

The Courier

a newsletter from your friends at
First Baptist Church
in Hamilton, Ohio



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

August, 2006

Worship And The Ballpark

Sometimes life's important messages come together at the same time. When they do, I try to pay attention! I'm not always sure what they mean, but I do find them fascinating since I don't believe in accidents, coincidences, or happenstance. Over the last few days, I've bumped into articles about God-stuff and the ballpark.

First, I found an article in *USA Today* about the Colorado Rockies baseball team revival occurring on two levels, faith and a winning record. Then I found the front page *New York Times* piece on "Faith Nights" that are appearing at more and more baseball parks at both a minor league and major league level.

Then came the follow-up article about the Rockies trying to downplay the faith angle a little bit—it was an attempt to make sure the Rockies' players who were Christians did not come across as "holier than thou."

Internet friend and brother in Christ, Brent High, has a business group, called Third Coast Sports, that is behind much of this recent stir about faith in sports. There should be follow up stories that appear on *CBS Evening News* and ESPN's *Outside the Lines*.

While I'm not sure what to make of all the stir, I will watch it unfold with fascination. I believe that a big part of what is happening is something we need more of in the Christian community: more of living the life of Christ in the real world and less of "cocooning ourselves" in our little religious enclaves and viewing ourselves in a war against the people around us.

I'm convinced that much of our sense of worship is well-intentioned wrong-headedness. We've confined worship to what we do in our daily quiet times, in our church building sanctuaries, and our small group Bible studies. In other words, worship takes place away from the everyday world where we live, the jobs where we work, the leisure activities we enjoy, and the activities where our children play. In other words, worship is what occurs at the margins, fringes, and short moments of time where we are isolated from "real life."

While worship with Christians is great and necessary, it is private worship with our church family. Occasionally someone from the "outside" may come in and be blessed (1 Corinthians 14:24-25). But

Jesus left the incredible worship world of Heaven to enter the everyday world of fallen humanity to do the will of God, show the love of God, and bring God glory—in other words, Jesus' life was a life of worship! God wants us to follow our Lord's example. He wants us to take our worship out into the "real world" where we work, play, go to school, and watch our children in their activities. Worship must be what we do in our daily lives out in the world around us (Romans 12:1). We meet together for worship to "stimulate one another to love and good deeds" in our daily worship lived out daily in the world around us (Hebrews 10:24-25 NAS).

Our power to change the character of our culture will be found in the compassion and quality of our daily lives, not in the political clout we can marshal at the polls or in the power of our Christian assemblies (1 Peter 2:11-12). The way we conduct ourselves in our daily lives, openly living our faith but not shoving it down everyone's throat, will give us the opportunity to share the real basis of our hope in Jesus even in the most hostile situations (1 Peter 3:13-17).

Once we grab hold of this concept, we're in for quite a surprise. We learn that our lives will be heard by the skeptical world around us more than our words. We will discover that each day is a day holy to God. How we treat our family, the way we conduct ourselves at work, the kind of person we are at school, the way we carry ourselves at our children's events, the way we help those around us who are in need, and the kind of neighbor we are when we are at home all are a crucial parts of worship. Rather than God being a tack on part of our day-to-day lives, he will inhabit all spaces and places of each day. All of our efforts to do good things and to be a person of character take on a sense of the holy ... even trips to the ballpark!

—Phil Ware
Heartlight





American Baptist Women's Ministries

We had 2 ladies attend the conference in the Columbus area in June: Judy Young and Nancy Whipple. The theme will be Born Again: To Be Wild About Jesus with II Corinthians 5:17 and Isaiah 43:19 as our Bible Verses. The focus this year is on neighborhood missions. The Care and Share for this year was increased for First Baptist Church.

–Judy Young

Missionary for the Month of August: Burma Convention

A number of years ago all missionaries had to leave Burma which is now Myanmar. When American Baptist missionaries left there was a strong Burma Baptist Convention which has continued to share the Good News. International Ministries continues to support the work with prayer and financial support.

Myanmar Institute of Theology has started a Christian liberal arts educational program called BARS (Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies). It graduated its second four year class in March, 2005.

