

The VISITOR

January 2023

“Amazing Love, How Can it Be?”

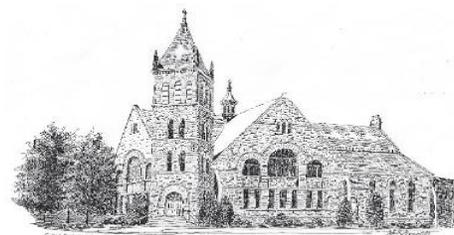
The Asbury seminary chapel is filled with eager students and earnest professors. There is a mysteriously tangible lingering afterglow of the Holy Spirit's outpouring that occurred during the Cane Run revival. The chapel organ reverberates and stirs the soul. Voices and hands are raised. My heartbeat quickens and my eyes fill with grateful, awe-inspired, love aware tears as we enthusiastically praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ through the singing of Charles Wesley's lyrics, "And Can it Be." "And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?" And then the chorus, "Amazing love! How can it be? That thou my God shouldn't die for me?" My pulse quickens and eyes moisten even now in remembering those scenes and reflecting on those lyrics.

In the weeks ahead, we are going to spend a great deal of time "at the Cross." The New Testament readings between now and Palm/Passion Sunday are a continual theological exploration of the meaning, significance, victory and beauty of the Cross. We may not be able to all take a trip to the Holy Land together but for the next several weeks, we are going to the Cross together. It is upon the Cross where love is displayed, where forgiveness is demonstrated, Sin is defeated, the principalities and powers are overcome and the power to kill is overcome by the power to love and forgive. As new testament scholar N.T. Wright says through the title of one of his many books, at the cross on Good Friday is "the day the revolution began."

Perhaps the greatest and most beautiful mystery of Christianity is how the ugliness of crucifixion becomes the "beauty that saves the world." Pastor and author Brian Zahnd in his book by that title writes, "The unique form of Christianity is the cruciform-Christ upon the cross, arms outstretched in offered embrace, forgiving the world its sins. This the beauty that saves the world, and the symbol of this saving grace is the cross." Continuing to reflect upon the astounding and amazing revelation of divine love and forgiveness in and through the cross, he further writes, "Every cross adorning a church is in itself a sermon-a sermon proclaiming that if Christ can transform the Roman instrument of execution into a thing of beauty, there is hope that in Christ all things can be made beautiful." (Zahnd, Beauty Will Save the World, p. 60)

In the weeks ahead, may our pulse quicken, our hearts be stirred, our eyes fill with tears as we gaze upon the Cross where the prince of glory died.

Grace, peace and love,
Tiger



**JOIN US
SUNDAY MORNINGS
WORSHIP BEGINS AT 9:30**

785-242-2713

OttawaFBC@gmail.com

fbcottawa.org

410 Hickory Street

Ottawa, KS 66067

Follow us on Facebook:

@firstbaptistchurchottawa

Live Stream of worship each week!

You are invited and welcome.



First Baptist Church of Ottawa is part of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region (ABC/CR and American Baptist Churches, USA (ABC/USA).



*Sunday School following worship
for all ages!*

Communion January 8th

Celebrating the Lord's supper.

Those of you worshipping with us at home, please have your elements ready so that you are able to take communion along with us.

Continuing this Sunday, whenever we celebrate communion, we will encourage giving to the deacon's fund for benevolence.



Help Support Our Church

Price Chopper Gift Cards are available at the office for purchase. We get 5% for each sale and YOU get the FULL VALUE of each card you purchase.

Thank you for your support!

Price Chopper cards can only be purchased in \$100 increments.



During the next couple of months feel free to check out/in books from the library as you need them.



PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Bob Lovett (Kim Randel's father);
Norma Coble (Dana Coble's mother);
Glenda Schmidt; Nathan Ball; Shelly
Frank; Darlene Dryden (Cheryl
Dryden's mother in law); Susan Flory

(Wayne Jones' daughter); Tom Lantis

Shut-Ins: Betty Bloomer; Donna Blau; Dana
Coble; Doris Grogan; Sylvia Starky; Bev Hughes;
Golden Peterson; Gloria Terrill

Military Service People: Nicholas Hermreck
(Virginia); Sgt. Nate Plaschka-Germany; Zach
Edwards-Poland

*We make every effort to keep this list updated.
Please inform us when there are changes.*

PRAYER TIME: Wednesdays at 12:30 EH. If you
have a prayer request for Wednesday let Pastor
Tiger know or call or email the church office.

TITHE ONLINE

It's simple!!

Through First Baptist's website (fbcottawa.org)



you now have the capability to make your
contributions electronically using Tithe.ly.
It can be a one-time gift or recurring. To
make a contribution, go to the **Give** tab and
click on **Donate**. Contributions will be
tracked through our membership software & reflected on
contribution statements.

Church Leadership



Fellowship/Diaconate Committee
Meeting January 9th, at 9:30am EH

Stewardship

Meeting is scheduled for January 9th, 5:30pm EH



Church Council meeting is
January 17th at 7:00 p.m. EH
Committee chairs, please have your
previous meeting minutes emailed to the
Church office.

Annual Church Business Meeting

January 22nd immediately following worship

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the **February** Newsletter is **January 24**,
please have any information emailed or to the office by
that time for inclusion in the newsletter. Information
received after the deadline will be published in the next
month's Newsletter.



