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Instant communication in our digital world is perhaps one of the most remarkable technological breakthroughs of this generation. The ability to have direct access to people and a vast wealth of information through a small, handheld device or tabletop voice activated speaker system is altering our daily lives in ways few would have ever imagined a generation ago.

Siri: What’s the current temperature in London?
Answer: It’s currently 60 degrees in London, England

Siri: Who won the 1967 World Series?
Answer: The Cardinals won the 4-3 over the Red Sox. They won the last game 7-2 on October 12.

Siri: What is the most popular car color in America?
Answer: Here is what I found, (then provides a link to Wikipedia), car color popularity...grey, white, black, grey, and silver which amounts to 70% of the total world car production.

Our smart phones provide the ability to call, text, email or FaceTime (video talk in real time.) In the television cartoon, The Jetson’s video-phone from 1962-63, has come full circle. This technology has become so incorporated by this generation that it is unimaginable for them to be without their phones and tablets. Yet, there are still times which strain our technology such as when the device needs charging, or cell service is lacking, or passwords need updating.

On our recent vacation as we travelled through Arizona, I was reminded of one of these shortfalls. I was using an app on my phone as my GPS. Having set my final destination, we began our journey down a long and very lonely stretch of highway across a barren landscape of scrub brush, rocky outcrops and dry canyons. Soon I lost my signal and with it, my last point of reference.

Continuing on the road, I was resigned to follow the road while hoping that eventually my phone would pick up a signal, reconnect, and recalculate my position to provide the path to my final destination.

About thirty miles later and after I had missed a critical right hand turn along the way, the phone began to reconnect to place me back on track and head to our destination with a real time countdown to our arrival. In all, I lost about twenty minutes as the missed turn made my journey a bit longer. The lesson is that technology is powered by connectivity. Being connected is critical to good communication. Without it, we lose our way and our sense of direction.

This principle of connectivity is critical to our understanding of our Christian living. In the final days of Jesus’ ministry, He spoke of the coming of the Holy Spirit. He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that He will receive what He will make known to you. John 16:13-14 NIV

Jesus promised His followers that they could always be in direct communication through the power of divine guidance. The Spirit would lead us through the vast wilderness of life circumstances and onward to our final destination. This ‘divine guidance system’ (DGS) enables us to be secure though we walk through the shadow of death, I will fear no evil or as we hold onto the promise I will never leave you nor forsake you. This DGS is powered by faith and is made possible by God’s grace. Its data base by which we are connected is ‘all truth’ and it is the Spirit of God who always directs us to love and serve others.

In this season of giving thanks, we are grateful for God’s divine connection to us through His Spirit. Being connected to God, we soon discover that we are linked to each other. Our steps lead us to follow a path of love and righteousness. Our direction is the fulfillment of God’s will. Our pathway is never alone and our journey builds bridges to overcome obstacles, tunnels that break through mountains of division, and an open highway leading to new opportunities to be part of God’s massive and often mysterious plan, all as we are in constant contact with Him and His unfailing love.

Blessings and Happy Thanksgiving,
WE LOVE YOU, BOB!  HURRY BACK!

Dr. Robert “Bob” Schneider
Celebrating 25 Years as Music Director and Organist at FBC

Please keep Bob in your prayers!
Your prayers are helping!
CHRISTMAS GIFTS YOU CAN SHARE WITH NEIGHBORS IN NEED

The need continues for us all to share with our neighbors. Please plan now on how you can help fill the “GIVING TREE.” Parents and grandparents, here is an opportunity to help your children experience the joy of Christmas through giving. Gifts can be placed under the tree starting Nov. 27

Here Are Ways to Spread Some Christmas Joy:

FAIRHILL PARTNERS
Grandparents raising grandchildren or in some cases great-grandchildren will truly appreciate your help in providing Christmas gifts, especially for those with stretched budgets. Have fun being a secret angel for one of these grandparents. Just ask Stephanie Fall Creek about this program and the joy your gifts will bring.

