

March
2017

THE BEACON
The First Baptist Church of Dover
301 Walker Road
Dover, DE 19904
302-674-1980



This year we walk into the season of Lent on the first day of March, Ash Wednesday. As Baptists we don't usually follow the traditions and rituals of many of our colleagues in other denominations. We don't always observe those times of repentance and fasting or sacrificing something that is important in our lives for that period of 40 days (excluding Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to Easter. As a rule, we don't ask one another, "What did you give up for Lent?" This year let me invite you to make a decision on something that you can embrace. Embrace hunger! Embrace it not in the act of fasting, but instead learn about the issues that surround hunger in our community and our world. Learn the causes of hunger in society and explore the solutions. How is it that we can participate by identifying the problems and uncovering answers? As we embrace this the plight of others becomes a primary concern and our own difficulties become secondary. The needs of others become our focus. We can choose to move through Lent from a place of wonder and gratitude – wondering where God might show up in special ways in our lives and what God might reveal to us during this time as we embrace an issue of vital importance. This can be a time of gratitude for how God will direct us to see the new life available to all through the resurrection.

Oh yes, we will hear again about the betrayal, the denial, the pain and death, but Lent reminds us that in the midst of these sobering truths of our humanity, resurrection is the greater truth. *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.* Matthew 5.6

During this season we do think of the passion of Christ and we may be reminded of all the movies, plays and productions we have seen depicting those last days of the life of Jesus and His resurrection. An opportunity is available for us to be a part of history three years from now. **What are you doing in 2020?**

In the town of Oberammergau, in the Bavarian Alps of Germany the Passion Play is presented every 10 years. It was in 1633 that the town was suffering from the Bubonic Plague. The villagers appealed for Divine intervention to save their families. They vowed that if God would spare them, they would perform a Passion Play every ten years. They say there was not a single victim to the Plague after that. Keeping their promise, the people of the town performed the first play in 1634 and have continued to do so through the centuries. Many of Oberammergau's residents still take part in this powerful work of art featuring dramatic performances, beautiful music and choral accompaniment. A reputable travel company has shared with me some tour opportunities that are available that would include the event in Oberammergau. Let me know if you would be interested and we can plan together for a special time in 2020.

In the Hope of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Dan O'Connell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

AMERICA FOR CHRIST

The America for Christ offering will be received during the month of March. The theme for this year is "Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities." The theme comes from Luke 4:18-19. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Our offering goal for 2017 is \$3000.00.

Did you know that this special offering provides support to our Home Missions as well as our Regional ministries.

The mission statement for our American Baptist Home Mission Societies is as follows:

American Baptist Home Mission Societies ministers as the caring heart, serving hands, going feet and prophetic voice of Jesus Christ - establishing ministers of discipleship, community and justice along with equipping and networking followers of Jesus to transform persons, congregations, neighborhoods, and cultures throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

The mission statement for our American Baptist Churches of PA and DE is as follows:

To build healthy partnerships with churches, pastoral leaders, and the wider American Baptist Church family, to fulfill Christ's mission in our world.

This offering is divided in that approximately two thirds go to our national ministries and approximately one third to our regional missions. Please pray and let God direct you in your giving. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Deacon's Bench

This came from a book of Devotions titled BEST PASSAGES OF THE BIBLE. The writer of this one is Donald W. Sandmann

Gentle Justice-----Isaiah 42:1-8

If a reporter were to stand outside your Church after worship next Sunday and ask people, "What did Jesus do?" she would receive fairly consistent answers. "Jesus is the Savior" "Jesus saves us from our sins." These are very good answers, but they have become so common that the words Save and Savior are almost embarrassing clichés, like the "JESUS SAVES" in blinking neon lights above some churches.

Perhaps Isaiah can put other material on the frame of our definition of "savior or "messiah". The first word people of his day would associate with the Messiah was Justice. Here the prophet describes the Messiah three times as the one who brings forth or establishes justice. But in contrast to what we associate with justice ---- "lock up all the criminals" -- --the picture Isaiah paints is one of gentle justice.

A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out. Too often in history, justice has been a steamroller used by the powerful to crush the poor and the weak. But God's Anointed One doesn't crush others to make Himself look good. He doesn't need to, for He is already holy. He can use His power to fan gently the faltering flame that is our faith. He can love us into being pursuers of justice not for ourselves, but for those who are even weaker than we.

