



# The First Baptist Church of Dover

301 Walker Rd., Dover, DE 19904

October 2017

Visit the  
First Baptist Church website at  
<http://www.fbcdover.org>



## Contact Us

Reverend Dan Taylor - Pastor  
Mike Metzger - Moderator  
Debbie Geiser - Newsletter Editor  
Church Office - 302-674-1980  
Email - [info@fbcdover.org](mailto:info@fbcdover.org)



## From the Pastor's Desk

Reverend Daniel Taylor



As I was growing up I always thought of October as such a fun month. In October we had a number of family birthdays, there was always a state Baptist convention, the leaves turned beautiful colors in central West Virginia and then there was Halloween and collecting candy.



In more recent years I still enjoy the beauty of the leaves, there are fewer birthdays to celebrate, we give out candy instead of receiving it, and special things have been added to October for me. World Communion Sunday is always the first Sunday of October and it is a time for me to remember all those who are followers of Jesus around the world who share at God's table. In worship on that Sunday we emphasize that connection and decorate with items from other countries and the table is prepared quite differently. For me October is also a special time because of the emphasis that we put on the work of American Baptist International Ministries. We promote the World Mission Offering throughout the month and encourage giving but also share the stories and personal testimonies of how God is at work around the world. As a congregation we partner with ABCUSA congregations across the country to support missionaries who have been called to follow Jesus by taking the Gospel to those who need to hear it around the world.



This year's theme for the World Mission Offering – *"Come, follow me,"* – comes from Mark 1.17. Throughout the month

we'll learn together with bulletin inserts each week, some video presentations and a guest speaker on Sunday, October 15. **Rev. Charles H. Jones**, International Ministries' Area Director for Europe, the Middle East and Liberia will be with us for the morning and will preach God's word for us.

He is a native of Liberia and is a graduate of the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary and was ordained by the First Baptist Church, Oldest Congotown, Liberia. Rev. Jones continued his education here in the United States at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University (M.Div.), and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (M.A.C.E.). I am privileged to count Charles as my friend and he is looking forward to sharing with us.



Oh yes, there will be special offering envelopes in the pews to assist in our giving to the WMO (World Mission Offering). We have set a goal for our congregation of \$3600. Come and hear the story of God at work around the world and generously give to support our shared ministry.



Let's leap into October and celebrate what God is doing around the world and even within our own congregation. We give thanks for those who have made decisions to follow Christ and join with us on this extraordinary journey.

In the Joy of Christ,

*Rev. Dan Taylor*

**Thank You!**

We want to say thank you to everyone for the cards and Bibles. Along with the kind words of comfort to our family, it helped to ease the passing of my mother, Rose Mary Stultz. We are so very blessed to have such a loving and caring church family.  
The Metzgers

*Thank You!*



*Looking Around*



**Stained Glass Windows** - In 1989 arrangements were made to have the stained glass windows removed, restored and transferred from the old church building at Bradford and Division Streets to the new building on Walker Road. They were beautifully displayed when the congregation moved into the new building in July 1990. These stunning creations were nearly 100 years old when they were moved 27 years ago. They certainly enhance the beauty of the sanctuary, narthex and the parlor, but they also tell the story of Christ in the pictures and symbols.

**Pastor Dan and Members and friends of First Baptist:**



July 30, 2017 – Wow!!! What a day!!!

I want to thank you all for the wonderful celebration of my retirement after 45 years as your church secretary. A special thank you for the beautiful corsage and flowers, the delicious luncheon and time of fellowship. When opening all the cards at home I was overwhelmed when I opened the envelopes containing the generous checks from the Deacon's and congregation. Your caring support was felt and is deeply appreciated.

Thank you for making July 30<sup>th</sup> such a memorable day for me and my family.

Also, thank you for your prayers and concern during my surgery. I am healing well and hope to get started on my "retirement bucket list" soon.

With love and a grateful heart, Judy Cahall





## “How Could God Let This Happen”



It has been a few weeks since the Hurricane IRMA brought its havoc to the south-eastern part of the USA. The devastation that you can see in the pictures and television just break your heart. The outpouring of love, support and donations from fellow citizens and other states are so overwhelming.

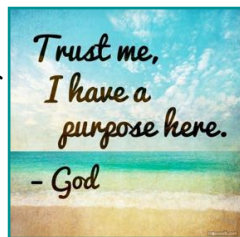
### Thank you very much!