There is a Health Care Clinic in Insein which treats many students and people from the community. Our support is appreciated.

–Evon Laubenstein

Bible Book For August Deuteronomy

“Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.”

Deuteronomy 6:4, 5 (RSV)

Deuteronomy is the “second Law,” or Repetition of the Law. Much of the law in this book deals so truly with human life and with the way in which people should treat one another that its message to our conscience is clear now as it was long ago.

PRAY for the American Baptist Churches’ outreach overseas through International Ministries, that the work of missionaries will continue to be multiplied in the growth of overseas churches and leaders filled with God’s Spirit.

–Madge Walters

Young Women Of Hope Girls of Faith

The Young Women of Hope and the Girls of Faith met Sunday, July 23rd. We enjoyed getting together to make favors for upcoming service projects. The girls and their leaders plan to visit and take favors to New Life Mission and Tri-County Care Facility in August. We also hope to join others from the church on August 17th to go to Matthew 25. Barb Keith spoke to the group about some options for camping and also the possibility of working up a puppet dramatization that we could share with children's groups. The next meeting will be an officers meeting on August 13th to plan programs and activities for the upcoming year.

–Nancy Whipple, Marilyn Bowling,
Karen Schumm, and Mindy Hazelwood



The need for the many kinds of material distributed by Matthew 25: Ministries is a year round reality. We would like to continue to provide volunteer service in this vital ministry—even through the summer months. We will be taking a group on Thursday, August 17th—and encourage you to come and join us. There is no age barrier in this work! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

–Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham

KeenAger August Meeting

The KeenAgers will **not** meet during the month of August. Watch for information about the September trip to the Annie Oakley Museum in Greenville, OH.

–KeenAger Activity Committee
Lil Senior, Betty Powell, & Bertha Campbell

The Courier (ISSN 383367-29) August 2006 Published monthly by: First Baptist Church 1501 Pyramid Hill Boulevard Hamilton, Ohio 45013 Volume 41, Number 8

“I Like the Church...But”

The book is nine years old. I had read it a few years ago, and there it sat in its slot on the shelf for a long time—until today. The book is entitled, *I Like Church...But*, and was written by J. Daniel Lupton as a resource text for our Fifty Day Spiritual Adventure we shared as a congregation in the late 90s. The whole text was an effort to create a church that really makes a difference in the culture in which it finds itself. I pulled the book from the shelf because I had been thinking through some of the conversation that had surfaced at the Vision Gathering Sunday afternoon (July 23) as the group began to explore the issues in *Strategy #2 (Worship)* and *Strategy #3 (Community)*. No one has these seven strategies memorized, so allow me to refresh your memory about these two:

Strategy #2 Worship—“We will form a task force to develop, attract, retain, and assimilate people for our worship services.” Some of the components of this strategy include the development of more effective personal contact ministries; greeting people; effective follow-up; and identification of those who had previously been seen in worship, but who have recently been absent from among us. There is more to the worship strategy component, but relationship development was the conversation of the hour.

Strategy #3 Community—This strategy focused on the development of a more loving, welcoming, and encouraging community (How do we teach friendship? How do we encourage people to make an effort to get to know one another? How can we connect more effectively to those who are a part of our church family?)

It is easy to see how these two strategies complement one another. The goal of both is to provide an atmosphere (and a motivation for others) where people find First Baptist to be a place where they can worship the Lord, grow in their faith, enjoy one another’s company, and meaningfully serve their Sovereign Lord.

In the *June Courier*, I encouraged the congregation to consider these days “A Summer of Invitation”—that each of us would do our part during these summer weeks to invite others to worship the Lord with us, and make an effort to become a welcoming people. I have heard several stories about how well you have done in this area.

One guest of our services commented, “I have never seen such a friendly people.” And I think you are. In this person’s case, all it took was a series of three or four conversations of

our people expressing genuine interest, and offering sincere moments to hear his story.

It would be a good thing for all of us to think through the things that we like best about our church. Then, when introducing yourself to a guest, you might say something like, “*This is a great church. The thing that I like best about it is...*” That kind of statement will provide a little more information about the church and people, and will likely give them something to react to in their “post-church first visit debriefing” (there always is such a conversation, right?).