Jesus, justice-bringer and loving friend, fill us with Your Holy Spirit so that we might care for others with Your gentle justice.

Amen

Irv Culver

2017 Hands-On Mission Opportunities ABHMS- American Baptist Home Mission Societies

'Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing...Baton Rouge,' La.

In August 2016, Baton Rouge received over 2 feet of rain within hours—an onslaught that resulted in severe flooding throughout the city and surrounding communities. According to news reports, damage estimates exceeded \$9 billion, and more than 150,000 properties were damaged with thousands of families displaced. Among those who remain displaced and struggling to rebuild are more than 80 American Baptist families. A joint effort of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) and American Baptist Churches of the South, **"Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing...Baton Rouge" will host several work weeks throughout 2017.** Join us in Baton Rouge as we help to rebuild, restore and renew Baton Rouge.

'Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing...Rainelle,' W. Va.

Teams are being formed to assist residents in Rainelle and surrounding areas that were flooded in June 2016 when 11 inches of rain fell in less than two hours. Although First Baptist, Rainelle, accumulated nearly 5 feet of water on its first floor, it opened its doors along with the heart of its people to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. Join us in this joint effort of ABHMS and the West Virginia Baptist Convention, as we help First Baptist continue to minister to its members and community during "Rebuilding, Restoring and Renewing...Rainelle." Two work weeks are planned: **June 10-17 and 17-24, 2017.**

'Coming Together for New Jersey...Rebuild, Renew and Restore'

Hurricane Sandy devastated New Jersey when it hit the East Coast in October 2012. A joint effort of ABHMS and American Baptist Churches of New Jersey, "Coming Together for New Jersey...Rebuild, Renew and Restore" provides another mission opportunity to serve, **July 8-15, 2017.** Join in hands-on efforts to rebuild homes, communities and lives, while encouraging and supporting those in need and worshipping with ABCNJ congregations. Neither construction skills nor training is required.

'Home Mission: 'Til the Work is Done' Work Week, New Orleans

Twelve years after hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf Coast, residents continue their efforts to rebuild. But they need our support. The faith community was there as first responders. We will continue to be there for the victims of these storms until the work is done. Come to New Orleans as we worship, witness and work together to help those in need as they rebuild their homes, churches, communities and lives. "Til the Work is Done" is scheduled for **July 30-August 5, 2017.** This week of ministry and fellowship will not only help those still experiencing the aftermath of the hurricanes but will also highlight the need for continued work and ministry in this impacted region.

'Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing'...Murrow Indian Children's Home and Bacone College, both in Muskogee, Okla.

Murrow Indian Children's Home is a residential home for orphaned Native American children. Bacone College is the oldest continuously operated institution of higher education in Oklahoma with strong American Baptist ties. Both the home and college need volunteers to help with general construction, routine office work, grounds maintenance and landscaping. A special work week is planned for **July 16-22, 2017.** Plan to join us in "Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing"...Murrow Indian Children's Home and Bacone College.

**Are you interested in participating in any of these opportunities?
You can join others who will be adding their gifts with yours.**

CONTACT Rev. Taylor for additional details.

BOARD OF MISSIONS

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Mission Service Trips to Nicaragua
American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware
and
American Baptist Churches of New York State
partnering together
with



AMOS (A Ministry of Sharing – Health & Hope) is a Christian non-profit organization that exists to improve the health of impoverished communities in Nicaragua by working alongside them in health, education and development.



Water of Blessing: Nicaragua 2017

Goal: To accompany AMOS in bringing clean water to rural communities in Nicaragua by supporting the Safe Water and Sanitation

Program Cost: Estimated \$1,800

Two different Opportunities

April 21-30, 2017 & July 21-30, 2017

Interested? Contact Rev. Taylor

Delivering comfort, one stitch at a time

Reprinted from the Delaware State News.

February 20th, 2017 · by Mike Finney ·

DOVER — Glenda Case knows firsthand the spiritual comfort that the warmth of a shawl or a blanket can provide.

She remembers the morning her mother passed away in a hospital near Greensboro, North Carolina, and when her mom's nurse brought in a shawl and laid it across her mom in a time of need and said a prayer.

"It was just very, very meaningful and touching to me," Ms. Case said. "Then after (my mother) passed that day I just took the shawl with me and took it home and placed it on my blanket stand.

