



# The First Baptist Church of Dover

301 Walker Rd., Dover, DE 19904

November 2020 Newsletter



## Contact Us

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

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

## The First Baptist Church of Dover

will gather in the sanctuary for  
worship  
on Sunday,  
at 11 AM.

Come wearing your mask  
and  
continue safe distancing.

More information will be  
coming by mail, email,  
Facebook and on the  
church website.

**New Church Office Hours**  
**Monday 8:00 - 2:00**  
**Tuesday - Friday 9:00 - 3:00**  
**beginning November 1st.**



## ***“Repent”***

One of the keywords in the Bible is the word "repent." It is an action word that means to turn away from sin and follow God's will. We oftentimes pass by this word because we have to make drastic changes in our lives. We want blessings without repentance. We want healing without turning away from our sins. As far as the Bible says, blessings and healing come only when we repent from our sins and come back to God.

What are some of the Bible verses that could remind us of repentance?

God is reminding us that the healing of our land happens only if there is collective repentance. It is not just personal repentance but as one nation. It starts from the individual, then the family, and then the community. God is saying "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Jesus also preached about repentance. Jesus is saying that the reign of God in our lives cannot start if we do not repent. We can only receive salvation if we repent from our sins and believe the Gospel. It is also recorded what Jesus preached. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Peter also followed on what Jesus Christ taught them. He reminded the people to repent so that the times of refreshment will come. This tells us that refreshment will not be upon us if we do not repent from our sins. He said "Repent, then turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord..."

May we can reflect on what is happening in our lives in this time of pandemic. If there are still sins that we have not yet repented, now is the time to do so. We should also call upon our leaders to repent and turn back to God.

*May God bless us all as we give glory and honor to our loving, infinite, and merciful Savior Lord Jesus Christ this Thanksgiving.*

*Contributed by Romeo Limson*



Sermons are now available on the church's website, [fbcdover.org](http://fbcdover.org) under the title "Sermons". Or, if you prefer, you may request a CD copy of a Sunday's sermon by contacting the church office.

Please place your used ink and toner cartridges in the labeled box located under the table inside the downstairs entrance.

There is also a labeled box located in the coat closet next to the Welcome Center. First Baptist Church receives credit for each cartridge that is turned in. As a result, this reduces the cost of the church's office supplies. Thank you.



The following printer ink cartridges are available. If you can use them, please contact Vicky Smith at 302-674-1980.

**1 HP 564 ~ 1 HP 920  
Several Epson 200 & 220**

## Happy November Ladies,

We have several things that will keep us busy this month. It starts with Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer on Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. You will find information in the Newsletter regarding this with things for you to do. Sorry, you must supply your own tea bag this year. This is a special time when This is a special time when you can be in prayer with other Baptist women around the world. You will also be having a program about this during your Circle Meetings this month. There will be a special offering taken at your meeting for this Celebration. Please come prepared to give generously.



I was privileged to be able to attend the first Circle Meetings in October. I enjoyed each group of ladies. You can really feel the Sisterhood among the women in each Circle. I hope to be able to attend your meetings each month. That way I can truly keep up with what each of your Circles is doing. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your group.

On Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> we will be gathering in the Sanctuary to put up the Chrismon Trees and decorate for Advent. The Sanctuary is so beautiful during this time of year when we celebrate the Margaret of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. With all the craziness in our world today, it will be lovely to focus on the real reason for the Christmas season. Please plan on joining us to be a part of this preparation time.

In each of your meetings, we discussed preparing bag lunches for the homeless. The letter from Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing stated: *For bag lunches: we seek nonperishable items to distribute to those who come for a meal or who are in need of food. We know that many truly don't know where their next meal is coming from, so providing nonperishable items will give them flexibility. Suggested contents: granola bars, packaged cheese or peanut-butter crackers, small fruit cups, bags of nuts, dried fruit or trail mix; and bottled water or juice boxes. Including tissues, personal wipes, or paper napkins are also appreciated. Enclosing a small note or card to encourage the recipient is also appreciated! It's great if the bags can be dropped off at the shelter at 684 Forest Street. They are NOT given to shelter residents; instead, they are provided to those living in tents or otherwise without shelter.* This sounds like a very good on-going project for our Home Missions focus.

With Thanksgiving ending out our month, may we be ever grateful for all that God has given to us. God is Good...All the time!