There are a lot of questions that are on our minds nowadays. Foremost on this is -

### “Why did God allow this to happen?”

*First* - Is God punishing us? Are the American people deserving of this punishment because we have become corrupt, idolaters and unrighteous?

*Second* - God has a grand design. The super typhoon that hit us is part of God’s purpose. We do not know yet what the purpose of God is, but it has a purpose.



*Third* - God is teaching us a lesson. The country is being taught by God how to properly prepare for the next calamity. Some are also saying that God is teaching us how to be a blessing to others by sharing our resources to the survivors.



*Fourth* - God is testing us. Our faith in God is being tested by this calamity. Should we cling on to Him or should we put our trust on icons or other gods.



*Fifth* - God liberated the dead from the suffering of this world and brought them to a better place.

Some are being comforted by this explanation. All the responses that we put forth have one thing in common – we are assuming that God is the cause of our suffering and we are trying to find answers why God made us suffer.

In a sense, we are defending God. “Maybe God does not cause our suffering. Maybe it happens for some reason other than the will of God.” **Psalm 121:1-2** does not say that “My pain comes from the Lord” or “My tragedy comes from the Lord.” The Psalmist is telling us, “**My help comes from the Lord.**”

I do not pretend to answer in behalf of God. I am clinging to my faith and I am praying that God will help us as we face this tragedy. Could it be that we are asking the wrong question when we ask “How could God let this happen?”

*Contributed by Romeo Limson*

XYZ

(extra years of zest)



All those retired or available during the day are encouraged to join us for a time of fellowship. Sign up will be available at the Welcome Center and/or by calling the church office 302-674-1980. We meet the third Thursday of the month arriving at the restaurant at 11:30 AM. Join us October 19<sup>th</sup> at Cheddar’s, Camden, DE as we start the fall with **ZEST**.



**Judy Daniels,  
Chairman  
Board of Missions**

During the month of September, we have surpassed our One Great Hour of Sharing goal of \$3600.00. As of September 12th \$1100.00. was given for Hurricane relief, this was added to our special offering bringing the total given to \$4,012.00. Many thanks for your caring and sharing as we attempt to share God's love by providing for the needs of others.

Thanks go to all who brought gifts for Code Purple during our church picnic. A box is still available in the narthex if you would like to donate Christmas gifts. The items they suggest are the following: socks, scarfs, gloves, hats, hoodies and sweat pants (all sizes) and pillow cases. Look for the purple box.



## Meals for the Men's Homeless Shelter



Thank you to all who helped with the meals at the Dover Interfaith Men's Shelter August 8-13. Approximately 41 First Baptist families contributed food, money and their time in preparing and serving the meals. The shelter guests were most appreciative and complimented us on our dinners. We will be doing it again November 7-12, and we hope you will be willing to assist again. Please contact Nancy Culver and/or Lois Glading for more information at the church office - 302-674-1980.



## Make a Difference Day

Saturday, October 21st. Your working hands can “Make a Difference” to a family or elderly person in need of some assistance with home repairs. First Baptist volunteers will work with Milford Housing Development Corp on a project in need near Dover. Our church has served our community by participating in the **Make a Difference Day** for several years. As a volunteer, you will be rewarded with knowing that you have “made a difference” in the life of people who need home repairs and cannot afford to hire help. Volunteers are needed to commit for the day and will be served lunch at the work site. Please mark this date on your calendar and sign up on the poster in the Narthex and enjoy the photos from previous projects. Contact Willis Case at 302-734-2908 with any questions. This project is sponsored by your Board of Missions.



Filled shoe boxes may be placed in the Narthex on all Sundays of September (3, 10, 17, & 24) and the first three Sundays of October (1, 8, & 15). Please be aware that the shipping cost was changed from \$7.00 to \$9.00.





# Board of Christian Education

Beryl Gerhard, Chairman  
Board of Christian Education



and Paul's Place as well as occasional substitute teaching.



## Comments Welcome

Have an idea for a small group lesson? Interested in learning more about a certain topic? The Board of Christian Education welcomes any suggestions for small group study topics, seminars

or programs. Drop your comments in the Christian Education mailbox or at the church office.