"Now, I just think of her constantly when I see it."

That experience moved Ms. Case so much that she founded the First Baptist Church of Dover Comfort Shawls group last June with five members. It has now grown to 13 members, including one man.



Glenda Case founded First Baptist Church of Dover's Comfort Shawls group following an experience she had when her mother passes away. (Delaware State News/Mike Finney)

The group makes handmade shawls and blankets and delivers them to staff at Bayhealth Kent General Hospital in Dover to give to cancer patients and others, as well as friends and church members.

They meet once a month at First Baptist Church of Dover at 301 Walker Road, mostly to provide each other with some camaraderie and friendly discussion.

The group, whose members range in age from 60- to 92-years-old, has been able

to exceed Ms. Case's expectations when it comes to creating the various fleece, knit and crocheted shawls.

"We have a cancer patient in our group and she said that when she gets chemo, her and the cancer patients who get chemotherapy treatments are always cold and they want a blanket," she said.

"So that's how we got the idea to check with the hospital and see if there was a need."



Rev. Daniel L. Taylor, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dover, chats with members of the Comfort Shawls group at their monthly meeting on Monday afternoon.

There definitely was.

Since June, they have delivered more than 100 of their hand-made shawls to patients at Kent General which are theirs to keep.

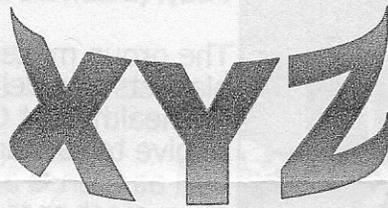
(Article continued on page 12)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees would like to thank Kenny Kemp , Austin Kemp , and Lucas Wester for their efforts in the snow removal at the church last month.

The kitchen has a couple of new additions. We recently purchased a new refrigerator as a replacement for the original one that has more than served its time and purpose. In addition, we thought it would be a novel idea to purchase an ice maker. Hopefully people will still use ice in 2017.

Finally, in the past couple of months, we have been diligent in trying to keep First Baptist warm & comfortable. Unfortunately, to be truly effective in this process, this requires a major overhaul of the main heating and air conditioning system. It is an arduous and costly project but if we want to be warm in the winter and cool in the summer, it must be done. We ask that you be mindful of this but more importantly, that you will keep this in prayer .



Please join us on March 2nd at 11:00 a.m. in the church parlor for a time of sharing and devotions led by Rennie Quibble. We will then go to the Olive Garden for lunch. Please sign up in the Welcome Center so that reservations can be made and indicate whether you will meet at church or go directly to the restaurant at 11:50 a.m.

Looking Ahead

April 6	Smyrna Diner
May 4	Cheddars
June 1	Hall's in Wyoming

Board of Christian Education

We've had a busy month reorganizing and planning. The **2017 Board Assignments** are posted on the bulletin board outside of fellowship hall. New this year, we have also posted the tentative **2017 Calendar of Events** with our director needs. 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!

~ Live like No one Else; so You Can Live & Give like No One Else~

On March 11th, we will be wrapping up the Financial Peace University program that started in January; and it's gone very well. This Biblically-based program makes a profound effect on its participants. We have 12 households signed up and only two of those are connected in some way to the Church. Rebecca Taylor and Victoria Macklin have co-coordinated the event. Some of you may have thought it wasn't for you because you aren't in debt. Taking the course, you will realize that it's not just about getting out of debt; but it's about what to do with your money once you are debt-free. The possibilities for ministry are endless! If you missed the course, don't be disappointed. We plan to host the program again this fall so mark your calendars!

~Recognizing Standard Bearers~

The Standard Bearers Sunday School class has been a staple of our church for decades, reaching dozens of ladies. After the passing of several of its members in the last few years, it recently disbanded. For those of you who weren't able to join us on February 19th during worship, we recognized the class. A history of the class and its nameplate has been hung in History Hall. Special thanks to George Glading and Ed Gerhard for offering their woodworking and floral talents.

~Calling all Youth: 2017 Dare 2 Share Youth Conference~

Last year, youth from our congregation and chaperones took part in an empowering teen evangelism conference hosted by Dare 2 Share. This year, Dare 2 Share is hosting another conference in Washington, DE entitled **Unshakeable** on March 10-11, 2017. Any student ages 13-19 interested is invited and encouraged to attend. Tickets have already been purchased so there is no cost to attend!! Please contact Victoria Macklin or Pastor Dan Taylor to register. Hurry, there are a limited number of spots!