Blessings to you and yours, *Margaret*



### **Mary Bonar/Rita Chapman Circle**

**Rita is a missionary to the  
Democratic Republic  
of the Congo**

**Leader: Jo Rolison**

**Nov. 10, 10:00 ~ Fellowship Hall**

### **Ann Clemmer Circle**

**Ann is a missionary to Eastern  
Congo & South Sudan  
Leader: Lois Glading**

**Nov. 5, 1:00 ~ Fellowship Hall**



### **Joyce Reed Circle**

**Joyce is a missionary to  
IberoAmerica and the Caribbean  
Leader: Sue Moore**

**Nov. 7, 10:00 ~ Fellowship Hall**



## Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer is celebrated the first Monday in November. It is a day when women from all over the world join in prayer together. Traditionally we pass out an envelope after church to each woman containing a prayer guide for this celebration and a teabag. You are asked to set aside some time to fix yourself a cup of tea, read the prayer guide, and have a time of prayer with other women around the world on this day. This year is a little different, which we already know. You will have to provide your own teabag. Following, you will find a story to read and a Bible Study to do during your prayer time. My wish is that you will experience the prayers of other women around the world during your quiet time. This should be done sometime on Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*A shining example of faith and strength - Mary's Story*

### ***"I CAN DO ALL THINGS"***

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY: Karlene Edwards-Warrick and Donna-Daile Smart

Mary Fabien Charles was born on April 2, 1962 at the San Fernando General Hospital and has lived in South Trinidad all her life.

Because of her love for people and her caring spirit, Mary chose the field of nursing and started as a nursing assistant at the San Fernando Hospital in 1982. Her co-workers noticed that her face appeared twisted, and, on their advice, Mary went to the doctor. The results of a subsequent CT Scan revealed a massive brain tumor.

On July 18, 2016, Mary underwent emergency surgery to remove the tumor and was left unable to use the left limbs of her body. Mary has never missed a day of prayer or reading her Bible; she is determined to be victorious. She says the experience has brought her closer to God and she is very grateful to those who have cared for her.

A scripture she holds dear is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." And it is this mind-set that led Mary to the Baptist Union of Trinidad and Tobago Women's Department (BUTTWD) Lydia Retreat which was held in Tobago this year. She says it was the best time she ever had. She participated in the fashion show and when the group went on a prayer walk Mary walked around the building and when they went sea bathing Mary shared her faith with the life guards. She says she shares her faith wherever she goes and with everybody; she simply cannot hold her love for, and her gratitude to God inside.



As we wrapped up, Mary reinforced her gratitude to God for life. While she has not yet started receiving her pension, she has no worry for God takes care of her. She wished us travelling mercies and we left Mary.

***A shining example of faith and strength and an inspiration to others.***

We wish Mary all God's blessings.

*Mary at a Fashion Show - Photo by Arleen Barington*



# ***LIVING TO THE FULL IN JESUS' SHEEPFOLD***

A BIBLE STUDY ON JOHN 10:1-18

## ***Who Owns the Sheep? Or, the Freedom of God's Children.***

The metaphor of God's people as wandering sheep without a shepherd in John 10:1-18 is from Isaiah 53:7. With it, Jesus means first to reproach of the leaders of Israel of his own time about their bad leadership. Jesus tells them that they are not only blind (9:40), but they are also 'thieves and bandits' (10:1) who stole the flock from their rightful owner. As hired staff they abuse the sheep and, in their arrogance, they fail to recognize the rightful owner of the sheep and let him in.

The metaphor is difficult to follow as Jesus changes points of reference in the image: he is at once the 'shepherd of the sheep' (10:3), who must be let in by a 'gatekeeper' (10:3), and he is also the 'gate for the sheep' (10:7). It is easier to follow the story by looking at the overarching themes of Jesus' disapproval of the false shepherds and Jesus' claim that he is the only true shepherd.

Abundant life for the sheep depends first on the earthly shepherds of God's church, and that is sometimes complicated. Recently, the world has been bombarded by lists of church leaders who have betrayed their churches and God by engaging in sexual abuse and other sorts of obvious sin; they have abused their position and power as leaders.

