



Tower Topics

The monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Mansfield, PA

March 2011 - Vol. XXXVIII #3

Rev. Steven C Case

<http://www.firstbaptistchurchmansfield.com>

March 7th is Ash Wednesday which begins a period of forty weekdays and six Sundays in the season we call Lent. Lent culminates in the celebration of Holy Week. In joy and sorry during this season, the church proclaims, remembers and responds to the atoning death of Jesus Christ.

In some religious practices Lent might feature: fasting, sacrifices (such as giving up meat or coffee or anything that means something special to you), and the promise to oneself that to do something special during this holy season. This may include more Bible study or maintaining family or individual devotions. It could even mean to BEGIN setting aside time for family or individual devotion.

Consider what the church has to proclaim during this period. It proclaims the love of God and the gift of Jesus to die on the cross for the remission of our sins. Hence the practice of giving up something we consider of great value. Each of us through our daily lives proclaims the love of God every day. The church remembers too what Jesus said about eternal life and what He went through for us because He loved us. The last aspect of Lent is the church responding to the atoning death of Jesus Christ. How do we respond? Specifically during Lent we can commit ourselves to more study and devotional periods and learn what Christ has in store for us. However, it should not stop with the Easter celebration but be continued each and every day we live. We can respond to Jesus by sharing and showing His love with those who have never heard or even those who might have forgotten that He loves them. Our response to the ministry and call of Christ can take the form of a deeper commitment to His walk within the life of First Baptist Church as well.

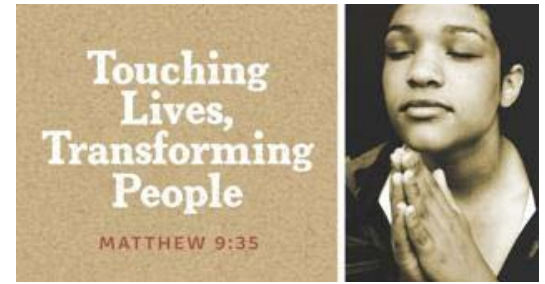
Our response can be in many areas but it needs to be both an individualistic and a corporate decision. During this Lenten Season, as we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the gift Jesus gave, let us determine what we can give Him. Consider the words from a little Christmas Chorus entitled, "What Can I Give Him?" with words by Christiana Rossetti and music by Don Cason.

"What can I give Him, poor as I am, if I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise-man I would do my part; yet what can I give Him? GIVE HIM MY HEART!"

- Shalom, Pastor Steve

Dear FBC Family:

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.” Matthew 9:35 (NRSV)



We recognize that all people are made in God’s image and are loved by God. We also recognize that we must reach across cultural, social, economic and racial lines with practical acts of love within the church and the community. First Baptist Church must be characterized by believers who are committed to the reconciliation of relationships among all people.

Loving relationships within FBC produce unity, accountability and a powerful demonstration of God’s presence within our communities. Beyond FBC they are manifested in cooperation and interdependent relationships with other Christians locally, nationally and internationally. Together, we can make a difference for the cause of Christ by supporting the America For Christ Offering 2011.

This year’s theme—“Touching Lives, Transforming People”—is an encouraging reminder that Jesus’ public ministry was all about a transformational hope for people in need. With his hands, Jesus touched, comforted, prayed and blessed people. The same hands, whose power restored sight to the blind, made the lame walk and miraculously fed the 5,000.

In Christ, we have both the model and the strength to “touch and transform” people in the church and the community. It is our personal walk with the Lord that transforms and enables us through the power of Christ to live not for ourselves, but to serve God by serving our neighbors. Our hands become the tools of Christ in a world of need and opportunity. Christ’s work of transformation is accomplished when we step into the lives of people around us.

We are impelled by this year’s theme to touch people with whom we come in contact every day with the transformational love of Jesus Christ. We ask you to join us in giving generously to the American For Christ Offering 2011 and in helping us to reach our goal in support of touching and transforming lives for the cause of Christ.

With Prayerful Hope,

The Board of Mission

American Baptist Women

Our gathering on February 19 was brightened up with the presence of a clown! “Ima Christian Clown” otherwise known as Myra Goss appeared. She became Ima right before our eyes, explaining the make-up process and sharing her clowning experiences. . Myra is an American Baptist Pastor serving the Columbia Cross Roads Community Church. She has been clowning around for several years and takes her Christian Clown, Ima to hospitals and shut-ins and has also worked with youth, training them to be Christian Clowns as well.

