**A Note from Amy**

April is upon us and Spring finally seems possible. Things are a little greener and it is definitely warmer. Praise the Lord that we have beautiful Springs to look forward to after such a long Winter.

That reminds me of the “winters” in our lives when we just can’t find joy and beauty in everyday life. We feel spiritually cold and separated from God. Most of the time these seasons are of our own making because of sin. What has a friend said to you that helps you to refocus your eyes on Christ? What do we do when we see a friend in this cold and barren season? Do we tell them to suck it up? Do we tell them all of the ways they have failed?

Or...

Do we gently and lovingly point them to Christ and help them shoulder this burden by prayer and friendship so they can get back on their feet? When we do this, we help remind them that Jesus restores and renews our minds and souls. He helps us to see the light at the end of the tunnel and the spring that is right around the corner.

The “Love Challenge” for this month is to help carry another’s burdens. There are so many burdens that we carry. We each need a friend who reminds us of these verses from Matthew 11:29-30, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Amy Porter (620-9262)

**Just One Thing Love Challenge —April**

*Listen to one story:* Speak to someone who is suffering in your church and ask them how they are. It may be someone who is ill, someone struggling with a wayward child, someone who’s struggling financially. As you listen to their story, express concern, and feel sympathy, a strange thing happens—the sufferer’s pain reduces slightly as you take some of it into your own mind, heart, and soul. Although you walk away heavier, they walk away lighter.

“Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses, and He carried our pains; but we in turn regarded Him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

But He was pierced because of our transgressions, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on Him, and we are healed by His wounds.

We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the Lord has punished Him for the iniquity of us all.”

Isaiah 53:4-6 (HCB)

There is a lot of suffering in our world, but what can you do?

The next love challenge is something for you to do. We will never be asked to bear burdens like our Lord Jesus, but you can love with your ears and shoulders!

What about the family who sits in your church pew? What about the woman you know from Bible study? What about the one you read about on the prayer list? How about the ministry you thought about joining?

You *can* do something about suffering—the suffering of one person, one family. This challenge is to find that one, listen, and love them with the burden bearing love of Jesus.

If you have a burden and need to have someone listen and help carry, please consider asking for our ear. The women’s Ministry here at First Baptist Church is you—each and every one.

Colleen Lohrenz (620-4755)

**Love**

bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:7
Ministry that Bears Burdens

Bible Study & Changepoint
First Baptist Church supports the ministry of Changepoint Pregnancy Care & Parenting Resource Center. In March, the Tuesday morning Precepts Women’s Bible Study group collected diapers, clothing, and infant formula to be used at Changepoint. A number of the class members volunteer at Changepoint on a regular basis. The gifts were given to recognize the efforts of the Precepts group members and the work of the staff with parents and children. The class is reading through the Bible and was convicted by God’s gift of life through children. The gifts were delivered after class and they prayed for the ministry, the staff, and the families who will come through the doors.

Women on Mission
This past Sunday represented the official start of FBC’s Annie Armstrong offering for North American Missions. We were privileged to view a brief video and hear the words and burdens of the missionaries serving through NAMB. You have a group of women who were already acquainted with these missionaries and knew more of their stories.

At a regular WOM meeting last March 27, the group heard many more details of how these missionaries were called to their ministries and who they are seeking for Jesus. As a regular part of the WOM meetings, this group pauses to pray for the missionaries and the lost people.

Sunday night, the evening service gave an opportunity for a missions report from Drew and Christine Smith who had been serving in Madagascar. They relayed story after story of answered prayers that they knew had been offered at their request and on their behalf. They testified that they KNEW their people were praying for them.

Prayer is a lovely and effective way to bear the burdens of others. It is a blessing for the one who prays and for the one who is prayed for. Think about following up your prayers with a note of encouragement to a missionary. God is glorified in it all.

The WOM group is working on a number of tangible projects to help carry others’ burdens. These include: acting as tour guides for the Faith Girls at the Missions Conference, sewing aprons for women in Honduras, the Pure Water Pure Love water project, and food pantry restocking this fall.