~All-Church Easter Gathering~

Please join us on **Saturday, April 8th**, from 10am-noon as we reflect on the story of Easter, and look at the symbols surrounding this celebration. Following this special time, we will host our egg hunt!! Look for registration information in the Welcome Center.

ANNIVERSARIES

John and Maureen Cannon	11 Years	03/18
Tom and Pat Roberts	64 Years	03/28



BIRTHDAYS

Edna Green	03/01
John Kelley, Jr.	03/03
Daniel Macklin	03/04
Suzanne Porter	03/04
Randall Grunden	03/05
Theresa Thornburg	03/05
Brian Jones	03/08
Marsha Kemp	03/10
David John	03/11
Christopher Cottrell	03/12
Shirley Miller	03/12
Lisa Clark	03/13
Karen Blakeman	03/14
Judy Sansbury	03/18
Scot Septer	03/20
Ken Booker	03/21
Henry Ford	03/21
Anna McKinney	03/22
Rebecca Horace	03/23
Brian Rajotte	03/23
Sue Moore	03/26
Laraine Harris	03/27
Richard Waltz	03/27
Delois Gregory	03/28
Troy Jackson	03/30
Alyssa Ortiz	03/30

One member's personal battle

Debbie Beaver, of Dover, is that cancer patient who made the suggestion for the group to call the hospital's oncology department. She has been fighting breast cancer for 14 years and it has recently spread into her spine and legs.

She has been a proud member of the group almost since its inception and is currently working on a blanket for a man with a "heavy, interesting stitch" that a man would enjoy.

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These are just some of the homemade shawls and blankets that have been handcrafted by First Baptist Church of Dover's Comfort Shawls group.

Ms. Beaver said most of the shawls and blankets seem to be designed for women, so she's trying to change that a little.

"Just making them for people is the best part," Ms. Beaver said. "I haven't actually needed one yet, but I figure if I ask for one someone will certainly give me one.

"We work on the shawls and blankets at home a lot but we meet once a month for fun and encouragement, plus this is a lot of our social lives. I love this. I think this is an amazing idea."



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More than just shawls

The cozy shawl comforters are more than just warmth providers, according to Ms. Case.

"We do a lot of these at (Kent General) hospital and the others we deliver to friends and church members and people that need a warm hug and need to be comforted, that's really what they're for," she said.

Ms. Case said that each shawl or blanket has a tag attached that says, "Made by hand with Love and Prayers that you will be comforted by the Lord's presence – The Women of the First Baptist Church of Dover."

(Article continued on the next page)

~Men's Retreat~

Today, more than ever, the world needs godly men; men who will step up and courageously lead at home, at church, at work, and in their communities. That's the message of **Stepping Up**.

All men of the church are invited and encouraged to attend this one-day event on **Saturday, March 25, 2017 starting at 9am** in the fellowship hall. Led by men, the day will start off with breakfast (yes, we will feed you!), and then you dive into four video-based sessions on topics of: defining manhood, living courageously, building a life of faith, and stepping up to lead. If you know a son, nephew, co-worker or friend struggling, or just in need of spiritual guidance, this is a great opportunity to invite them. Register at the Welcome Center.

~Lavender Springs Spa Day for Ladies~

Women are so often challenged with the busyness of life; and a day at the spa sounds like an amazing gift. We invite all ladies to join us on **Saturday, April 29th** for a spa-themed day of spiritual wellness. Relax, share laughter and stories, and spend time with God. Together, we will be reminded of God's faithfulness and the power of connecting with other women as we journey through the psalms of the Bible. We will leave refreshed, with a fresh approach to prayer that will grow our faith. Registration will be open until April 10th.

~COMMENTS WELCOMED~

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. Contact Victoria Macklin or drop your comments in the Christian Education mailbox.



THANK YOU

I would like to thank my church family for their prayers, cards and phone calls during my recent surgery. Also for Pastor' Dan's visit at the hospital.