What you can give:
Check the poster by the tree and choose a child/name to purchase a gift for. Sign your name on the poster so we know who is shopping for that child. The gift you give needs to be under $20. The poster will give you the name of a child, the age and a suggested gift. Return your wrapped gift clearly marked with the child’s name to the big box under the tree labeled “FairHill” by Sunday, December 10.

FAMILY PROMISES
Parents living at Family Promise will enjoy going to this temporary store, set up in Their activities room, to choose fitting gifts for their children. There will also be an opportunity for kids to shop for their parents. FBC member April Shepard can tell you the excitement she saw when she delivered your gifts last year as the volunteers, staff and residents were setting up the “store.” Your donations were truly filling a need.

What you can give:
Mittens, multicultural dolls, cars & trucks, board games, card games, art & school supplies, action figures, puzzles, learning toys, nail polish, baby items, bead and jewelry kits and sweaters of all sizes and for parents, gifts of calendars, daily planners, alarm clocks, and umbrellas. Please place your gifts in an open gift bag, marked “Family Promise” and leave it under the tree by Sunday, December 10.

HUNGER CENTER AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH
Think about some of the foods you will need for your holiday meals and buy a few extra things for a family in need. David Cumming will be glad to tell you what they see each month when they deliver your donations as our neighbors in need line up for their bag of groceries.

What you can give:
Soup mixes, canned soups, canned vegetables and fruits, cereal, stuffing, rice, pasta, cake and cookie mix, peanut butter, jam, raisins, pie filling, Jell-O and pudding mix, tea, coffee, hot chocolate mix, etc., can be brought in by Sunday, December 10.
2100 LAKESIDE MEN’S SHELTER
The staff at the men’s shelter has asked for our help in providing socks, shoes and boots. Please check your closet for gently worn shoes, boots and coats. Pick up some warm socks at your local discount store. These men are out walking every day in all kinds of weather so let’s all help to keep their feet warm.

What you can give:
New socks and gently worn shoes, boots and coats, can be placed in the box marked 2100 Lakeside by Sunday, January 7. Also, the men will truly appreciate your donations of clean, washable winter clothing.

HOT MEAL PROGRAM AT CALVARY
Our guests coming to the January hot meal will be delighted with your gifts to brighten & warm their day. About 100 attend our meals so we hope that your generosity will make it possible for each guest to be given one item. Tina Marr and others who help serve each month can tell you how each item distributed, no matter how small, is appreciated.

What you can give:
Gloves, warm hats and socks for men and women, handkerchiefs, Chap Stick, soap, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste and brushes can go in the box marked Calvary by Friday, January 5. Toiletries in hotel sizes are acceptable.

RETIRIED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES CHRISTMAS OFFERING
Many of these faithful servants worked for very low pay and truly appreciate this bonus gift at this time of year. This bonus check can make it possible for someone to buy a new tire for their car, travel to visit grandchildren or make a needed dental appointment.

What you can give:
You can make your check out to FBC and mark the memo "M & M" or place your contribution in the special envelope provided. This offering will be received through Sunday, January 7.
Allergy to peanuts and tree nuts is one of the most common food—related allergies. Some confusion does exist between peanuts and tree nuts. Peanuts are legumes (pods grown underground), in the same family as beans, peas and lentils. Tree nuts are grown on a tree and have a hard shell. It is an identical protein contained in both which causes the allergy.

Nut allergies will usually develop early in life and are rarely outgrown. Eighty percent of those with nut allergies will have them lifelong. Twenty-five to forty percent of those allergic to peanuts will suffer a “cross over” allergy to at least one tree nut. Recently, due to an increased number of “nut type” allergies, coconut, a tree grown fruit, has been classified by the FDA as a nut allergy, although it does not appear to be a common cross over allergy.