You are invited to join this group, Thursday, at 10:00 in Room 219, on April 24th. Call Wanda Thorp (282-3269) with any questions.

Pure Commitment
Pure Commitment works with DHS in providing support in the care of foster children and parents.
Call Rachel Speer (501-940-0293) for more information.

Comfort in Christ is for those in need of support after a loss of a loved one. Call Rhonda Frederick (627-0771) for help with this burden.

A group meets on the first Friday of each month (April 11th this month) to pray for one another. Contact Cathy Slater (623-4729) for prayer or to support others with your prayers.
Listen ... but, what if they can’t hear?

Pat Wheeler, former interpreter for the Deaf and teacher of Mathematics for the Deaf, currently serves at First Baptist Church as a First Grade Sunday School teacher. We are also familiar with Pat from seeing her gesturing with her hands from the front of the sanctuary. She can interpret the words spoken and sung for those who cannot hear.

“I interpreting is very mental, physical, and emotional. One must grasp the verbal and signed languages with some level of efficiency. To interpret one hears the spoken word, processes mentally into another language, and then expresses concepts with fingers, hands, arms, face, and body movements. There is a great void of knowledge that we as hearing people take for granted. The laughter of children, a bird’s melodious tune, your mamma hollering, “Time to eat,” and hearing, “I love you.” These seem insignificant or common, but deaf ears miss so much. The worst of all is not hearing about Jesus. “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.” (1 Corinthians 13:7)

I have been interpreting for the Deaf since 1988. Kindergarten, Summer school art, my math classes, and an English class at OBU represent some of the structured situations. Movies are the hardest to interpret because there is so much going on at once. Then there are the more intimate experiences of workshops, ordering a meal, church services, worship, funerals, and just chatting with a friend.”

Pat hasn’t been able to interpret lately because accidents in 2011 and 2012 left her with shoulder pain and balance troubles that haven’t yet been corrected.

“My church family has been so understanding, caring, and prayerful throughout these years. God is good all the time. Thank you my family.”

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2nd Annual Mother Daughter Tea
Leaving a Legacy
Saturday April 26th
2 pm—4 pm

Tickets are now available in the Main Office during the week and in the Women’s Ministry area on Sundays
$10 for 18 and over
$5 for K5 to 17
First Baptist Church
2350 Central Avenue
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901
Phone: 501-624-3345
E-mail: fbchs.women@gmail.com

Our mission is to serve God by reaching and discipling persons for Christ as we encourage spiritual growth in women.

“And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work.” Colossians 1:10

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**WE’RE ON THE WEB!**  womensministry-fbchs.org

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FRIDAY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>WM Monthly Prayer Group</td>
<td>Cathy Slater</td>
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<td>Friday, March 7, 2014 (next April 4)</td>
<td>623-4729</td>
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<td>9:45-11:00 am in the Prayer Room 220</td>
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<td><strong>THURSDAY</strong></td>
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<td>April 3</td>
<td>Comfort in Christ</td>
<td>Rhonda Frederick</td>
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<td>First Thursday of the Month</td>
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<td><strong>THURSDAY</strong></td>
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<td>Apr 24</td>
<td>Women on Mission</td>
<td>Wanda Thorp</td>
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<td>Thursday, February 27, 2014</td>
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<td>10:00 am—11:30 am, Room 219</td>
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<td><strong>SATURDAY</strong></td>
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<td>Apr 26</td>
<td>Second Annual Spring Tea!</td>
<td>Tracy Meeker</td>
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<td>Tickets go on Sale—Sunday, April 6 in the WM Area.</td>
<td>479-883-6912</td>
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<td>$10 for 18 and over; $5 for 17 and under</td>
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<td>Saturday—April 26, 2014</td>
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If you would like to have information about, or visit with any of our Women’s Ministry leaders, please feel free to contact them or the Women’s Ministry office by telephone (620-4755) or email fbchs.women@gmail.com

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The 2014 Loves Challenges are used with the permission of the author: David Murray, (2013, November 4), 10 LOVE CHALLENGES [blog post], http://headheartand.org/blog/2013/11/04/10-love-challenges/