A Spring Shower for our Church kitchen is planned for our gathering on Saturday March 19. Kitchen supplies may be brought to replenish, or replace some items in the kitchen, such as dish towels, dish cloths, paper towels, and 8 oz. paper cups. Please come with or without an item!

Our women at First Baptist are like the Energizer Bunny – we keep giving, and giving!

Thank you for contributing gift cards from Wal-Mart. These will be sent to Neighborhood Ministries in Campbell, Ohio. They are a part of our American Baptist Mission ministries. We received a thank you from their Director, Mark A. Samuel, for our donation of gift cards sent at Christmas time.

“Thank you for your donation of \$150.00 in gift cards. We depend on White Cross supplies to address so many needs in the communities we serve. We have community centers in four neighborhoods in and around Youngstown and Campbell, Ohio. Some of the families we have served recently moved into the housing developments with nothing more than some clothing. Because of White Cross, we are able to provide new clothing; and school supplies are distributed to all of the children in our youth programs. White Cross also helps us keep our offices stocked with office supplies and first aid kits. Your White Cross donation is invaluable to us and we appreciate your partnership with us.”

More of their work may be seen on the web at www.OhioNM.org.

At our March gathering we will complete our White Cross requests – for Ohio, and funds amounting to \$200.00 for our American Baptist missions in Myanmar (formerly Burma). The request comes through American Baptist Women White Cross chair for our region of Pennsylvania and Delaware. ABW in all of our Churches in Pennsylvania and Delaware share in this work. With the request comes this summary of the work in Myanmar:

“With political uncertainty in many areas of the country, many villages have been burned three or four times, leaving the people in desperate circumstances. The Myanmar Baptist Convention has been seeking to meet their needs, physical as well as spiritual. A part of their ministry has been to build schools and clinics. Clinics and “mini-hospitals” have been set up in different parts of the country to offer medical assistance. Christian doctors and nurse volunteer their time to serve”

-- Anne Nevin

Prayer List

Daniel & Holly Anderson
David & Linda Cook (Tammy Nevin's parents)
Faye Hotelling's daughter Sonjia
Nevin Buck
Iris Berguson
Jon & Gayle Clark
Lou Sine
Angel Walker
Willie Smith, Jr. (Cheryl Cooper's cousins)
Omer & Betty Sumner
Bill Bott, Jr.
Nancy Spencer (Marilyn Wiles' Mother)
Rev. Charles Mercer
Evelyn Henninger
Shut-ins and those in our Armed Forces,
and many unspoken requests



Tentative Preaching Schedule

March 2011

6th - Ninth Sunday After Epiphany - Transfiguration Sunday

*Matthew 17:1-9, Exodus 24:12-18, II Peter 1:16-21

"The Fellowship of Jesus Only"

13th - First Sunday in Lent

*Genesis 2:15-17, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

"What's Ruling Your Life"

20th - Second Sunday in Lent

*John 3:1-17, Genesis 12:1-4, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

"The Struggle to Believe"

27th - Third Sunday in Lent

*Exodus 17:1-7, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

"Trying to Get to 20/20"

* *Sermon Text*

Santa's Gift Bag

2010 Report

Every year as the holidays approach, Mansfield University, under the direction of the United Campus Ministry office, facilitates a program called **Santa's Gift Bag**. Through this program we offer assistance to local families who need help providing Christmas gifts for their child (or children). After receiving a letter from our office, these families provide us with information to pass on to sponsors who shop for presents for the children. With the assistance of community members and our local Mansfield Fire Department, the gifts are packed and ready for pick-up or delivery several days before Christmas.

2010 was a tremendous SUCCESS!!!!

Gifts were provided for **177 children**, ranging in age from newborn -18. These 177 children (19 more than last year) were from **69 families** (1 more than 2009). All of the children are students at a Mansfield school (Mansfield High, Miller Elementary, New Covenant Academy), a member of an area day care center or a sibling of one of the above.

Gifts were provided for **89 Females** and **88 Males**.

The age breakdown of the gift recipients was:

Ages: 0-4: 39 gift recipients

5-9: 59 gift recipients

10-13: 46 gift recipients

14-18: 33 gift recipients

None of this would have been possible without our wonderful SPONSORS and generous COMMUNITY SUPPORT!

Our sponsors came from both the university and the community. Students, faculty, staff, community members and businesses were all sponsors.