## **A sheepfold run by an imposter**

These shepherds 'steal, kill, and destroy' the sheep (10:10). It is hard for the sheep to listen to them (10:8) because they know that God's voice is different; life and love do not hurt and cause pain. Life is not found in places where you are abused and locked away in a narrow place, unable to live. Jesus is a different kind of shepherd. With him, the sheep are 'saved' (10:9) from the constant fear of their self-installed and abusive shepherds. Life in Jesus' sheepfold is different. By entering it, the sheep are saved, but they are not enslaved by the walls of the sheep fold; Jesus is their door. They can 'come in and go out and find pasture' (10:9). This is a picture of having place to come home, but it is also a picture of freedom, of going out and exploring, finding new pastures to feed on and life bursting with joy: 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly' (10:10). Jesus is the door to both shelter and freedom.

A sheepfold run by such an imposter, as described previously, is easily recognized by its narrowness. It does not exist for the sheep, but to further the pride and power of the false shepherds.

**Think and evaluate your church experience. Is it a safe place where you can find shelter? Is it an open place where you can explore the freedom and fullness of life?** Give thanks to God for the good 'doorkeepers' of your church, of people who lead you well and who work like Jesus. There is nothing more attractive than a church where Jesus is the shepherd and the 'doorkeepers' recognize him and allow him in.

Know that your first loyalty is to Jesus, the true shepherd. The 'sheepfold' belongs to Jesus, not to humans. You too belong to Jesus. Pray for the victims of self-ordained shepherds.

## ***There Are Other Sheepfolds? Or, Do We Love Others as Ourselves?***

The 'good shepherd' 'knows his own' (10:14) but his fold is not just one. There are 'other' sheepfolds (10:16) which belong to God, and that is sometimes difficult for us to understand. Our minds are self-centered and self-absorbed. If John wrote in Ephesus at the end of the 1st century (as tradition believes) he may have been inspired by the disunity of Christians. There were those who came to Christ from a Jewish background, and those who came from a Gentile background (comp. Eph. 2:11-13). The difficulties in the church also resulted from nationalism – both Jewish and Greek. But Christ has come not 'for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God' (11:52). There is only one shepherd for the whole flock – whatever their human sheepfolds and doorkeepers. The sheep are identified when they hear the shepherd's voice and are drawn in by him (10:16). Therefore, 'there will be one flock' as there is 'one shepherd' of them all (comp. Eph. 2:14-22).

The church has been divided. Some of this division is necessary, as we are bound to our place and often have no opportunity to see much else. But sometimes we create division where Jesus wants unity. Life to the full only comes when we recognize that God is not confined just to the people who look and act like us, or who belong to our own church. Those who belong to Christ are called to go out and know that there are 'other folds,' and they also belong to Christ. If they belong to him, they must belong to us, if we are Christ's. The apostle Paul uses the picture of the Body of Christ for the whole church, not just for the local community. When we connect, resources flow and all of us experience that amazing life.

## From the Board of Missions



## Food Pantry

The Board of Missions would like to welcome and thank Joyce Lake for accepting the position of co-coordinator of the Food Pantry.

The food pantry will provide 25 Thanksgiving baskets and 25 Christmas baskets for local families in need. Baskets will include all the items needed for a holiday meal, including a 12-16 lb. turkey and dessert.



Non-perishable food for the baskets is provided by the food pantry. Frozen turkey donations are requested, please begin looking for sale prices of turkeys during November and December and donate 1 or 2 turkeys (12-16 lbs.) to help fill the baskets. Call the Church Office with any questions.



Christian Education Committee Meeting  
November 17, 2020, 6:00 PM

If anyone is interested in a free plug-in electric mower, please contact the church office or Harry Anthony.



## Comfort Shawl Ministry



Even though our monthly meetings, on the third Monday of each month at 1:00 PM have been on hold, the dedicated members of this group have all been busy creating shawls so this ministry can continue. This November, we will gather in Fellowship hall for a time of encouragement, fellowship and prayer. We welcome anyone who would like to share in this ministry to join us. Even if you aren't "crafty" there are many other ways you can support this ministry, so if you have any questions, please contact Sue Moore. Most importantly, if you know of someone in need of God's comfort in the form of a hand-made shawl, please contact the church office.



## Sanctuary Flower Arrangements



All the dates have been filled for Sunday Sanctuary Flowers for 2020. Thank you to all of you who responded to the openings on the calendar. Look for to the flyer that will be available in the coming months for 2021. We also hope to have a flyer for Poinsettias for Christmas. The flowers have been a beautiful addition to the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings at worship.



