everyday life. Also our goal for the youth is providing a memory scripture each week. The 5th - 7th grade class taught by Mrs. Tondra Miller and Jae Williams. The 8th - 12th grade class is taught by Mrs. Suzanne Blum and Mr. Alwin Miller. Tracy Peebles is considering overseeing the Youth Choir, which will meet on Wednesday nights 6-7pm.
- C. Questions from Parents:
 - Q. Can the youth have a moment to present their talents in the worship service? (lead the entire music during Praise and Worship)
 - A. (Jae) Perhaps every 2nd Sunday the youth can participate
 - Q. Do we have any boys or young men who participate
 - A. (Jae) There is 1, but most boys participate in sports on Sundays, making it hard for them to participate in youth activities. Jae is going to recruit boys through their families to come to our church.
- D. Scholarships will be provided for our graduating senior, Destiny Miller, and for our youth who are planning to go on the Nicaragua Mission Trip: June 20—July 2, 2014.
- E. The Cedar Point Trip--June 21st. This year we will take our own food and cook. We will need parents, advisors and youth to help with the food.

On Air LIVE in March

by Jae Williams

WFBC is a state of the art Internet Radio Station/ Recording Studio. Our studio is able to:

- Edit video
- Broadcast internet radio
- Record and mix 16 (channels) sources in the studio
- Stream to unlimited listeners
- Go LIVE and/or rebroadcast 24/7
- Reach millions of listeners on: Live365.com, iPhone, Blackberry, Windows Mobile and many other devices.

It comes equipped with:

- Custom Player window with donation button
- User friendly software and tools
- All of the features of FaithCast 24/7 PLUS

Announcements:

Attention Youth, Parents and Advisors

Your help is needed for:

- Les Miserables concession stand during each performance
- Easter Sunday Breakfast (contact Jae)

Tuesday Night Basketball starts March 4th, 6pm-8pm at the Church of The Saviour.

Coming this Summer: Summer Jobs

The Nehemiah Project Summer Dance Program—June 23rd - July 25.

Youth Spotlights

by Jae Williams



Austin Hise is the son of Amy Hise and grandson of Ralph and Barbara Hise. He is a member of the lacrosse team for Shaker High School and also helps with East Side Ministries here at FBC.

Austin won the Order of the Arrow honor from his scout troop 662 and he is the Patrol Leader of his troop this year. Austin

also attended an Order of the Arrow leadership development scout workshop to learn more about Order of the Arrow activities and structure. Their troop outdoor activities included skiing at Peak n' Peak in February.

Austin performed with the Shaker Heights Orchestra, directed by Donna Jelen, for their O.M.E.A. competition at Hudson. His talents and heart for service are definitely making a difference in this world.

Gabrielle Farmer



Is the daughter of Alexandria Va and the granddaughter of Gentries & Beverly Farmer. Gabrielle was selected for membership in the Sanburg Scholar Society, a very high honor. She was chosen to be a member of this society not only because she was able to maintain a 3.75 grade point average but also because of her outstanding scholarship, character, leadership and service. We know that we will see great things from Gabrielle as

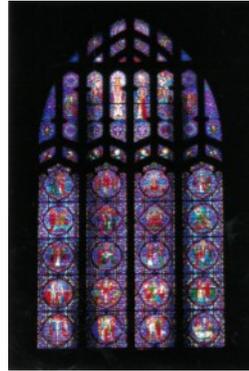
she continues her academic journey, on which we wish her the best of luck.

*Congratulations
Austin & Gabrielle!!!!*



A Word of Appreciation

by Betty Meyers



Just a note to thank you, the many members and friends of our congregation, for your support and kind words regarding my new book on the symbolism of the church; and to also thank those who helped financially to subsidize the publishing of this book. They include: The 49ers, Phyllis Edberg, Fran Leanza, and Mike Skerritt, and perhaps others of whom I am unaware. Without your support, this project would not have gotten off the ground. I

also want to again thank those who helped me in the various phases of writing the book—Marcine Petrea, Grace Helmuth, Nancy Wheaton, Nancy Hamilton, and Jeff Gordon. For those of you who have purchased the book, it is my hope that as you read and absorb the meaning of the symbols, the entire worship space will become more meaningful, and thus more holy. For those of you still considering a book, we have only about 25 left; and if we print more copies the cost will undoubtedly go up.