Below is a breakdown of those who helped sponsor a child, children, family or families this year.

MU STUDENTS:

Residence Halls (Cedarcrest, Pinecrest and Maple) were able to sponsor 10 children.

1 UNV 1100 class sponsored children.

11 student organizations sponsored one or more children.

16 individual students sponsored a total of 19 children.

1 residence hall floor was a sponsor.

3 sports teams were sponsors (Sprint Football; Field Hockey and Softball)

We estimate that a minimum of **500 MU students** participated this year.

MU FACULTY/STAFF:

39 individual faculty and staff helped with many taking 2 or more kids.

4 Departments helped by sponsoring 21 children.

We estimate that over **60 faculty and staff** participated.

COMMUNITY:

Members of the **Mansfield Chapter of Kiwanis** and employees of **Northwest Savings Bank** sponsored a total of 7 children.

In addition, the **Mansfield Chapter of Kiwanis** helped us by providing people and vehicles to transport gifts to the fire hall.

For the fifth year in a row, **The Laurel Doll Club of Pennsylvania** made a monetary donation and a donation of toys/dolls. **The Cadette Girl Scouts Troop 40580** collected pajamas for several of our children.

We received several generous monetary donations from the following members of the community:

First Baptist Church of Mansfield, Holy Child Catholic Church (Charity Fund), Wendy's and Strohecker Vision Center. Pudgie's Pizza and Subs in Mansfield provided gift certificates to over 15 % of our children.

We also received monetary donations from members of the Mansfield University Community including:

North Hall Employees (Thanks to **Jamey Harris** for coordinating this!), **Terry Day, Jazzman's and Retan Cart Employees** and **AFSCME PA Local 2363**.

Finally, **MAEOP (*Mansfield Association of Educational Office Professionals*)** not only sponsored children but had a gift wrap drive which yielded lots of bows, wrapping paper, tissue paper, tape, tags—everything our families needed to wrap their gifts.

A **Special Thanks** goes out to:

- **Jamey Hoose and Pump-n-Pantry Employees** who provided food boxes for each family.

-The **Community Churches in Mansfield** who make and fill a stocking for each child. Thanks to **Carol Wooley** for coordinating this effort!

-**Partners in Progress** who purchase hats and mittens/gloves for each child. Thanks to **Nicole Smith Schea** and **Irene Morgan** for coordinating this effort!

-The **Mansfield Volunteer Fire Association** who allow us to use the fire hall for several days and whose members help sort, distribute and deliver gifts to some of the families. Special thanks to **Arlene Welch!**

-**Joe and Maryann Maresco** for all the support they provide year after year.

-and last, but certainly not least, thanks to **Stephanie Kraft**, our amazing and wonderful student worker. Without her help, SGB would not have come together so smoothly or been so organized.

We want to thank every single person who helped whether big or small!

We could not do it without each and every one of you!!!

Thanks again for making Santa's Gift Bag 2010 such a success!

In gratitude,

Rev. Deborah Casey and Courtney Hull,

Santa's Gift Bag Coordinators and Campus Ministers at Mansfield University



Flowers for the Worship Center

The Chancel Committee has posted a Flower Chart (thanks, Nancy Becker!) on the bulletin board in Griffiths Annex. If you are interested in providing flowers for the Worship center you can sign up on the chart and/or contact a member of the Chancel Committee. During the year if special occasions

arise and the gift of flowers would add to the occasion, let the Chancel Committee know so plans can be coordinated and appropriate announcements made.

2011 Chancel Committee: Nancy & Richard Becker, Miriam Cummings, Carol & Gary Mortimer, Dorothy & Bob Smith, Faye Hotelling, and Benjamin E. Nevin.

Thank You from the Food Pantry

The Staff of the Mansfield Area Food Pantry wish to thank you for your generous donations of money and food. We appreciate your help! \$1,398.50 was given to the Food pantry in 2010 and that included a donation of \$60.00 in honor of John Gleason, a carpet installer who works for "Oscar's Flooring." John has installed carpeting here at FBC and repaired the carpet in the sanctuary following the Renovation 2008 Project.