Of course, attracting someone to our faith community is one thing. Retaining them is another story. It takes the whole body, the whole church family, to help people connect with others of like-interests, gifts, and opportunities for service. And it requires people not willing to allow others to “fall through the cracks.” It sometimes takes a little investigation to discover where people are, and what has happened to them. As we have said in other places, “We are not a perfect people.” And it takes time, sometimes, to realize that certain people are not just on vacation, or working the weekend, but are genuinely “somewhere else.” But when we discover such things, we must be quick to express our interest and offer our friendship.

I hope we never hear someone say, “*I like First Baptist. I just wish I could feel welcome there.*” Even more, I hope the thought never even crosses their minds.

Strategically thinking about our life together,
Pastor



**NE Bible Study Group
Announces
Second Parents'
Night Out**

On Thursday, May 18th, ONE hosted their first ever Parents' Night Out at First Baptist Church. ONE members Jeremy Spence, Scott McRoberts, Mandy Gambrell, Molly Gambrell, and Ben and Betsey Kelly supervised group games, kids' movies, snack time, and more in order to allow parents time to relax, have dinner out, catch a movie, or *do whatever they want!*

Due to the enormous success of the first event, ONE is pleased to announce that they will host their second ever Parents' Night Out on Thursday, August 31st from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the church building. Parents can leave children (infants through sixth grade) with ONE members for a night of fun and take some time to themselves. More information is available by calling Jeremy at the church office. Reservations are appreciated, but not required. ONE is looking forward to a great night with the children of First Baptist!

–Betsey Kelly



NE Gathering

One will be gathering at the Moorehead's home, 1720 Tatum Lane, Friday, August 4th, at 6:30 p.m. Food will be provided!

“People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies.

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you.

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend yours building, someone could destroy overnight.

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, there may be jealousy.

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow.

Be good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough.

Give the world the best you have anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God.

It was never between you and them anyway.”

–Mother Teresa



**Nominating Committee
Elected**

The following were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee at the second quarter business meeting on Wednesday, July 19th. The responsibility of the Nominating Committee will be to search out men and women of the Lord's choosing to serve Him and the church, beginning in 2007.

- J.K. Walker representing the Deacon Board
- Helen Mullen representing the Deaconess Board
- Evon Laubenstein representing the Missions Board
- Larry Bowling representing the Trustees Board
- Marilyn Bowling. representing the Christian Ed Board
- Brad Begley Member-at-Large
- Linda Davis Member-at-Large

Those filling offices for the coming years will help determine the direction of the ministry of First Baptist Church. The responsibility that this committee undertakes is an awesome one and your prayers are coveted as they begin this important task.

Budget Status Report

The Month of June, 2006

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$53,526
Offerings	<u>54,526</u>
Over (Under) Budget	\$1,000

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$50,950
Offerings	<u>54,526</u>
Over (Under) Actual	\$ 3,576

The Year Through June, 2006

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$361,163
Offerings	<u>308,329</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$52,834)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$341,163
Offerings	<u>308,329</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$33,228)

–The Board Of Trustees



Totally Terrific Tuesdays (Former Summer Son Club) Activities!

Wow! What fun we have had so far! And, we are only halfway through! We started out with 13 kids at our messy "Make It and Take It" day, and we grew to 24 kids for our "Lunar Golf" outing (glow in the dark putt putt-how fun!) We were supposed to go outside for that day, but with the rain, our plans had to change. We went to Lunar Golf at the mall, and learned a valuable lesson at the same time. God had turned our disappointment with the rain and the change in plans, into an even better day inside. It all worked out even better than I could have planned (Thanks to Chris Metzger)! Our bowling day was a huge success, with 40 people attending (counting adults and teens)! Wow! God came through and helped us come up with enough transportation and drivers to get us all there!