Gladys Hutchins

American Baptist Women's Ministries of First Baptist Church of Dover 2016 Annual Report

This calendar year began with the taking down of our Chrismon Trees in January, always a bittersweet event after a busy holiday season. The Circles also continued their individual meetings and programs. The ABWM Board also met to discuss the upcoming Annual Retreat in February.

Our February Retreat was a grand success with over 40 women from both FBC of Dover and Christ Memorial attending. The entire retreat was based on our mission area of Hungary. Carmella Jones, missionary to Hungary, was our guest speaker and gave a very informative as well as inspirational message about Hungary. Soup, salad, Hungarian goulash, and apple cake were served for lunch. The ladies enjoyed making a placemat with a Hungarian design in it for craft time. We also kicked off our annual fund raiser, making and selling Easter Eggs.

March found our ladies busily making over 850 Easter Eggs. We gathered for 8 sessions of making eggs. These sessions are a wonderful chance to meet women from other circles and to fellowship together as we bond for a common cause.

In April, we tallied our egg sales to find we were able to send \$1,505.25 to our regional project, Clean Water Project in Nicaragua. Many, many thanks go to all the people who not only sold eggs but to those faithful who helped make them as well. The ABWM Board also met this month to plan the Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers for May. The individual circles continued to meet as well.

Many times our ladies hear of a cause that interests them. One such ministry is the Shawl Ministry which makes shawls, both knitted and crocheted as well as sewn, to give to our local cancer center to warm the chemo patients as they receive treatment. They also distribute them to church members who've been hospitalized, shut-ins, friends, and family of FBC. The ministry has grown to include over a dozen women from all circles who meet now once a month to collect finished shawls and to work on more for the next month. To date they've made and distributed over 100 shawls.

Our big event in May is our Annual Dinner Meeting. It was themed around "Road Signs" and centered on Human Sex Trafficking in Delaware. Our speaker was Amy Day from "Meet Me at the Well". Her talk was inspiring and very emotional. Her passion for this mission was overwhelming. A free will offering was taken to help her organization and netted over \$200. Sue Moore installed our officers with a Road Sign theme as well. Of course, all the ladies enjoyed each other's covered dishes!

Some of the Circles met in June to close our 2015-2016 year. The ABWM Board met to plan for the upcoming 2016-2017 year.

We all spent July and August hopefully relaxing for the summer.

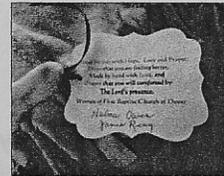
September began our new year with ABWM Sunday on Sept. 18th. Margaret Steinhoff planned a wonderful service featuring Adalia Gutierrez-Lee as our speaker, who gave, not only a sermon on Cuba, but an inspiring talk about women being ministers in that part of the world. As a remembrance of the day, Sue Moore's father, Daniel Sherman, had made each woman a necklace. At each Circle meeting leaders distributed the new booklet also made by Margaret Steinhoff.

Linda Horton organized our Overland White Cross Quota and also took the articles to the Race Track Ministry in Philadelphia, PA. On Oct. 30th the women received their packet of devotionals for Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer for Nov. 7th. The women along with some help from Richard Waltz, Les Blakeman, and Harry Anthony set up and decorated the Chrismon Trees on Nov. 26th. We appreciated all the helpers who arrived that day to decorate our beautiful and meaningful trees.

In December, the Circles met to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus. We met to enjoy the fellowship and joy of the season.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Moore, President, ABWM of FBC Dover

This tag, signed by the items' maker, is attached to each of the donated shawls and blankets.



She said that then whoever made the shawl signs the tag and it has laundry instructions on the back. They also include a "prayer cloth" that they slip into the pocket of the shawls.

"It's just a reminder of God's love and healing powers and if they want to they can hold it in their hand, keep it in their pocket ... they can do whatever they want to with it," she said.

The First Baptist Church of Dover Comfort Shawls group usually delivers around 20 shawls and blankets to the hospital at a time and they're gone in about a week.

Ms. Case said members of the group don't interact with the patients — well, at least directly. She said that church members prayer over each of the shawls and blankets before they are delivered.

The pastor gives his blessings

Rev. Daniel L. Taylor, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dover, said the Comfort Shawls group is leading by example.

"One of the things out of scripture and even out of our American Baptist background that we've been talking about is how can we be the hands and feet of Christ," Rev. Taylor said.

