

The More Excellent Way

Inside this issue:	
The Word of God-The Bible	2
Glass of Milk	3
Spring Cleaning for the Soul	4
FMBC Library Book Drive	5-7
One Way Traffic Points to Ponder	8

From the Pastor's Pen...

My Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The Lord has been mighty good to us! We are most grateful for the completion of our new Christian Education Annex. Our Dedicatory Services were simply fantastic. We certainly want to thank all of the various committees that helped to make our series of services marvelously successful.

Due to the fact that our new facility was not completed on schedule, our Annual Auxiliary Fair, normally scheduled for the Fall of each year, had to be postponed until the first Sunday of May. Since we were last able to have an Auxiliary Fair, we have been blessed to have many new individuals and families join our congregation. For those of you who are new to FMBC, our Auxiliary Fair showcases all of our various ministries, committees, boards, and auxiliaries for the purpose of recruiting new members for each of these groups.

We are saved by grace. There is absolutely nothing that you and I can do to earn salvation. Salvation is a free gift from God. As the songwriter said, "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe..." However, the way we express our gratitude for God's amazing gift of grace is by living a life of obedience and service. There is absolutely no such thing as a "bench member." It is our prayer to have every member of FMBC actively involved in some aspect of our ministry. We are saved by grace to serve. Especially to those of you who are not yet involved in any of our many areas of ministry, our prayer is that as you view our various areas of ministry at the Auxiliary Fair that you would prayerfully allow the Lord to lead you to a place of service in our ministry.

We certainly want to thank Rev. Curtis Martin, our Minister of Christian Education, Sis. Catherine Gilleylen, our Director of Christian Education, and our entire Board of Christian Education for their tireless labor to make this Auxiliary Fair successful. As well, we want to thank each of our auxiliaries and ministries, and their leaders, for their prayerful preparation for this event. Last, but certainly not least we want to thank our newsletter staff for helping us to publicize this event. Remember, we are saved to serve.

In the Lord's Service,

Sonny Adolph

S. V. "Sonny" Adolph, Jr.,
Pastor

**Special
Points to
Ponder.**

**First Mis-
sionary "A
Reverent
Church with
a Relevant
Ministry"**

THE WORD OF GOD - THE BIBLE

The words in bold letters in the paragraph below are hidden in the puzzle. Words can be across, down or diagonal. Can you find them all?

The **Bible** is truly a **miracle**. There are a total of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New **Testament**. The bible was written by over 36 different people, and over a period of about 1500 **years**. The authors came from many different backgrounds and professions. There were **fishermen, farmers, politicians, teachers, doctors, tentmakers** and even **kings**. It would be mathematically impossible for so many different people over so many years to write with such **harmony** and accuracy, if it were not for the **Holy Spirit**. God told these people what to write. The Bible is the **Word of God**.

B H O L Y S P I R I T Q T
P N K O O H A R M O N Y E
T T O B C A P Y I C K O A
V E I F I S H E R M A N C
O N S E K B Y E A R S U H
X T C T W I L D C A H Q E
B M B O A E N E L R F O R
D A O U I M G G E O Y A S
N K F A R M E R S X O P O
J E T R G X O N S E I K Q
V R W L W D O C T O R S B
C S W O R D O F G O D T Z

GLASS OF MILK

One day, a poor boy who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry.

He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door. Instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry so brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it slowly, and then asked, "How much do I owe you?" "You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept pay for a kindness." He said..... "Then I thank you

from my heart."

As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was strong also. He had been ready to give up and quit.

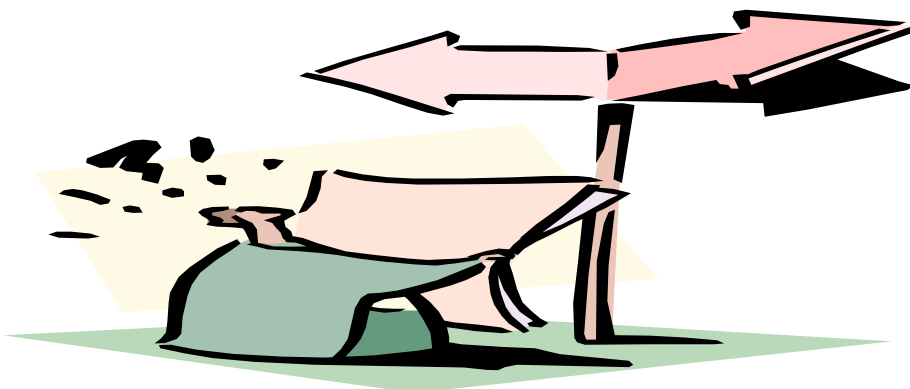
Year's later that young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease. Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from, a strange light filled his eyes. Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to room. Dressed in his doctor's gown he

went in to see her. He recognized her at once. He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. From that day he gave special attention to the case. After a long struggle, the battle was won.

Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it, then wrote something on the edge and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words.....

"Paid in full with one glass of milk"

Signed Dr. Howard Kelly. Tears of joy flooded her eyes as her happy heart prayed: "Thank You, God, that Your love has spread abroad through human hearts and hands."



SPRING CLEANING FOR THE SOUL

At last, after the long cold winter, we are entering the beautiful season of spring! With spring comes new life, growth, pleasant days, and yes p r i n g cleaning. Let's take a new approach to spring cleaning. Let's pray, with the psalmist, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." (Psalms 51: 10) Whenever we carry within us thoughts and feelings of unforgiveness, anger, judgment, resentment, guilt, shame, blame, etc., we are in need of a good cleansing. Our progress along our spiritual path is greatly impeded, and we rob ourselves of joy and peace of mind.

You may feel justified in feeling anger and unforgiveness, having" indeed been hurt, betrayed, or wronged. Yet your choice is simple and clear. You can hold onto the painful thoughts and feelings, and nurse your self-righteousness, but it will be at the expense of your peace of mind and your experience of the Holy Presence. Are you prepared to pay such a high price? Is it really worth the sacrifice? It has been said that unforgiveness is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die. Release those old, negative thoughts and feelings, and invite the cleansing, renewing, fresh air of Spirit to sweep through your heart, mind, and soul.

How do we accomplish this? The answer, given us by Jesus, is forgiveness. Jesus taught forgiveness, and He demonstrated to us the importance of forgiveness during the crucifixion. He considered it so important that it was the first of the seven last words spoken from the Cross "O Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are doing." (Luke 23:43) Our thoughts naturally turn to the final days and teachings of, Jesus during this Easter season. Knowing that His time on this earth was short, what did Jesus choose to teach us during those final moments - as always, teaching through example? Forgiveness. If we are to follow in His footsteps, we are called to do the same. Forgive our brothers and sisters. Forgive ourselves. Give spiritual love in place of resentment. We must forgive in order to have a clean heart and a right spirit within us.

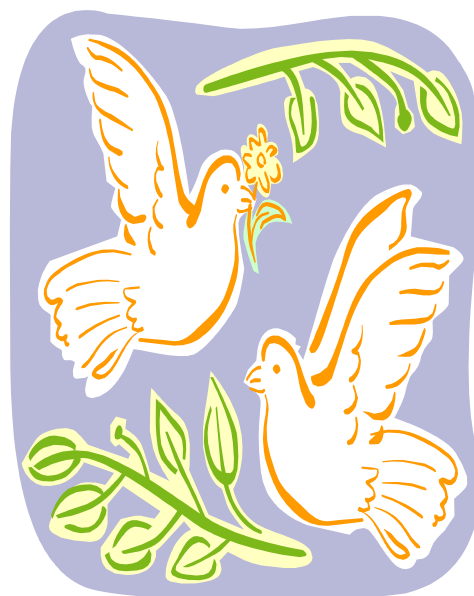
We are told exactly to do it.....how to practice forgiveness. First, realize that you may always ask God to help you. If you are willing to forgive, and desire to forgive, but are finding it difficult, simply ask God to help you. Use the scripture from Psalms 51: 10 as

your prayer. Next, follow the explicit instructions given in

Matthew 5:44.... "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

There you have it.....bless and pray for the one whom you need to forgive. Place them in God's hands. Then release and let go. Do this as many times as it takes. It is through forgiveness that true spiritual healing is accomplished. As you embrace and enjoy this new season, go forth with a "clean heart and right spirit!"