As you can see, our program is a huge success with our numbers booming! Therefore, it's very helpful to RSVP if at all possible to make sure that I have enough transportation, chaperones, and if applicable, food. Please call me or email me if you are able to come so I can plan ahead. I don't want to turn anyone away, so come if you able, even if you didn't get to RSVP-- but it really helps! ☺

August

1st - "An Innie Day" - Pottery Painting - Meet at church at 10:00 a.m. in old clothes. The fee is \$13.00 which includes salad plate, paints, glazing, and lunch! Families are welcome to paint with us, however, I need RSVP to assure that we have enough plates. Extras were ordered, but a limited amount. Call me to see what I have left. Pick up time will be 2:00 p.m. at First Baptist.

9th - **This is a Wednesday, a wild and wacky Wednesday!** - Tour of Rumpke Dump; travel on Mt. Rumpke and see and learn of the steps that our garbage takes once it leaves the curb! Meet at the church at 9:15 a.m., departing promptly at 9:30. Bring a sack lunch to eat at a park (not Rumpke). If it rains on Tuesday or Wednesday, the tour will be cancelled, due to the mountain being like ice when it rains. If cancelled, we will have an activity day at church. **Must RSVP by August 4th to ensure adequate transportation!** Pick up time will be 2:00 p.m. at First Baptist.

15th - "An Outie Day" - Last gathering before school! Pool Party (Thanks to John & Ruthie Wallace) at John & Ruthie Wallace's home. Meet at the church at 10:30 a.m. Bring modest swim suit, towel, sunscreen, swimmies/lifejacket (if needed), change of clothes, and \$1 for lunch. Additional chaperones will be needed to ensure safety of the little ones. Let me know if you can help! Pick up time will be 2:00 p.m. at First Baptist.

Thanks for entrusting your children to us—we're having fun! Please call me if you have any questions and/or to RSVP! 738-2439 (leave a voice message) or email me br9@fuse.net.

Always dress appropriately for weather and activity! Plan B is to remain at the church if weather is not appropriate for the scheduled activity. Be sure to read the weekly church bulletin for any changes in this schedule.

—Brandi Emenaker & Claire Metzger
Terrific Tuesdays Directors

Wild and Wacky Wednesdays *Road Rally For Jesus!*

Join us from 6:40 to 7:50 on Wednesday nights as we do crafts, stories, music, games, and of course snacks! We miss everyone, and our 5 kids that come are getting lonely! So, come hang out with us for the next few weeks until AWANA starts up at the end of August! ☺

—Brandi Emenaker & Claire Metzger
Co-Directors Children's Ministries



Undivided Hearts Quartet

On Sunday evening, August 6th, at 6:00 p.m. the Undivided Hearts Quartet of Hamilton, Ohio will be appearing once again in concert in our church. Their sound is a unique mix of traditional and Southern Gospel music. They have committed themselves to ministering to churches in the Midwestern and Southern regions of the United States. Please plan to come and bring your family and friends. This is a wonderful opportunity to support the ministry of this group of young men.

“Trading Places” a Success!

Well, we have closed the books on another VBS, but what a wonderful week it was! We averaged about 99 kids a day, with a staff of about 68! We had so many working for God! The greatest blessing of all was that there were 20 new commitments made to Christ!

This year, our staff and students donated almost \$900 in offerings for the week! Each day was a different collection theme, with the first day being “pennies per pound!” The kids had to go home and weigh themselves, and then bring in an equal number of pennies! Poor Linda Gibbs and her mother, Isabell, had to count and roll all of those coins! But, they did it with a smile! For other days, we collected “nickels for number of teeth,” “dimes for birthdays,” and “quarters for each member of your family.” I think Linda and Isabell enjoyed the quarter day!

In keeping with our “Trading Places” theme, our staff decided to use our VBS offering to sponsor our Alabama Mission Team. We felt it was appropriate since our team was trading the comforts of their Ohio homes for the devastation of the Alabama area. We also wanted to help those who had to trade places with their hometowns for towns across the country due to the hurricanes. To make this more real to our kids, we invited Walter and Maxine Hillman to share their “trading places” testimony. They shared their story of having to leave New Orleans because of the hurricane, and how God led them to Hamilton. We are thankful for them! We also heard another “trading places” story from Claire, and how God called her to trade her home in England for a new home here in Hamilton. It was inspiring to see how God had cared for these two families!