**SAVE THE DATE—Saturday, November 11, 5:00 pm,** Davis Fellowship Hall for the Steward's Dinner Party, catered by Where Pigs Fly. All members and friends of First Baptist are invited to join us for an evening of information, fellowship and food. A nursery and children's pizza party are also being planned for that evening.



Comfort  
Shawl  
Ministry



You are invited to join us for a time of fellowship that includes knitting, crocheting & sewing shawls and blankets for our shut ins and patients at the Kent General Cancer Center. During the past 12 months we have stitched 150 prayer shawls and distributed most of them to date. No experience is necessary and we have a job for everyone. Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month and wrap up no later than 3PM. Perhaps you know someone that needs a little extra TLC? If so, please share the name by calling the office at 302-674-1980. To learn more about this ministry and/or to donate your unused yarn and material, contact Glenda Case or Agnes Robinson (on Sundays).

Meetings are held in the Great Truths Sunday School classroom.

Bring a friend and **Share the LOVE.**

## Stewardship Involvement Survey

**THANK YOU** to the thirty-three (33) people who took the time to respond to the Stewardship Involvement Survey by indicating the First Baptist ministries in which they are willing to be involved. The

Stewardship Committee has tabulated your responses and given the information to the appropriate boards and committees. A master copy of the survey results has been placed in the church office to be used by those seeking volunteers for a particular ministry. The Committee hopes this information will be helpful.





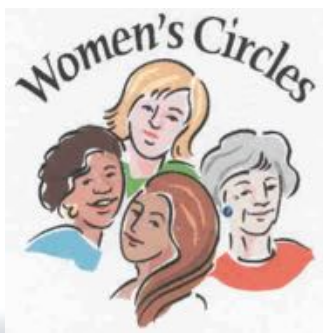
In July three of our ladies went to our Regional Conference in Shippensburg, PA: Sue Moore, Margaret Steinhoff, and Mary Emma Tisinger. We attended many interesting sessions, met several missionaries, learned about the mid-wife regional project, heard many inspirational speakers including Joyce Reed, and sang some new songs.

September 17 was our annual ABWM Sunday. Our speaker was Karen Smith, missionary to Thailand. Special music was provided by our Women's Choir. The song, "Victor's Crown," came from our Regional Conference choir. Many thanks go to the ABWM Board of FBC and especially Margaret Steinhoff for preparing and presenting this year's ABWM Sunday.

**October 14<sup>th</sup>** a regional retreat will be held in Lancaster, PA. at the First Baptist Church of Lancaster on 612 N. Duke St. The Rev. Lumi Nickols will be giving her personal testimony. She is a powerful speaker whom we heard at the Regional Conference in July. Contact Sue Fitzgerald at [suefit@gmail.com](mailto:suefit@gmail.com) if you are interested in going.

**November 6** will be our annual Baptist Women's Day of Prayer. Information about it will be handed out the end of October.

All of our circles have now met for our new year. Any woman, not a member currently, is invited to join or just to visit our circles to see what we are all about. Our



circle leaders this year are Agnes Robinson, Margaret Steinhoff, Lois Glading, and Norma Jean Courtney. Contact any one of these women. They will be glad to have you visit their circles.

## Women's Bible Study Group

Leader: Suzanne Murr



Meetings are every Thursday at 2PM with an indepth study of Angels. All women are invited to attend. (Location: Room outside Pastor's study).

## Susan Harding Circle

Susan is a missionary to Alaska.

Next meeting is October 10th,  
10 AM

Leader: Norma Jean Courtney



## Ann Clemmer Circle

October 5, 1:30 PM

Ann is a missionary to Eastern  
Congo & South Sudan

Leader: Lois Glading



## Joyce Reed Circle

October 7, 10:00 AM

Joyce is a missionary to  
IberoAmerica and  
the Caribbean

Leader: Margaret Steinhoff

## Bonar/Niles Circle

October 3, 10:00 AM

Katherine is a missionary to the  
Democratic Republic  
of the Congo

Leader: Agnes Robinson





## Here's What's Happening at our Church!



**Wednesday Evening Bible Study and Prayer Time**  
Dinner at 6PM in the Fellowship Hall followed at 7PM by Bible Study & a Children's Program.

## Stuff the Pantry @ First Baptist

Grocery bags are located just outside the sanctuary and include suggested items needed to stock the FBC Food Pantry. Return the bag the next Sunday and place it under the Food Pantry sign in the narthex. This is a mission outreach for our needy residents in the community.