Signs and symptoms of nut allergies can range from mild to severe. These include abdominal pain or cramping, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea; nasal congestion or runny nose, itching of the throat, mouth, eyes or skin; difficulty swallowing, shortness of breath and anaphylactic shock. Accurate diagnosis is essential. This is determined by medical history, family history of allergies and previous reactions.

The best way to avoid an allergic reaction is to avoid nuts and nut products. Learn to read processed food labels carefully for the presence of nuts, nut oils and flours. Be aware that nuts can be found in some unexpected places.

Also use caution in ethnic restaurants, such as African, Thai, Indian, Mexican and Chinese, where nuts are frequently used.

Nut products processed commercially or at home can become cross contaminants, usually due to inadequate cleaning of equipment.

Allergists recommend carrying an epinephrine auto-injector “at your side”, which is the only treatment for anaphylactic shock. If a child has an allergy, parents, teachers and caregivers should be trained in administration and have immediate access to an epi-pen. Delay in use of the epi-pen can lead to poor outcome; prompt treatment can save a life. After epinephrine is used, the affected person must be transported to an emergency medical facility immediately, as other types of reactions not treated by epinephrine can occur within one—eight hours after exposure. The use of medical alert identification devices can also be helpful in the event of any problems.

Being educated and prepared to manage an allergic reaction is paramount. Reading labels, learning proper administration by using an epi-pen training device, and proper education will prepare you for this task.

Some good educational resources are: foodallergy.org; American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI.org) and the National Institute of Health and related agencies (NIH.gov).
Our Heroes Headquarters Theme for the month of November: GRATITUDE!

WE WILL EXPLORE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN GRATITUDE AND GOD’S CHARACTER

Have you ever paused to think about everything God has done for you? He created a planet that’s perfectly suited for Otters and Ostriches and YOU! Then, He sent His only son, Jesus, to that planet to die and be raised to life so He could have a forever relationship with you. Through the month, we’ll help kids refocus on all that God has done for them. Because when you know what God has done for you, YOU CAN BE THANKFUL!

Learning Objectives:

- Students will learn the meaning of gratitude
- Students will learn the importance of saying a simple phrase “Thank you”
- Students will explore and learn about God’s greatest gift to us “Christ”

Bible Reading:

**Nov. 5**—A Psalm of Thanksgiving * Celebrate what God has done—Psalm 100:1-5
**Nov. 12**—Parable of the Vineyard Workers * Adjust your attitude—Matthew 20:1-15
**Nov. 19**—Jesus Heals 10 Men—Luke 17:11-19
**Nov. 26**—Give Thanks No Matter What * Always Be Grateful—1 Thessalonians 5:18

November’s Memory Verse

“Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank Him because you believe in Christ Jesus.”
1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIRV

Our monthly challenge encourages the following action items:

- Thank God for at least 3 things every night
- Read your Bible

“*We ought to give thanks for all fortune: if it is good, because it is good, if bad, because it works in us patience, humility and the contempt of this world and the hope of our eternal country*” ...C.S. Lewis

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY!
11th Annual Christmas Tree Fundraiser

Nov. 17th - Dec. 24th
(Parking Lot)

Mon - Fri 11am - 8pm
Sat. 9am - 8pm
Sun. 10:30am - 6pm

24/7

Fresh Fraser Firs

7 ft. to 10 ft.
Huge Beautiful Premium Christmas Trees
From Boone North Carolina

Free Candy Canes

First Baptist Church
OF GREATER CLEVELAND
3630 Fairmount Blvd. in Shaker Heights, OH
phone: 216.932.7480 firstbaptistcleveland.org/trees

Bring this ad, receive $10 off ANY TREE!

Delivery is available for a additional fee.
**Bows of Holly, A Christmas Musical**

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

It's Christmas and Holly, a young girl with a compassionate heart, has launched a toy and food drive for the needy. It's for a good cause and her heart is in the right place—at least at first. Once she begins to get a lot of publicity, she starts to lose focus on the real reason she's doing it. Then, when some needy kids steal everything she's collected, Holly's gifts start having strings attached.