Reverend Christy Hancock Cox



FMBC Library Book Drive

The First Missionary Motto is “Seeking the More Excellent Way”. Our Mission Statement is “To strengthen saints, save sinners, and glorify our Savior”. The Library’s Mission is “To provide the print resources required to strengthen saints, save sinners, and glorify our Savior”. Our first goal is to fill our new library with its basic requirements, books. Our first step toward accomplishing our goal is a book drive. Listed below, are books the Library Staff, with the assistance of the Board of Christian Education, have selected to fill our library shelves. The Library Staff is asking FMBC members and friends to donate a book(s). These donations may be made by direct purchase, monetary donations to any library staff or Christian Ed. member, or by designation through tithes envelopes.

The Library Staff

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	_____
1. <i>An Encyclopedia of Compelling Quotations</i> R. Daniel Watkins	\$20.00	_____
2. <i>A Guide for the Church Usher</i> Thomas Clark	\$10.00	_____
3. <i>Key Word Commentary</i> Mark Water	\$35.00	_____
4. <i>Soul Care Bible</i> Tim Clinton	\$35.00	_____
5. <i>Chosen to be God’s Prophet – Samuel</i> Henry Blackaby	\$20.00	_____
6. <i>Called to be God’s Leader – Joshua</i> Henry Blackaby	\$20.00	_____
7. <i>Created to be God’s Friend – Abraham</i> Henry Blackaby	\$20.00	_____
8. <i>My Utmost for His Highest</i> Oswald Chambers	\$15.00	_____
9. <i>Classic Collection on Prayer</i> E.M. Bounds	\$16.00	_____
10. <i>Power-Filled Living Prayer and Faith</i> R. A. Torrey	\$ 8.00	_____
11. <i>Jesus on Leadership</i> Wilkes	\$13.00	_____
12. <i>The Beloved Disciple</i> Beth Moore	\$20.00	_____
13. <i>Jesus the One and Only</i> Beth Moore	\$20.00	_____
14. <i>When Godly People Do Ungodly Things</i> Beth Moore	\$20.00	_____
15. <i>Things Pondered</i> Beth Moore	\$13.00	_____
16. <i>Next Door Savior</i> Max Lucado	\$23.00	_____

17	<i>Life Lessons</i> (20 books) Max Lucado	\$ 8.00 ea	_____
18.	<i>No Wonder They Call Him Savior</i> Max Lucado	\$17.00	_____
19.	<i>And the Angels Were Silent</i> Max Lucado	\$17.00	_____
20.	<i>Emma's Gift</i> Kelly	\$13.00	_____
21.	<i>Julia's Hope</i> Kelly	\$13.00	_____
22.	<i>The Servant Leader Guide</i> Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges	\$15.00	_____
23.	<i>The Servant Study Guide</i> Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges	\$15.00	_____
24.	<i>Charles Swindell's Series</i> <i>David</i> (2 copies) <i>Esther</i> (2 copies) <i>Joseph</i> (2 copies) <i>Moses</i> (2 copies) <i>Paul</i> (2 copies) <i>Elijah</i> (2 copies) <i>Job</i> (2 copies)	\$23.00 ea	_____
25.	<i>The Politically Incorrect Wife</i> (2 copies) Nancy Cobb and Connie Grisby	\$13.00ea	_____
26.	<i>Unbreakable Bonds</i> (2 copies) Dr. Cheryl Meier and Dr. Paul Meier	\$20.00ea.	_____
27.	<i>Spiritual Growth of Children</i> (2 copies) John Trent, Ph.D., Rick Osborne, and Kurt Bruner	\$17.00ea	_____
28.	<i>Laws of Leadership</i> (2 copies) James L. Garlow	\$23.00ea	_____
29.	<i>The purpose Driven Church</i> (2 copies) Rick Warren	\$20.00	_____
30.	<i>Strong's Exhaustive Concordance</i>	\$19.97	_____
31.	<i>Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible</i>	\$24.97	_____
32.	<i>Haley's Bible Handbook</i>	\$18.99	_____
33.	<i>Bible Summary Series</i> <i>The Old Testament</i> <i>The New Testament</i> <i>Shepherd's Notes</i>	\$ 6.00ea	_____
34.	<i>Full Verse Cross Reference Bible</i> New Living Translation	\$30.00	_____
35.	Tony Evans Series <i>Life Essentials</i> (2 copies) <i>Totally Saved</i> (2 copies)	\$20.00ea	_____
36.	Tony Evans Series <i>Who is This King of Glory?</i> (2 copies) <i>What Matters Most</i> (2 copies) <i>Our God is Awesome</i> (2 copies) <i>The Best is Yet to Come</i> (2 copies) <i>The Promise</i> (2 copies)	\$13.00ea	_____