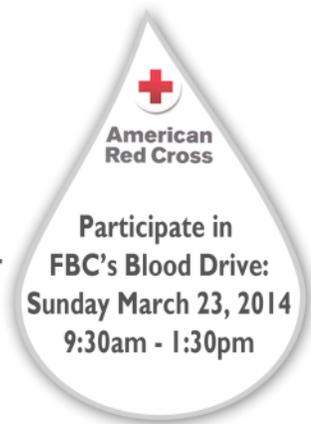
Recently I read an article from Christian Century by M. Craig Barnes, who is president of Princeton Theological Seminary, entitled, "Faith Matters: Truth in Beautiful Spaces" (Feb 5, 2014). In this article, Mr. Barnes contemplates the seriousness of church architecture in our day and age, suggesting that it's almost impossible to get a serious sanctuary building project off the ground-- for various reasons. While he doesn't advocate returning to expensive building programs, he does suggest that in every church there needs to be some encounter with beauty because it can never be separated from truth. In Psalms 27:4, David says, "One thing have I desired of the Lord... that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all of the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple." Mr. Barnes further states that "Our gospel is not just more words about God. Truth has a twin sister called beauty who beckons us to bow the knee.....it all helps worshippers *Behold* (one of our sermon topics in recent weeks).

"The sanctuary is the place where worshippers gather week after week to remember that the holy is also in the places of their lives that are not so beautiful," also the place to be baptized, to be married, to bury spouses and friends. "It is a place for pastors to ponder what God is doing in the lives of the congregation he loves. All of it is a way of beholding the sacredness of life. To behold such holy work we need holy spaces."

Don't Forget
We move our clocks FORWARD
Sunday March 9 at dawn. So instead of
2am, it should be 3am EST.

POWER in the blood

*You can put the power
of faith into action
and help save a life!*



Council Highlights

by Paul Eickmann

Council kicked off its first meeting of the year on February 25 with a Martin Luther inspired devotional based on Psalm 32. In this spirit, the eager members proceeded to business reviewing council and cluster organization and welcoming new members. Council also began preliminary discussions regarding the formation of a search committee and is enthusiastically awaiting the arrival and input of Rev. David Brown. An updated organizational chart will be included in the April edition of Tower Tidings for those unfamiliar with the church's organizational structure.

FBC's Website Undergoing a Redesign

by Jeff Gordon

First Baptist Church has an excellent website – one of the best I've seen for a church. One thing we've learned is that most (if not all) of our newest members first met our church through the website – long before they ever walked through the door. Because our website (firstbaptistcleveland.org) is so valuable to our outreach efforts, the website will undergo a major change in the next several weeks.

When we unveiled the new website several years ago, it was state of the art. But technology has changed so quickly – especially the dramatic increase in the use of smartphones – that our website is now limited in its ability to be easily viewed by smartphone users. Research further indicates that for the majority of the African American community, their only access to the internet is through their smartphones. Our web developer is now redesigning our website using a completely new architecture that will make it just as easy to view the site on a smartphone as it is on a computer. In fact, the new architecture will allow for several features that our current site cannot support.

Along with the new architecture, you'll see a fresh new design, based on what we've learned in the past couple of years. Look for these changes within 4-6 weeks, and let us know what you think.



The Hands and Feet of Jesus

by Barbara Baus

American Baptist Women, an organized group in most American Baptist Churches, has been supporting missions, both in this country and around the world for more than 150 years. FBC has not had an ABW or Women's Society for more than 25 years. However, the need to support children and families in the Philippines, Haiti, Nepal, El Salvador, and down the road at the Neighborhood Center in Campbell, Ohio grows with each passing year.

For several years the specific requests made of FBC by the Cleveland ABW have gone unheeded. If we are to be the hands and feet of Jesus, as our spiritual leaders have often requested, we have a great opportunity NOW to be involved. In the next week or two, a poster will be placed in a conspicuous spot in the church. On it will be handprints in pairs of two with needs for various missions. Tear off the top handprint with the need. On the bottom handprint please write your name and phone number, so we can monitor returns. We will place receptacles in the hallway by Spahr, where we collect our Christmas donations. There is much more to tell you about this project, but not enough room in Tower Tidings. If you need answers to questions, call Barbara Baus at 216-291-4932.

