

First News & Notes

February—March 2024



150 Years of Faith and Fellowship

The Third Saying from the Cross

Mary stands at the cross with two other women and John the apostle. On the cross, her first born son. She watches his agony as they beat and torture him and couldn't lift a finger to help him.

She watches as the crowd walks by, slapping him and beating him and cursing him.

Only those who have watched a loved one die can begin to understand what it means for Mary to be at the cross that day. And in those hours suddenly the cry comes from the cross.

Jesus looking down sees his mother Mary and sees John standing next to her and cries out from the cross, "Dear woman, here is your son." (speaking of John) and to John, "here is your mother."

The Bible says that when Jesus said those words from the cross, immediately, from that very hour, John took Mary, the mother of Jesus into his own home.

We might not understand at first reading the significance of these words. But in Jewish thought the instructions of a dying man were of the same sort as if they were written on a piece of paper. It is as if Jesus were writing his own last will and testament and executing it right there.

Jesus was saying to his mother, "Mum, I'm leaving you now and I'm not going to be able to take care of you after I'm gone. You see John. He will be to you as I was to you. He will be the son you need." "John, do you see my mother? Take care of her after I'm gone. Do for her what I would do if I were still alive."

You ask, why in the midst of all his agony would Jesus even say something like this? It's because even though he is dying in agonizing torture upon the cross, he is fulfilling the most basic responsibility and the most sacred obligation that any son ever had. He is making sure that his mother is cared for.

It's not as if Jesus had a lot of options at this point hanging on the cross. He knew that he would be dead within just a matter of hours. All he could do in his dying moments was to fulfill that final obligation to be sure that his mother was taken care of after he was gone.

Although Jesus was about the business of saving the world, he was not too busy to care for his parents.

Our Lord has left the pattern for us to see. Though you be about the business of saving the world, though you be a Christian committed to spreading the gospel to the ends of this earth, you are not now, nor will you ever be, discharged from the sacred obligation to care for your parents.

Not now, not tomorrow, not ever. If our Lord Jesus, hanging in agony, remembered his mother at the very end of his life, then so should we. None of us are ever discharged from that sacred obligation.

If we ever use our Christianity as a reason not to take care of our parents, we're worse than an unbeliever. If our parents have not followed us in the faith, and we use that as a reason not to love them and care for them and honour them, we know nothing of what the Christian faith is all about

Jesus first word from the Cross was - "Father, forgive them" - —thinking of his enemies.

His second word: "Today you will be with me in Paradise" —thinking of the criminal by his side.

His third word: "Woman, behold your son" —thinking of his mother.

Jesus died as he lived—thinking of others. Let us commit ourselves to do the same.

Calendar of Events

February

- 7 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
- 8 Seniors Lunch and Sing 12:00 noon
- 11 **Family Day at First**
(pot luck after the service)
- 14 Valentines Day
- Ladies Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
- 15 Leone Mater
- 18 **Lenten Series** Pastor Tom:
Luke 23:34
- 21 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
- 24 Daniel Rust
- 24 **Lenten Series:** Pastor Tom
Luke 23:43
- Fellowship after the service
- 28 Helen McDonald
- 29 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

March

- 3 **Lenten Series:** Pastor Alex
Matthew 27:46
- 5 Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 6 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
- 10 **Lenten Series** Pastor Alex
John 19:28
- 13 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
- 15 Rick Jay
- 17 **Lenten Series** Pastors Tom and Alex
John 19:30 & Luke 23:46
- 19 Cara Brandon
- 20 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
- 21 Bev Woolaver
- Senior Lunch and Sing 12:00 noon
- 22 Joyce Finlayson
- 17 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
- 24 **Palm Sunday:** Pastor Alex
- 29 Good Friday Cross Walk
- 31 **Easter Sunday:** Pastor Alex

Senior's Lunch



&



Hymn Sing

Thursday

February 8th 2024

at Noon

*You're
Invited*

Invite a Friend

Donation

PLEASE SIGN UP BY SUNDAY February 4th, 2024

or Contact Wyn Craig: Phone/Text

519-464-3312



Our 'FBC Family Day Sunday' will be February 11th.

The Fellowship Committee is planning a pot luck lunch so dig out your favourite recipe!

Immediately following the service, please join us at the front of the sanctuary for a church family photo.

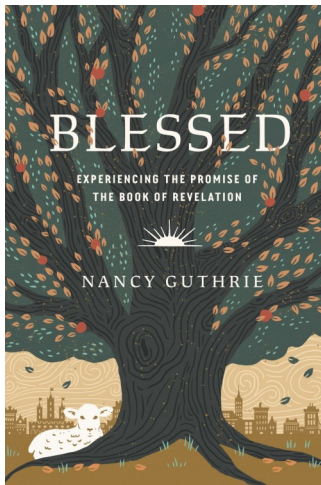


Business Meeting

Tuesday, March 5th at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall



Committee chairs are asked to prepare a short report and e-mail it to jan.white@live.ca by February 29th



All ladies are welcome to Bible Study Wednesday mornings at 10:00. We have very interesting discussions regarding the book of Revelation.

As a bonus bit of learning, I watched “7 Churches of Revelation” on YouTube . Dr. Jospeh Stowell took us on a video journey of the 7 churches mentioned in the first 2 chapters of Revelation. He explained what he knew of the culture they were in and how the letters spoke directly to the situation the people of the day were in. What was amazing was how many of the cultures of that day are also part of our culture.

Wanda Pratt

HOPE 2024

A City Wide Ladies day will be happening September 14 at the Sarnia Library Theatre.

One of the speakers is Robyn Dykstra, an international speaker and former Playboy Bunny.

Another speaker is our Sarnia lady, Tess Scott, who describes herself as “Speaker, Author, Black Sheep turned Jesus-Girl “

There will be more information as the time comes closer.