37.	<i>Soul Retreats</i>	\$ 7.95ea	_____
	<i>Busy People</i> (2 copies)		
	<i>For Women</i> (2 copies)		
	<i>For Teachers</i> (2 copies)		
	<i>For Students</i> (2 copies)		
	<i>For Leaders</i> (2 copies)		
38.	<i>Checklist for Life for Teens</i> (2 copies)	\$ 9.97	_____
39.	<i>Power of a Positive Mom</i>	\$14.99	_____
	Karol Ladd		
40.	<i>It's Not About Me</i>	\$18.99	_____
	Max Lucado		
41.	<i>Cape Refuge</i>	\$12.99	_____
	Terri Blackstock		
42.	<i>Color the Sidewalk For Me</i>	\$12.99	_____
	Brantilyn Collins		
43.	<i>Hold Tight the Thread</i>	\$14.99	_____
	Jane Kirkpatrick		
44.	<i>Every Fixed Star</i>	\$13.99	_____
	Jane Kirkpatrick		
45.	<i>The Diva Principle</i>	\$10.99	_____
	Michelle Hammond		
46.	<i>Dictionary of Theological Terms</i>	\$24.99	_____
	Alan Cairns		
47.	<i>Holman Bible Dictionary</i>	\$20.00	_____
48.	<i>Things Pondered</i>	\$14.99	_____
	Beth Moore		
49.	<i>Your Girl</i>	\$ 9.97	_____
	Vicki Courtney		
50.	<i>Shaping the Next Generation</i>	\$11.98	_____
	Egeler		
51.	<i>Stay-at-Home Handbook</i>	\$11.00	_____
	Gochnover		
52.	<i>Holman Bible Handbook</i>	\$25.00	_____
53.	<i>Men of Color Study Bible</i>	\$36.95	_____
54.	<i>The New Daily Study Bible</i>	\$74.95 set	_____
	William Barclay		



First Missionary Baptist Church of Handsboro

S.V. Adolph Jr., Pastor
01100 E. Past Road/P.O. Box 6175
Gulfport, MS 39507/39506

Church Office Information & Hours
Monday - Thursday 4:00 - 8:00 P.M.
Friday - Sunday Closed
Phone: (228) 896-1299 church
Fax Number: (228) 896-0106

(Email: FMBCGptMS@aol.com
Web Site: www.fmbchandsboro.org

Staff Members

Sis Debbie Aiken (taiken@datasync.com)
Sis Taylor Jordan
Sis Arleen Stewart (abracky@aol.com)



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the First Missionary Baptist Church is to exalt our Savior by worshipping, working, and witnessing under the Holy Spirit's direction; to edify saints, through Biblically based teaching ministries, while giving attention to the needs of the total human experience; and to, evangelize sinners through Biblical preaching and exhausting every know avenue of reaching lost persons

MOTTO

First Missionary Baptist Church is a reverent church with a relevant ministry.

One Lord One Faith One Baptism

WANTED

Have you read something that inspired, uplifted, and/or encouraged? Do you think others may enjoy reading it? Has someone achieved something that you want recognized? All persons may submit material to any staff member for publication in the next newsletter.

SCHOLASTIC CHECK-POINTS

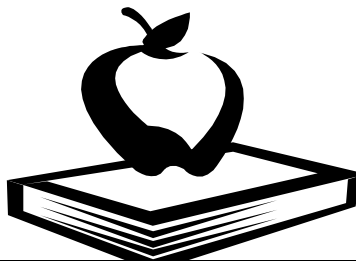
One-Way Traffic an Aesop Tale

An old lion, who was too weak to hunt or fight for his food, decided that he must get it by his wits. He lay down in a cave, pretending to be ill, and whenever any animals came to visit him, he seized them and ate them. When many had perished in this way, a fox who had seen through the trick came and stood at a distance from the cave, and inquired how he was. "Bad," the lion answered, and

asked why he did not come in, "I would have come in," said the fox, "but I saw a lot of tracks going in and none coming out."

A wise man recognizes danger signals in time to avoid injury.

To the graduating class of 2004, please watch for danger signs



Points to Ponder

God will protect you, but He will not hamper you.

"Sin will keep you from the Book or the Book will keep you from sin"
Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899)

Faith is the Victory!

A crown of life follows a faithful life.

Surrender your all to God in prayer. Then act.