"The best way that they have discovered they can do that — they can't go do long walks or demonstrations or whatever — but they can sit and they can be together and do this in their own home."

Rev. Taylor said they are answering the call for what the Bible actually says people should be doing.

"In scripture in Matthew 25, Jesus is telling the people, 'When was it you've visited me?,' and 'When was it you've given me a drink when I was thirsty?,'" he said.

"(The Comfort Shawls) is a part of our calling to what Jesus has asked people to do, and I think that's what it's all about."

Delaware State News staff writer Mike Finney can be reached at mfinney@newszap.com.

Comfort Shawl Ministry: The partners in this ministry are very active. Twenty six shawls were handmade during the past 2 months. These shawls were dedicated during the February 5th worship service. We have 2 new partners in our group. There is room for YOU. Contact Glenda Case or the church office if you know of a need for a Comfort Shawl---which provides comfort, a warm hug, and a reminder of God's Love.

The Mission Cabinet display. The current display exhibits international flags representing birth of origin countries of First Baptist members. International flags, representing members, are displayed in our church sanctuary. Eleven smaller flags are displayed in the mission cabinets with a current photo of the church member. Some of our members have displayed "precious treasures" with their flag. Bethel Chang displays her 1st toy---little ceramic pigs--which she played with as if they were her dolls. Janis Renz proudly displays 2 dolls, handmade by her mother. The dolls are replicas of Janis and her brother. Rebecca Taylor displays memories and photos from her missionary ministry in Thailand.

The First Baptist Church of Dover

301 Walker Road, Dover, DE 19904

**AMERICA
FOR CHRIST
OFFERING
2017**

March 2017

Dear Church Family and Friends,

The America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2017 theme, "Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities," reminds us that, as American Baptists, we exemplify a vital legacy of mission and ministry dating to 1824. The 21st-century challenges of leadership are numerous, but we are invigorated by the passage of Luke 4:18-19: "***The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor***" (NRSV).

Through our generous donations and partnership, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is committed to cultivating dynamic Christian leaders who are culturally and spiritually competent, in touch with their churches and communities, and passionate about ministry and helping people. Highly developed Christ-honoring leaders are called to advance the mission of peace, hope and love in their churches and communities with resilience, faithfulness and proficiency.

Your America for Christ offering is making life-changing impact through ministries and resources that vitalize our congregations and communities across the United States and Puerto Rico with the hope of Jesus Christ.

www.abhms.org

Our AFC gifts will come alongside ABHMS as they continually address the question: *What do leaders need to continue growing and developing?* The AFC Offering 2017 reminds us that service is a way of life for Christ's church. Cultivating leaders is a call to all of us as a part of the American Baptist family.

We are encouraged by this year's theme, "Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities." I am asking you to join me in giving generously to this year's AFC Offering 2017 and helping to support home mission across the United States and Puerto Rico.

Together we can make a difference.

Rev. Dan Taylor

Pastor

(Check out the ministry at www.abhms.org)



As a part of our promotion of the *America for Christ Offering* during the month of March, we will be honored to welcome as our guest, **Victoria J. Goff**, the national coordinator of Volunteer Mobilization Ministries for the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS). She will be with us on Sunday, March 26 during both the Sunday School hour and will share in our worship service. Victoria has been a part of the Home Mission staff in different capacities since 1992. She also works as a consultant to the American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM). Her vision is to expand volunteer ministries by finding ways to connect with new partners in mission. She coordinates all the volunteer mission opportunities across the United States and Puerto Rico. We are excited to welcome her to Dover.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Spring is peeking around the corner. In fact, there have been many days in the last few months that have felt more like Spring rather than Fall or Winter. It has been a mild Winter to say the least. Having said that, I want to apologize for giving folks the cold shoulder, elbow, knee, etc ... I know that Fellowship Hall hasn't been the most comfortable place to be, particularly on Wednesday nights. Rest assured the situation is being rectified. Early this month, two new heat pumps are being installed.

On Valentine's Day, Bob Imm showed his unconditional love to his First Baptist family by installing the new ice maker in the Church kitchen. Thank you sir! You have a servant's heart.

We will resume our monthly landscape work day on Saturday April 8th, from 9-12. These work days are held every 2nd Saturday beginning in the Spring and will continue into early Fall. Anyone who enjoys working outdoors or even if you just like being outdoors, feel free to come.

Chris C.