# Anniversaries

Willie & Glenda Case	59 yrs.	11/17
Leo & Myra McDermott	30 yrs.	11/23
Lester & Karen Blakeman, Sr.	53 yrs.	11/25
Edward & Beryl Gerhard	44 yrs.	11/27
Phil & Margaret Steinhoff	46 yrs.	11/30

Gilbert	Hutchins	11/03
Caleb	Septer	11/06
Sarah	Prescott	11/07
Michelle	Septer	11/07
Alice	Murphy	11/08
Ramona	Scott	11/9
Ken	Kemp	11/10
Rebecca	Kime	11/11
Tyler	Myers	11/12
Gene	Moore	11/15
Angela	Allen	11/17
Larry	Buckley	11/19
Sarah	Smart	11/22
Biruk	Tilahun	11/26
Bettye	Tanner	11/28
Romeo	Limson	11/30

# Birthdays



# Landscape Work Day



Please come out and join us  
Saturday, November 14th, at 9am!  
*Your help is needed!*

If you are willing to volunteer or have questions,  
please contact Chris Cottrell at 302-363-1765.





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



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!**



### Wednesday Evening Bible Study & Prayer Time Dinner at 6PM

in the Fellowship Hall  
followed at 7PM by Bible  
Study and a Children's  
Program.

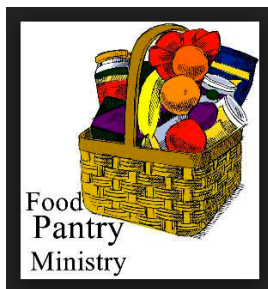
**ON HOLD FOR NOW**



**About the church or one of our  
programs? Stop by the Welcome  
Center for the answers.**

### Stuff the Pantry @ First Baptist

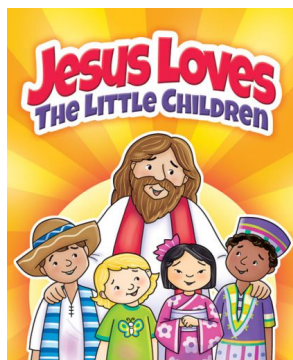
Grocery bags are located just outside the sanctuary and include suggested items needed to stock the FBC Food Pantry. Return the bag the next Sunday and place it under the Food Pantry sign in the narthex. This is a mission outreach for our needy residents in the community.



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



Please email your articles to Vicky Smith at  
[secretary@fbcdover.org](mailto:secretary@fbcdover.org)



Fairview Elementary School's

### Good News Club

**Pray for the Children**

**Volunteers needed to share in this ministry.  
Come, sit and enjoy getting to know these  
precious children. No skills required.**



### 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.

Need a little extra help in monitoring your blood pressure? Contact the church office for more information about having your pressure checked by one of the FBC nurses.

This activity is sponsored by the American Baptists Women's Ministries.



# Here's what's happening in November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>11:00 Worship</b>	2 <b>Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer</b>	3	4	5 1:00 Ann Clemmer Circle (Fellowship Hall)	6	7 9:30 Craft Fair (Parking Lot)  10:00 Joyce Reed Circle (Fellowship Hall)
8 <b>11:00 Worship</b> <b>12:30 Trustees</b>	9	10 10:00 Bonar/ Chapman Circle (Fellowship Hall)  6:00 Board of Deacons (Library)	11 <b>Church Office Closed</b> 	12	13 10:00 Missions Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)	14 9:00 Landscaping Workday 
15 <b>11:00 Worship</b>	16 December Newsletter Articles Due   1:00 Comfort Shawl Ministry	17  6:00 Board of Christian Education	18	19	20	21   9:00 Coordinating Committee (Library)  4:00 Gospel Fest (Church)
22 <b>11:00 Worship</b>	23 <b>10:00 Decorate Chrismon Trees (Sanctuary)</b> 	24	25	26 <b>Church Office Closed</b> 	27 <b>Church Office Closed</b>	28
29 <b>11:00 Worship</b>	30					
<div> <b>Scheduled activities subject to changes. Check with the Church Office for final dates and times.</b> </div>						

## 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 at 302-674-1980  
if the preference is by mail.

Please be sure we have your current email address.