Need a little extra help in monitoring your blood pressure? Check the Sunday Bulletin for screening Sundays and have your pressure checked by one of the FBC nurses. This activity is sponsored by the American Baptists Women's Ministries.



## Sanctuary Flower Arrangements

Would you like to honor someone or celebrate a special occasion by providing the worship service flower arrangements? If so, please contact the church office at 302-674-1980.



## Service of Healing Prayer

For those who seek healing from God, held in the Chapel immediately following the worship service.

Those who choose, may request anointing by the pastor or deacons during this prayer time.



## Prayer Chain

If you have a request for the chain, please call Elaine Jarrell at the church office - 302-674-1980. It will then be passed on to both the phone and email chains.



**Stop by the  
Welcome Center for  
the answers.**



If you are interested in directing or just volunteering for a particular event, please contact us. We have a lot of talented people throughout our church that can help in various aspects of our events from planning, publicity, purchasing, set-up and leading.

**We welcome your involvement!**

## ATTENTION

**Read all about it!  
Don't forget the  
deadline for  
newsletter  
submissions is the  
15th of each month.**



Please email your articles to Debbie at  
debbie\_geiser@verizon.net

# Looking Back

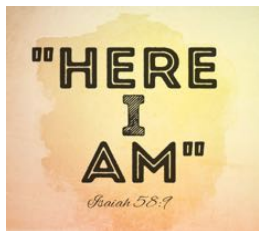


# Looking Forward

Now that summer is over and we are looking forward to fall, I thought it would be a good time to reflect. What have you done this spring and summer that you had planned or it just occurred? Was it what you expected, or was it a surprise? Did God show you something new that was even better than you planned or did you even realize that He was in the process. Sometimes we blindly go through life and some coincidence happens and we just take it in stride. But, what might just really have happened is a God-Incidence. God does insert himself in our lives. He makes you late, so you miss being in that car accident. He gives you extra money, just when you needed it. Sometimes, we have a negative experience. We get an extra bill we forgot and didn't plan. We lose a job. Someone we love dies.



One of my favorite verses is from Jeremiah 29:11 where God states, *"For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* So, as we look back over the past few months, at the same time think about those God-Incidences that made the memory.



Also, as you move forward in the day-to-day meetings, drive and plans you have, take the time to see God in the moment. At meetings I attend, I often ask "Where have you seen God working?" I usually get a few responses. But, if we were true with ourselves, the time would be filled with God's extreme blessings. Please don't feel guilty, I do the very same thing, taking God's blessings for granted.

[Matthew 6:25-33](#), Jesus tells his disciples not to worry,

"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" As you go through your day, to day, to day, think and even journal where you experience God being with you. And as Jesus says in this passage in Matthew, he is watching over us. If He is taking care of the birds of the air, he so much more is taking care of you. The important thing we need to do is to acknowledge Him in the experience. We need to open our spirit to the Holy Spirit. After we see His happenings, we must not keep it to ourselves. Tell others the Good News that you are experiencing.



Contributed by Mike Metzger



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Geri	Lee	10/02
Joyce	Lake	10/04
Joshua	Pearson	10/04
Doyle	Owen	10/07
Jaxon	Gedney	10/09
Beryl	Gerhard	10/09
Shannon	Murphy	10/09
Jake	Fithian	10/10
Daniel	Taylor	10/10
Michelle	Rogers	10/11
Dorothy	Kerr	10/12
Pat	Roberts	10/15
Gladys	Hutchins	10/27
Carlie	Coleman	10/28

Bill & Debbie	Fausey	10/4	36 years
Danny & Victoria	Macklin	10/15	6 years
Richard & Gaynor	Waltz	10/17	3 year
Cliff & Violet	Cannon	10/22	62 years





*From the ABCOPAD website by Rev. David A. Braneky, Treasure of ABCOPAD Ministers Council*

Do you know what the month of October is set aside for? If you click on the two links below you'll see October is set aside to raise awareness or celebrate all sorts of issues, events and people.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_commemorative\\_months](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_commemorative_months)

<http://nationaldaycalendar.com/calendar-at-a-glance/october/>

From American Archives Months to Domestic Violence Awareness Month to Polish American Heritage Month to Vegetarian Month, October is set aside for a plethora of good causes. As a result, it's understandable if you are unaware that October is also **Pastor Appreciation Month**. But since I just told you October is **Pastor Appreciation Month**, now you know!