This year's show has a cast of 26 children ages 4 through 12. Our FBC fifth, sixth and seventh graders have the lead roles and the cast even includes our preschoolers. The children will present *Bows of Holly* on Sunday, December 10 at 12:30 in Spahr Center. The show will run approximately 35 minutes. There will be a special sneak performance on Saturday, December 9 at 4:30 for family, friends, teachers, neighbors, grandparents and anyone who would like to see the show on a Saturday.

Our children and youth are talented beyond measure. They will be rehearsing each week until the show with the hopes that we can fill the room with an amazing audience to present this message of giving, hope and love during the Advent season.

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**Nominating Committee Report**

Fellow FBC'ers: this year's Nominating Committee have been hard at work looking for candidates to fill the open Lay Leadership positions, but we need your help! At this year's annual meeting we will be nominating individuals for the following leadership positions: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Treasurer, Clerk, Stewardship Cluster Chair and Fellowship & Nurture Cluster Chair. We will also be nominating members for the following committees: Nominating Committee (2), Property & Finance Committee (4), and Personnel Committee (1).

If you feel the Spirit leading you to get more involved in the inner workings of the church, have questions about the responsibilities or if you have someone else you would like to nominate for any of these positions, please let any of the following Nominating Committee members know.

- Julie Mizener
- Dana Capers
- Kelley Pernicone
- George Belhobek
- Charie Babcock
- Stephanie Fallcreek
**Gloria** by Francis Poulenc (1899—1963)

**Schedule Change** - New Date - Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017 - in the 11 AM Service

Because of a change in the Oct. 29 service plan, the performance of selected movements from the Poulenc *Gloria* has been moved to the second service of the following Sunday.

*(Selections from this great choral piece were selected by Bob Schneider to kick off his 25th Anniversary Season as Director of Music and Organist.)*

Frances Poulenc was one of a somewhat notorious group of young French composers who became known as “Les Six,” an epithet clearly derived from the earlier “Russian Five.” The aim of the French group were to break away from the influences of Germanic formality and French impressionism, and to employ a direct and simple style in their own music. Of the six, Poulenc was by far the most successful.

Although Poulenc saw himself as primarily a composer of religious music, his first large-scale choral work, the *Stabat Mater*, did not appear until 1950, and the *Gloria* debuted in 1959, only four years before his death. Both have remained firm favorites with performers and audiences ever since.

Poulenc’s very distinctive style relies principally on strong musical contrasts. He skillfully uses this colorful musical palette to express a wide range of emotions, from lyrical serenity to unashamed glee. The *Gloria* was commissioned by the Koussevitzky Foundation of America. The words from the Catholic Mass are set to music of an unmistakable freshness and vivacity. Some critics at the time suggested that it bordered on the sacrilegious, to which Poulenc replied, "*while writing it I had in mind those Crozzi frescoes with angels sticking out their tongues and also some solemn-looking Benedictine monks that I saw playing football one day.*"

Poulenc’s sense of humor and love of life shine through all his music, however solemn the text might be. One of his friends said of him, "*There is in him something of the monk, and the street urchin.*" The *Gloria* brilliantly expresses these characteristics with its captivating mixture of solemnity and mischievous exuberance.  

Program Notes by John Bawden.

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**2018 H.E.L.P. Production**

Happy Ending Lyric Players are proud to announce our 2018 production! Based on the Victor Hugo novel and songs from the Disney animated feature, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* showcases the film’s Academy Award-nominated score, as well as new songs by Menken and Schwartz. Peter Parnell’s new book embraces story theatre and features verbatim passages from Hugo’s gothic novel.

A sweeping score and a powerful story-line, makes *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* an instant classic. Audiences will be swept away by the magic of this truly unforgettable musical.