We all have heard of Petrolia’s 150th Anniversary Celebrations and have probably received the calendar with the list of activities for each month.

First Baptist will be participating in some of these activities and would love to see lots of our people at them as well.

The Outreach Committee is talking about a few ideas for later in the year.

Alex and the other pastors are planning the Community Worship Service for August 18, the day after the 150th Anniversary Parade which we might be involved with.

Summer services are also being planned for the park as we have done for the last few years.

Please feel free to contact Pastor Alex or anyone on the Outreach Committee if you have an idea or are willing to help with any of our projects.

Christmas Celebrations



At First

New Banners
Amazing Choir
Beautiful Decorations
Christmas Dinner
(and cleanup)
Advent Candles
Fellowship
Celebrations

And.....



.... Silent Night



Winter is Un-BEAR-able

As I sit here in my easy chair
Watching the world turn white
I can't help but think to myself
That bears have got it right.
When fall arrives, they start to gorge
They eat and eat all day
Berries, fruit, acorns and fish
Nature's just a big buffet.
They pack on the weight
Up to 30 pounds a week
(If you or I did that
Just imagine our physique!)
Then, they lumber off to a nice warm den
Curl up and go to sleep
While winter winds blow bitterly cold
And snow piles high and deep
Sleep thru the frozen months?
I think I'd like to try that!
Cozy and safe in my comfy bed
Living off my fat!
Skip winter and wake up in the spring
Yes, hibernation definitely has merit
But since God made me the way I am
I'll just have to grin and 'bear it'!
~ Jan White (January 2024)



When my children were small I used to tell them about Jesus.
Now that they are all grown up I tell Jesus about them..

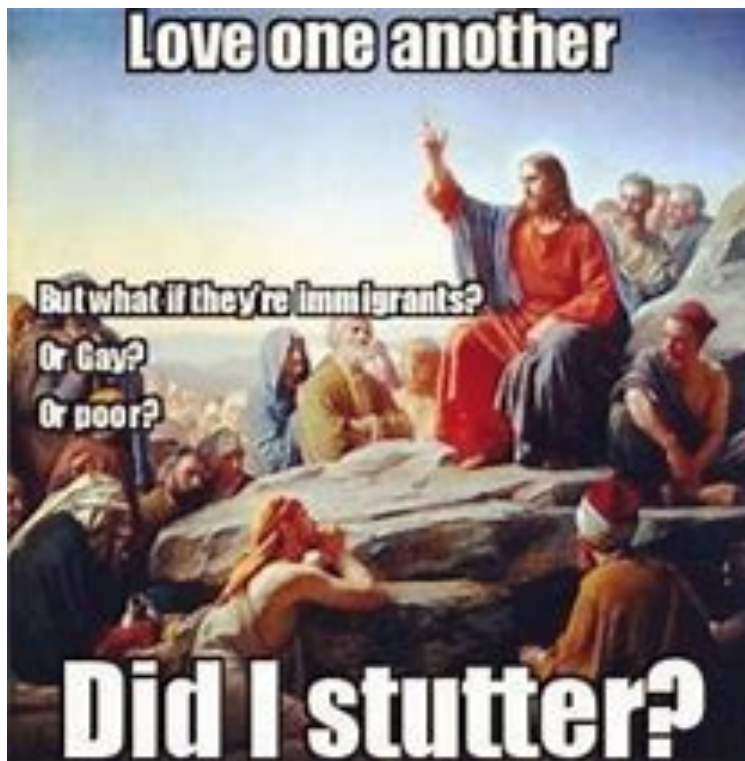




Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec

Our E-LINK newsletter

We will add you and our subscribers to our monthly newsletter list. This newsletter is full of information – updates, news, links to material on our website. You and your subscribers will have the option of receiving E-LINK via email or Canada Post. . <https://baptistwomen.com/>



<p>2024 GREAT CANADIAN BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>The Women at the Cross</p>	<p>gather women in your church</p> <p>download the study</p> <p>raise funds to support girls and boys in Kenya</p>

live magazine finishes its run with the March-April 2024 issue

At our Women's Conference this past spring, Helena Bergen, our executive director, shared about the discernment journey that the CBWOQ Board has been on. It has been an incredibly fruitful exercise, helping the Board, Helena and staff to truly hone in on some key areas and plan for how to bring revitalization to our organization as well as to the Baptist women we connect with across Ontario and in Quebec.

In order to move ahead and engage our ministry priorities in new ways, we realized that there are some things that need to be laid down, namely, our long-standing ministry of *live* magazine. **The decision has been made to publish our final issue in March/April of 2024.**

I know that *live* magazine, and its predecessor, *The Link & Visitor*, were companions on your journey and that of other subscribers in your church and group. Subscribers have emailed me sharing how their mothers, grandmothers and their mothers read the magazine faithfully. Both magazines were points of contact. Their stories inspired, challenged and indeed, changed lives. Do know then that we plan to stay connected with all subscribers in several ways over the next few months and on an ongoing basis. Here are some of those ways.

Coffee or Tea with "live" (March or April 2024)

Past editor Esther Barnes and I will host a cozy online Zoom gathering to celebrate the magazine with you – the promoters and subscribers who made this ministry possible. All are invited to this gathering. Dates and details will be published in the January-February issue of *live* magazine. Please let your subscribers know.

Are we a friendly church

Or

A church of friends?



First Baptist, St. Andrews and St. Paul's church are joining together to bless others in our community.

Blessing Bags – only new items to be used.

Collecting February 4 and 11 for this project

Blessing Bags

We will be collecting throat lozenges, tissue packs, socks, and anything else that would bless our neighbors.

Ready to eat food
Disposable cutlery
Hand warmers
Mitts
Personal care items
Cash