I am writing to encourage you to appreciate your pastor this month. You might think recognizing your pastor is not necessary. After all, your pastor is a pastor because he's been called by God. But I am here to tell you it is necessary. It is important and it can make a huge difference in your pastor's ministry, including increasing his energy for ministry. Pastors are people too and just as your energy for your job is increased when you are recognized and appreciated so it is for your pastor. I know this to be true because it reflects my own experience.

The first church I served, save for one older woman, did not celebrate **Pastor Appreciation Month**. But I knew October was **Pastor Appreciation Month**. I would look forward to the e-card the older woman sent each year. I would also tell myself that not being appreciated by the rest of the members or the congregation as a whole didn't matter. But truth be told, it did. I know it mattered because the current church I serve celebrates **Pastor Appreciation Month**. Their celebration of it makes a difference in my ministry. While not my primary motivation for serving as a pastor, when I feel appreciated and loved by my congregation, it provides added motivation to go above and beyond in serving, caring and loving them. In other words, it makes me a better pastor.

If you are a leader in your congregation and are reading this, I encourage you to gather with other church leaders and plan a way to appreciate your pastor. It doesn't have to be some grand event. Small gestures throughout the month can add up. A cake and a few members speaking kind words after a worship service is one way you can show appreciation. One year my current church gave me a gift certificate to a local restaurant for a date night with my spouse. Another year, they each wrote down a way I had ministered to them in their lives. I've kept them. I read them from time to time when facing a challenge. They help me get through that challenging moment.

Contributed by Mike Metzger

# Here's what's happening in October!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship</p> <p>4:00 Financial Peace University 7:00 Chrysalis</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 Deacons 7:00 Visitation Teams</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 Bonar/Niles Circle Meeting</p> <p>7:30 Narcotics Anon</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00-2:00 Community Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 Fellowship Dinner followed by Children's Program</p> <p>7:00 Quarterly Business Meeting (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1:30 Ann Clemmer Circle (Church Library) 2:00 Women's Bible Study (Church)</p> <p>7:00 Sanctuary Choir 7:30 Narcotics Anon</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:00 Children's Choice 10:00 Joyce Reed Circle</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Blood Pressure Screening</p> <p>4:00 Financial Peace University 7:00 Chrysalis</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 Visitation Teams</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00 Susan Harding Circle</p> <p>7:30 Narcotics Anon</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00-2:00 Community Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 Fellowship Dinner 7:00 Bible Study &amp; Prayer Time</p>	<p>12</p> <p>2:00 Women's Bible Study (Church)</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anon 7:00 Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:00 Children's Choice 9:00 Landscape Committee</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Service of Healing Prayer</p> <p>4:00 Financial Peace University 7:00 Chrysalis</p>	<p>16</p> <p><b>October Newsletter Articles Due</b></p>  <p>7:00 Visitation Teams</p>	<p>17</p> <p>4:30 Board of Missions</p> <p>7:00 Table Stewards Training 7:30 Narcotics Anon</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00-2:00 Community Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 Fellowship Dinner 7:00 Bible Study &amp; Prayer Time</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:30 XYZ @ Cheddar's</p> <p>2:00 Women's Bible Study (Church) 7:00 Finance Committee 7:00 Sanctuary Choir 7:00 Narcotics Anon</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:00 MS Support Group</p>	<p>21</p> <p><b>Make a Difference Day</b></p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship</p> <p>4:00 Financial Peace University 7:00 Chrysalis</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:30 Quilt Guild 6:30 Board of Christian Education 7:00 Visitation Teams</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30 Narcotics Anon</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:00-2:00 Community Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 Fellowship Dinner 7:00 Bible Study &amp; Prayer Time</p>	<p>26</p> <p>2:00 Women's Bible Study (Church)</p> <p>7:00 Sanctuary Choir 7:00 Narcotics Anon</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 Children's Choice</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship</p> <p>4:00 Financial Peace University 7:00 Chrysalis</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00 Visitation Teams</p>	<p>31</p> <p>5:00 Children's Choice 7:30 Narcotics Anon</p>				

## Survey Question

**How would you prefer to receive your newsletter?**

In vivid color on the website (<http://www.fbcdover.org>) or black & white in the mail.

To respond, one may contact the office (302-674-1980) if the preference is by mail.