Under the direction of Mason Stewart, (Les Misérables; Evita) the Happy Ending Lyric Players are so very excited to bring this show to the gothic sanctuary of First Baptist Church, which is a perfect backdrop to the tale of Notre Dame and it’s famed hunchback, Quasimodo. Most excitingly, we are partnering with Steve Eva and the Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra, who will help bring the story to life!

Performance dates for our 42nd Season Production of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* will be **April 8-15.**
Help is needed to achieve our goal in providing food baskets for about 30 families in need this Thanksgiving.

**Donate Food:** collection boxes and baskets will be in the Fairmount Hallway starting **Sunday, October 29** for canned fruits and vegetables, cranberry sauce, gravy, soup, pie filling, peanut butter, tuna, spaghetti sauce, boxes of cereal, instant mashed potatoes, stuffing, corn bread, pasta, rice, Jell-O, pudding, cake mix, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, Bisquick, sugar and flour.

**Donate Money:** to purchase turkeys and fresh produce. Make your checks payable to FBC with the memo, "Thanksgiving Food Drive", no later than **November 15**.

**Volunteer:** help shop for the turkeys and fresh produce; potatoes, onions, carrots, celery, apples & oranges for each basket. Help sort food and pack baskets on Monday, **November 20** starting at 10:00 am in Spahr Center.

**Contact:** Star Knuckles at sknuckles@firstbaptistcleveland.org or call the church office at 216-932-7480 if you are aware of a family in need of a food basket and/or if you are eligible for discounts on turkeys or produce.

**Pray:** Thank you Lord for providing for our needs and especially for the great abundance of food with which you have blessed us. Open our hearts to participate in this food drive and to share with others that are struggling to provide basic needs for their families.

Contact Joan Mihelich for questions or to volunteer at joanmihelich@gmail.com

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39 NIV

Stephen Ministry is a Christian program designed to offer confidential support when times get lonely, tough, uncertain, when we feel unloved or forgotten, or “all the above”. Nothing in your past or present can separate you from God’s love. FBC has Stephen Ministers who will walk with you during this difficult part of your life’s journey.

Contact Mari Schroeder-Jenkins at 216.543.1830

### November Birthdays!

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Thanks for prompt delivery!

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First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland

2017 FBC Lay Leadership
Moderator: Victor Bull
Vice Moderator: Kim Kidd-Collins
Treasurer: Ralph Hise
Clerk: Lynne Liu
Children’s Center: Martha Lant
Communication & Outreach: Angela Fielding
Greeters, Welcome Center, Marketing, Communications
Discipleship: Suzanne Blum
Discipleship Classes, Children’s Ministry, Youth Ministry, Covenant Groups
Fellowship and Nurture: Tina DeBlaey-Cicco
Stephen Ministry, Deacons, New Member Orientation
Stewardship: Tony Peebles
Property and Finance, Stewardship Campaign, Endowment and Audit
Missions & Social Concerns: Jessica Chapman-Martinez
Worship and Fine Arts: G. Michael Skerritt

Serving in Ministry
Rev. Dr. Kregg F. Burris, Senior Pastor
Rev. Jeff Gordon, Associate Pastor
Dr. Robert Schneider, Director of Music and Organist
Betty Meyers, Associate Director of Music
Dr. Mary Jo Odom-Dull, Director of Christian Education
Minister Jae Williams, Director of Youth Ministries
Carly Marino, Director of Children’s Ministries
Jane Pernicone, Director of Children’s Center
Star Knuckles, Executive Assistant/Office Administrator
Margo Jerome, Accountant

Tower Tidings Staff
Editors: Star Knuckles, Kregg Burris

Thank You! to the many volunteers who help assemble the Tower Tidings mailing each month!

Next Tower Tidings Deadline: NOVEMBER 15
The next issue will be mailed: November 30, 2017
Please submit articles or news via e-mail to Star Knuckles:
sknuckles@firstbaptistcleveland.org