Claire and I really enjoyed this week, and we enjoyed it so much that we decided to use this theme for the next few years! (Just kidding!) We are thankful for the wonderful teachers, teens, and support staff who dedicated their time in preparation for this week. We appreciate the prayers, donated materials, and financial donations of the congregation. Claire and I also appreciate the patience in everyone who had to deal with us “greenhorns” as we coordinated this adventure for the first time. We are already thinking ahead to next year, and we welcome ideas and suggestions!

Thanks again and God Bless!
Brandi Emenaker
Children’s Ministry Co-Director



We Are Looking For You In Sunday School!

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.”

Psalm 122:1

Congratulations to those who had perfect Sunday School attendance for April, May, and June, 2006.

Nursery

Jill O’Hara

Parenting

Mike Braun

Kindergarten

Eugenia Sexton

Keystone

Bill Brantingham

Bert Brantingham

Bettie Carmack

Kathy Chambers

Ray Chambers

Betty Eicher

Bob Eicher

Isabell Johnson

Evelyn Maddox

Jack Maddox

J.K. Walker

Mary Walker

Athalene Wallin

Buddy Wallin

7th & 8th

Emily Cain

College & Career

Scott McRoberts

FOCUS

Rick Baker

Margie Braun

Paul Braun

Eris Cappelli

Ruth Gaskins

Don Gingrich

Charlie Glynn

Dorothy Glynn

Jean Grimes

Barb Hendricks

Ken Hendricks

Everett Hoskins

Dolly Houser

Jean Riczko

John Riczko

Bill Roberts

Carpenter’s Hands

Robert Williams

Office

Linda Gibbs

Jack Young



Sunday School Promotion Day for those completing Kindergarten through 5th grade will be August 27th during the last part of the Sunday School hour. These students should report to their new class on September 3rd. Children under Kindergarten age are permitted to advance to the next age level on their birthday, if the parents and teachers feel they are developmentally ready for the next class. Please remember, children must be 3 by September 30, 2006 in order to attend Awana this fall.

–Linda Gibbs
Sunday School Superintendent



Fall 2006 Ohio Children's Ministry Conferences—Sponsored by Awana

This year's theme: *It Takes A Shepherd*

September 23rd at Calvary Baptist Church, 1920 West US Highway 22, Wilmington, Ohio (driving time is about 1 hr). Transportation will be provided, or you can carpool and be reimbursed for gas.

Anyone involved in Children's Ministry here at First Baptist Church-Awana, Sunday School, Youth, etc...is invited to come to this conference.



Four things that will be emphasized this fall:

- Evangelism and discipleship of children and youth
- Equipping parents to model, teach, and train their children
- Encouraging and training new and veteran church workers
- Edifying Christians in their personal walk with the Lord

The day starts at 8:00 am with refreshments, followed by an opening session at 9:00 for encouragement and inspiration. A full day of training is available, with lunch provided. The closing session at 3:00 pm will be a time of prayer for our children and the adults who minister to them.

Here are the sessions that are planned for each site:

- ★ New & Improved Basic Training
- ★ PowerUp! Helping your kids learn God's Word
- ★ The Great Shake Up! Reaching your community for Christ.
- ★ 4 Pillars of Children's Ministry: things you must focus on.
- ★ Rock Solid Kids: planting them in God's Word
- ★ 10 Standards of Excellence for your club.

- ★ Outreach Events to spread the gospel to family members.
- ★ Fun for your club, every week and throughout the year.
- ★ Organizing and administering your ministry.
- ★ Cubbies & Sparks, impacting the next generation.
- ★ 24/7 Teen ministries, including the new Junior High curriculum.



I would like every Awana leader, helper, listener and game leader to attend! The cost will be covered for you! Anyone else involved in Children's Ministries at First Baptist is also invited, and your costs will be covered also. FREE light breakfast, FREE children's ministry training sessions, FREE lunch. **Please let me know that you plan to attend so I can prepare our registration.**

New Awana Basic Training!