Sincerely,
Rose Benson



The **Annual Mansfield Ministerium noontime Lenten Series** will be held at the First Baptist Church beginning March 10th. Rev. Steven Case and the First Baptist ladies and gentlemen will be responsible for dessert on March 10th & April 14th. Other clergy serving will be March 17th, Protestant Campus Minister, Rev. Deb Casey; March 24th Rev. Dr. Sharon Littrell from Soul Link Community Church; March 31st Catholic Campus Minister, Mrs. Courtney Hull; April 7th the new Protestant Campus Minister Rev. Detlef Huckfeldt and April 14th Rev. Benjamin E. Nevin, Pastor Emeritus of First Baptist. Enjoy meeting friends in Christ by bringing a bag lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided by the hosting church.



Rev. Detlef Huckfeldt Named Protestant Campus Minister at Mansfield University

Rev. Detlef Huckfeldt, of St Michael's Lutheran Church, Quiggleville in Cogan Station has been named as the Protestant Campus Minister at Mansfield University by the United Campus Ministry Board. He has been a full time pastor at St. Michael's for the past eleven years and will continue there in a part-time capacity. He replaces Rev. Deb Casey who has filled the position for sixteen years and retires at the end of March. A retirement reception for Rev. Casey has been scheduled for March 29th in the North Dining Room of Manser Dining Hall on the Mansfield University Campus.

Rev Huckfeldt said” I see an opportunity to continue serving young adults in a college setting, but most importantly, I see campus ministry as an opportunity to bear Christian witness to students, staff and faculty through ministry of presence and to accompany students in their faith development in a critical time of life.”

Born in Elmshorn Germany, Rev. Huckfeldt received his theological education there as well. He was approved by the Nordelbisch Evangelbisch-Lutherische Kirche and carries an equivalent Theological Diploma from the Christian Albrechts Universitat in Kiel, Germany which is comparable to a M.Div. (1999) Rev. Huckfeldt was called to serve in the ordained ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Upper Susquehanna Synod, in February 2001

Following graduation from High school in 1987, Pastor Huckfeldt worked in Civil Service at the German Red Cross. He later worked for three years in Social and Maintenance Work in a Refugee Home in Kiel. From 1993-1995 in a study of Evangelical Theology, he was awarded a Master of Sacred Theology from Christian Albrechts Universitat in Kiel.

“ My history with campus ministry goes back to my student years”, Rev Huckfeldt explained. “I was involved in Protestant Campus Ministry in Kiel when I participated in an exchange program in 1987 with St. Petersburg Russia and led one of the exchanges myself.”

During an internship at Fachhochschule, a renown private technical college, he revitalized the Protestant Campus Ministry that had become dormant after the church withdrew funding.

In Williamsport area, together with a Presbyterian colleague, he founded a United Campus Ministry at Penn College. Necessary funds were raised and a campus minister coordinator was employed. Detlef still serves as co-chair of this ministry and is involved in worship, Bible Study and Mission trips.

Pastor Huckfeldt is expected to begin duties on campus April 1.

Fellowship List for March 2011

Please check the list below for your name.
If you are unable to serve on your scheduled week, **please find a replacement for that date.**
Thank you for your help!

March 6

Main Street Greeter: Sue Wilber
Sherwood Street Greeter: Nancy Becker
Ushers: Jim Cummings & Mary Ann Walker
Hosts: Mary Ann Walker & Diane Case

March 13

Main Street Greeter: Mary Webster
Sherwood Street Greeter: Joyce Bixby
Ushers: Jim Cummings & Mary Ann Walker
Hosts: Richard & Nancy Becker

March 20

Main Street Greeter: Dorothy Smith
Sherwood Street Greeter: Rose Benson
Ushers: Jim Cummings & Mary Ann Walker
Hosts: Sue Wilber & Harry Hagar

March 27

Main Street Greeter: Nancy Dart
Sherwood Street Greeter: Bruce Dart
Ushers: Jim Cummings & Mary Ann Walker
Hosts: Bob & Dorothy Smith

April 3

Main Street Greeter:
Sherwood Street Greeter:
Ushers: Bob Smith & Brenda Rumsey
Hosts: Jim & Miriam Cummings

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

March 1 - Chris Hill
March 2 - Jamie Hill
March 11 - Anne Nevin

March 12 - Bill Bogart
March 20 - Mary Ellen Hoar
March 23 - Nancy Becker

Please visit our website to see our calendar!

<http://www.firstbaptistchurchmansfield.com/calendar.htm>

First Baptist Church of Mansfield, PA
North Main & Sherwood Streets

Sunday Morning Worship is at 11:00
Holy Communion is observed the first Sunday of the month