Radio Ministry

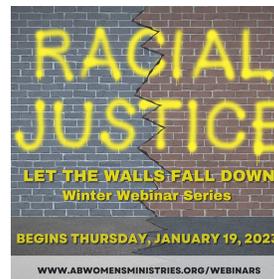
First Baptist Church believes it is
important to keep the Radio Ministry
Funded, as this is a blessing to many in
our community.

Please designate contributions to: Radio Fund.

American Baptist

Women's
MINISTRIES

ABW will meet on Wednesday,
January 18 at 9:30 a.m. in Elliott
Hall. The program will be about the
Region Project for Antioch Baptist
School in Liberia. The project will be an offering
for the school. All women are welcome.



2023 Winter Webinar Series

Let the Walls Fall Down: Racial Justice

WWW.ABWOMENSMINISTRIES.ORG/WEBINARS
to register to join the webinars

- **Singing the Song of the Exile: A Womanist Exploration of Psalm 137**
Thursday, January 19, 2023 7:30-8:30pm
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Leslie Callahan, Pastor at St. Paul's Baptist Church in Philadelphia, PA
- **Gathering Our Tools for Building Trustworthy Community**
Thursday, February 2, 2023 7:30-8:30pm
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Shannon Daley-Harris, author, retreat leader, and child advocate
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Lessons from the Story of Ruth** Thursday, February 16, 2023 7:30-8:30pm
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Christine Smith, ABWM National President and Senior Pastor at Restoration Ministries of Greater Cleveland, Inc. in Euclid, OH



Hope House Needs

cereal, cake & brownie mix, pasta sides, spaghetti sauce, toilet paper



Thank you for giving \$880 towards RMMO during the month of December

ABWM Book of the Month PROVERBS

King Solomon is the author of 20 of the 31 chapters of Proverbs. Read one chapter a day, ponder the message in that chapter. This is not another do it yourself manual. This is a love letter. God wants you to know him.

Key Verse:

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

(ch 1:7) NIV

Chapters 1-9 cover many topics;

Wisdom and knowledge, right and just living, child rearing and training, morality, perils of adultery, foolishness, false teaching and more.

“Wisdom is more precious than rubies.”

(8:11) NIV

Chapters 10 – 29 Proverbs of Solomon

Chapter 30 We meet an old teacher, Agur, giving his young student, Ithiel, personal reflections on human understanding and searching for wisdom. Knowledge does not satisfy.

“I am weary, God, but I can prevail.”

Chapter 31

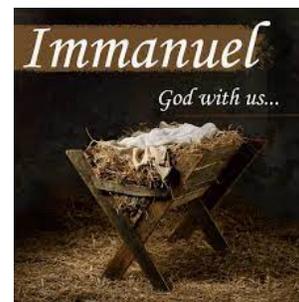
King Lemuel remembers instructions his mother taught him.

[I wonder if he ever found a suitable wife.]

“One mark of a man’s true wisdom is his knowledge of his ignorance.”

(1890 by C.H. Spurgeon)

2023 welcome to new beginnings,
Happy New Year
Lilly Coultis, ABW



As the two of us continue our service in the Dominican Republic, we have asked ourselves: what is God’s call of service for us in this place and for this time? We believe the 1.5 years we spent in the USA “in the desert” during my breast cancer surgery and subsequent treatments were to prepare Vital and me for the present. *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”* (Romans 8:18). We experienced so many uncertainties when we went to Boston, yet God provided people with open hearts and arms to welcome us and to provide for us. This outpouring of God’s love to us strengthened us to be God’s hands and feet once again here in La Romana. Also, I feel my ordination prepared me to be an example and an encouragement to other women in the D. R. who are called to pastoral ministry.

The Talita Cumi Girls Clubs have experienced Emmanuel “God with us” as many girls are finding Christ’s light, joy, and friendship through the weekly meetings in the various bateyes and La Romana. One mother related that her daughter’s attitude has changed from one of criticism and negativity to one of laughter and positivity.

One of our concerns this year is the increase of persecution of Haitian immigrants in La Romana. There is a sense of unease and fear among many of the Haitian community, and the Community Center is a place of rest and an oasis of peace in the midst of this chaos. Vital is accompanying many Haitian construction workers who need brotherly, physical, emotional, and spiritual support so they can live with dignity in the D.R.. The goal is to have an organization to unify these men so they can be a mutual support to each other. Vital is also hoping that the Community Center will soon be able to create a “Job Board” so Haitian women looking for work can be connected with potential employers. We keep in mind this scripture: *“You shall not oppress a stranger nor torment him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt”* (Exodus 23:9). Yes, Emmanuel “God with us” is essential for these immigrants.

Through your prayers and your financial support you have been accompanying us as we minister. We are grateful and look forward to this continuing investment in our lives. You help us to know Emmanuel “God with us” – THANK YOU!! Sincerely, Ketly & Vital Pierre

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Visitor

Published by the First Baptist Church

fbcottawa.org

410 S. Hickory Street P.O. Box 308
Ottawa, KS 66067

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

Kent Markley 1-2

Brian Kane 1-3

Mark Seymour 1-4

Cheryl Seymour 1-6

Shanta Kemp 1-6

Charles Crawford 1-7

Paxton Dryden 1-10

Kelli Ball 1-12

Ryan Kemp 1-17

Parker Dryden 1-20

Glenda Schmidt 1-30