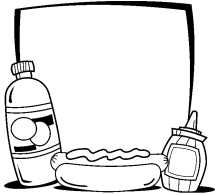
Awana is introducing a **new, improved Basic Training** for leaders this summer. I hope you can come, even if you've already taken Basic Training in the past. Anyone who has previously passed an Awana leader training course is still qualified to serve as a leader. If you have never taken Basic Training (either through self-study or with a group), you need to do so this fall! I also strongly encourage all current Awana leaders to take this as a refresher course and get yourself energized for the new club year!

Dates & locations:

August 5—First Baptist Church of New Richmond, OH. *Although this location is the farthest away of our 3 choices (probably a little over an hour), if you can't attend either of the other two, this one is still feasible.*

August 12—Beavercreek Baptist Church (Dayton area)

August 19—Friendship Baptist Church, Cincinnati (near Colerain Ave & OH-126)



Awana Kick-off Picnic

Join us at Holloway Park on Wednesday, August 30th at 6:30 p.m. for lots of fun! We will serve hot dogs, chips, and punch, and other goodies. Kids and parents need to be there to fill-out/update registration forms and emergency contact forms.

Every Awana-age child who attends and checks-in at the picnic will receive a \$3-off coupon that can be used toward a handbook or uniform, plus they'll receive a free gift!

We'll also have games and a dunking booth! See you there!

The **first official night of club** will be Wednesday, September 6th. Sparks and T&T will meet together for Opening in Room 200 at 6:30 p.m. It is very important that clubbers and leaders be prompt! After opening, Sparks will go directly to their handbook rooms, and T&T will go to Game time.

–Emily Metzger
Awana Commander



Final Free Sunday Concert In Oxford



The last of three Summer chamber music concerts performed by Dalla Camera will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 13th, at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main Street. For information call Jack Daugherty - 523-6969.

Newsletter DEADLINE

Reminder: All articles for the monthly newsletter, The Courier, are due in the church office by the 15th of the month. They can be emailed to Ellie at ellie.dinger@fuse.net or elliedinger@juno.com. Articles received after the 20th may not be in that month's newsletter.

Are You Ready To "Throw In The Towel"?

If your answer is yes, then "**Throw in the towel, T-shirt, and/or pillowcase**" to help the Edgewood Choralier Show Choir with a special project this year. Edgewood Choralier members **Drew Helton** and **Joey Braun** are collecting dingy, white kitchen towels, pillowcases, and adult T-shirts. Please use/wear them in the NORMAL WAY and DO NOT LAUNDRER THEM! Bring them to church and place them in the box marked "Edgewood Choraliers". Here's what we are collecting:

Dingy white kitchen towel - the kind you dry dishes with from your kitchen (NO RAGS), it was white when new and isn't white anymore, some print is OK: white background with stripe is OK; print on one side and white on the other is OK.

Dingy ADULT -SIZE white T-shirts - it was white when new but isn't white anymore, some print is OK so long as MOST of the t-shirt is white.

Dingy white pillowcases - it was white when new but isn't as white anymore, some print is OK as long as the background is mostly white.

Thanks for your help with this special project.

–Drew Helton and Joey Braun



Celebration Ringers Offer Training

In September we begin a new year of handbell ringing. We always welcome new ringers. If you are interested in being a part of the handbell ministry please contact Elaine Tragesser at 863-5018 or sign the sheet on the door of room 208. We will be offering introductory lessons on handbell ringing in July and August. See Elaine for times and dates.

–Elaine Tragesser
Director of Celebration Ringers



From The Heart Of Marilyn

College Corner

Important!! We need all college students addresses as soon as possible. Please call Marilyn Bowling 863-2435 or the church office 868-1412.

—Marilyn Bowling



Curios Needed For Curio Cabinets

As we enter the autumn season and return to our institutions of learning, “Back to School” is the chosen theme for our curio cabinets in the connector. Colossians 3:23 states, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men . . .” Certainly that should include our study habits.

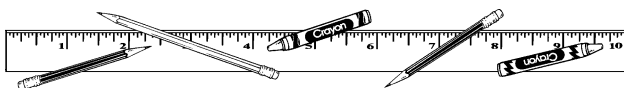
Your help is needed! May we borrow from your store of collectables, old or new, anything pertaining to the classroom. Memorabilia on any subject is welcome—the three R’s, science, music, geography, history. Suggestions include, lunch boxes, music, books, globe, pencil boxes, slates, school bell, etc. Anything that fits the category will be welcome. (Does anyone have a dunce cap?)