As always, thank you for your ongoing willingness to help our brothers and sisters all over the world. The gifts will be needed by Maundy Thursday, April 17. Think of this, perhaps, as a Lenten offering for Christ, who gave His life for us.



Lenten Devotional Books Available

by Jeff Gordon

For several years, Rev. Richard Rusbult has provided us with a book of devotions that focus on the season of Lent, which begins March 5. Rev. Rusbult was a good friend of Martin's, and Martin had asked to receive the booklet again this year. After Martin's memorial service, I contacted Rev. Rusbult and asked if he would write a note about his relationship to Martin that we could include in the booklet. A beautiful letter was sent, and has been incorporated into the booklet. Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5, and the booklet includes a one-page devotion for each day. Copies will be available on the tables outside the office beginning Sunday, March 2 and weeks following – be sure to pick up your copy.

Congregational Workshop on Adaptive Change

by Marth Lant and Suzanne Blum

On Saturday, February 15, the Long Range Planning Committee held a congregational workshop. About 85 motivated people came to enjoy a quick breakfast before hearing the plenary session presentations.

After opening prayer by Jae Williams, Moderator Paul Eickmann announced that Interim Pastor Rev. David Brown has agreed to serve as FBC's interim minister starting the middle of March. After applauding this happy news, people next heard a great presentation by Dr. Damian Junk that illustrated the concept of adaptive challenges and the leadership necessary to thrive in the face of such challenges. He explained via graphics and concrete examples that successful problem-solving of adaptive challenges is transformative. We believe that God, through Pastor Martin, called us to this process to help us discern the future ministry of FBC. Damian explained that "Adaptive leadership will work with the collective intelligence of the congregation to engage us all in the solution to adaptive challenges. It is a process of trial and error, since there is no known technical fix. It requires time, patience, understanding, engagement and loss." It will be the role of the Long Range Planning Committee to 1) facilitate the process; 2) hold the congregation responsible for engagement and participation in the process; and 3) hold staff and lay leadership responsible for protecting the aspirations of the congregation. The power point outlining Damian's presentation is available to anyone who is interested - just contact Jessica at Jessica@firstbaptistcleveland.org and she can send it to you.

Next we broke up into six focus groups, sharing, recording and prioritizing our aspirations. Where possible, we also evaluated and discussed the costs or losses involved in achieving our priority aspirations. For instance, one group prioritized deeper and wider interaction between the generations, as well as other categories of people who attend FBC. We realized that to achieve this aspiration, we need to lose operating only in our comfort zones. Rather than talking only to the people we always talk to, we have to be brave and walk into other circles to join the discussion. We had another session repeating the six groups, enabling people to participate in two different sessions. The hope and love present among the participants was palpable.

The following Monday, the Long Range Planning Committee met to review the summaries gleaned from the discussions. The Long Range Planning Committee will meet a few more times to fully process everyone's input and think through the next steps in this process. It appears that some people are catching on to adaptive change so well that they are ready to bring the sacrifice of time and talent to put ideas into action.

Thanks to all who are participating - we look forward to the input of each and every one of you. We will keep you updated regarding our progress and next steps.

March Birthdays

- 1st Maggie Fox
Martha Thorpe
- 2nd Greg & Mari Jenkins**
- 3rd Alex Cardwell
David Parajon
G. Michael Skerritt
- 4th Joyce Berry
Jane M. Hellwig
Paul & Anne Eickmann**
- 5th Alice Brightup
- 7th Alwin Miller
Diamond Miller
- 8th Teresa Rae Drotar
- 9th Cynthia Burke
Rosemarie Dabson
- 11th Robert Gill
- 12th Zoe Cook
Elle Frey
Tyler Stewart Gates
Cynthia Gill
- 15th Carolyn Menges
Mona Robinson
- 16th Len Borders
- 19th Ethan Chaney
Miles Chaney
Lauren Lumpkin
- 20th Maya Anderson
- 21st Kyle Davis
Jerry Tillman & Stephanie FallCreek **
- 23rd Jacquelyn Berry
- 25th Moira Burke
- 27th Faith Arnold
Celeste Hamdan
- 28th Charie Babcock
- 30th David Case
- 31st Carolyn Lang
- **Wedding Anniversaries



Tower Tidings

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Dated Material: March 3, 2014
Thanks for prompt delivery!

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

The Next Tower Tidings Deadline: March 17.
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Please submit articles or news via e-mail to
Jessica@firstbaptistcleveland.org

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