In selecting an artifact, consider these guidelines, (a) small enough to fit on a shelf, (b) mark it with your name, and include its age and history if you know it, (c) deadline is August 2nd.

I appreciate the loan of the wedding pictures and the nice comments they created. Did you read the Bible verses?

Contact me for the next display if you can help. Thanks.

—Carol Howard (887-9415)



Carpenter’s Hands Signs Of Love



Silent Dinners

The **Silent Dinner** for **August** will be held on Friday evening, August 4th, at Tri County Mall. See you there!

Interpreter Schedule For August

August 6	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
August 13	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
August 20	Jo Manson	Robin Chamberlain
August 27	Jo Manson	Robin Chamberlain

Happy Birthday



No August birthdays



There will be a cook-out at Jo Manson’s home, 483 Wood Duck Drive, Cincinnati, Wednesday, August 9th, at 6:30 p.m.

—Maria Miller
Director of Deaf Ministries



As for me,
I would **seek** God,
and to **God** I would
commit my cause.

Job 5:8



June 30, 2006

Dear Friends in Christ:

Ten months have come and gone since our return from South Africa to the USA and we praise God for His abundant grace and mercy. One August 30th we arrived from South Africa to the news of the devastation of hurricanes Katrina and then Rita. After frantic phone calls, we were assured that family in Louisiana and Texas were doing as well as could be expected amidst the chaos and uncertainty.

During our time of home assignment we were graciously invited and served as missionaries in residence in the American Baptist Churches of the South region. What a blessing and a time of renewal and revival this has been for us. The pastors and members of our ABCOTS churches opened their arms and hearts to receive us and extended the hospitality that the south is so well known for. We enjoyed the rich history and culture of Richmond, VA where we lived and were blessed to be with our grown-up children again. Almost ten years ago we left them as teens, one in college and the other newly graduated from high school, and began international ministry. Now they have both completed graduate degrees and one is completing a doctoral program. God has upheld them and kept them safe and we are so grateful.

We witnessed God sustain and open up new ministry opportunities and saw churches and organizations extend their reach as they shared Christ's love to those in need, particularly in storm affected areas. The Holy Spirit moved on many hearts and lives, young and old. Adult workers and students planned mission trips, items from books to prom gowns were collected and distributed, and rubble removal through construction was completed, all with the intent to serve and to minister to those who had suffered loss. It was truly the local church going to the nation and obeying Christ by visiting, feeding and clothing "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40).

As we return to Africa, Zambia being our new assignment, we are excited about the opportunities that God has opened up there for us in ministry. In South Africa, and other countries of Africa, we have been involved in ministries of leadership and theological training, church planting, evangelism,

pastoral mentoring, educational ministries with women and youth and HIV/AIDS. We have been invited to participate in all of these with our new partner, The Baptist Convention of Zambia. We ask that you partner with us in prayer as we minister and model Christ and Christianity in Zambia, a country that professes to be Christian but is experiencing the rapid growth and spread of the Islam religion.

Please visit the www.internationalministries.org website to read journal entries and get updated information. Missionaries can be found at the IM people pull down menu.

In Christ,

Charles, Sarah, Chasah, Caleb, and Charliese West

**ABC/OHIO Bible &
Missions Conference
September 1 - 4, 2006
Kirkwood Camp & Conference Center**

Labor Day weekend, September 1 - 4, the Kirkwood Camp and Conference Center will host the annual Bible and Missions conference. Theme for the conference is "**Faithful to the Journey: Transformed by God's Hand.**" Guest presenters include: **Rev. Charles Jones**, Acting Executive Director of ABC International Ministries; **Dr. David May**, New Testament Professor at Central Baptist Theological Seminary; and **Revs. Jim and Debbie Kelsey**, American Baptist missionaries to Belgium. Registration information should be available soon—what a wonderful way to spend the Labor Day weekend.

A Shepherd's Prayer

Beneath me: green pastures;
Beside me: still waters;
With me: my shepherd;
Before me: a table;
Around me: mine enemies;
After me: goodness and mercy;
Beyond me: the house of the Lord.

This is a good summary of the beloved psalm that we have found so much comfort and strength in the beautiful 23rd Psalm.

—Unknown



Child Care Schedule For August

Nursery (Morning)

August 6 - Brian & Barb Begley
August 13 - Lisa Dulli & Juli Ford
August 20 - Jené & Mara Krall
August 27 - David Hendrickson & Mary Brown

One & Two Year Olds

August 6 - Debbie Allen & Lauren
August 13 - Debbie Allen & Lauren
August 20 - Debbie Allen & Lauren
August 27 - Debbie Allen & Lauren

Kinderchurch

August 6 - Ruthie Wallace
August 13 - Claire Metzger
August 20 - Vickie Baker & Dorothy Hollowell
August 27 - Brian & Barb Begley

When you have difficulty finding someone with whom to trade, please call the following Child Care Coordinators:

Kim Schuermann - (674-7321)
Brandi Emenaker - (738-2439)
Claire Metzger (642-0434)



Urgent Need For Childcare Assistance!

Our three children's departments need your help with childcare during our Sunday church service! If you are willing to help, please let me know (as I don't like to pester people ☺). We need help in the nursery, toddler room (beginning this fall—thanks to Debbie Allen and Lauren for covering July and August), and the kinderchurch rooms. Teens are welcome to help with an adult. If you have a hard time tracking me down, put a note in the friendship bulletin, put a note on the door of the room you would like to help, or call/email me. Thanks so much with your help in this very important ministry!

Brandi Emenaker
738.2439
br9@fuse.net



Wednesday Family Dinners

**There will be no Wednesday Dinners
during the month of August!**

Reminder: Anyone desiring to borrow items, such as, chairs, tables, coffee pots, etc. are now required to fill out a sheet in the office with name, date, item, and number borrowed and then the date, item, and number returned. Please see Ellie in the church office.

August Greeters

August 6 - Wayne Miller, Jan Smith, & Bud Braun
August 13 - Ken & Barb Hendricks, & Teri Horsley
August 20 - Craig Keller, Brian Begley, & Helen Mullen
August 27 - Janet Day, Katie Hoskins, & Flo Gill

Faith Works Conference Coming In October!

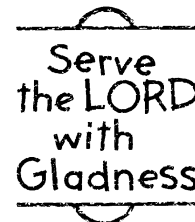
3rd Annual Faith Works Conference

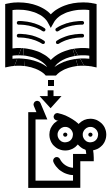
Taking It Back: Radical Redemption
Of Our Community

Redeemer Church

October 13 - 14

Look for more information in the September Courier.





Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

What to say, what to say?

Have you ever had an experience like the title of this article? Have you ever sat or stood thinking to yourself, “What in the world am I going to say?” “Does anybody really want to hear what I am going to say anyway?” If so, well then you have come into the world of anyone who must speak, teach, or write for part of their job.

For me it is definitely a monthly experience as I prepare for each Courier article; racking my brain to write something that people may actually read. Well this time, nothing came.

I have sat in my office, sat at home, drove around trying to think, spent time remembering stories, remembering camp, and so on. Yet, nothing came to me saying “Talk about me; I am interesting enough.” Nothing came to mind that I haven’t talked about in previous articles. That has been my dilemma for the past couple weeks. What do I write about when I feel there is nothing to say?

It finally hit me though, and aren’t you glad about that otherwise you would be staring at a blank page right now. I have come up with a way to write about not knowing how to write. See I am creative after all.

However, there is a point to all this nonsense. You ready for it? When we have nothing to say we are then ready for God to speak through us. That’s it. Nothing more than simply realizing that when we have nothing to say we then allow God to speak through us uninterrupted. Maybe that is part of what Christ meant when he told his disciples “But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of you Father speaking through you.” (Matthew 10:19-20). Join me in letting God speak uninterrupted through us to a world that needs to hear it.

Your “speechless” youth pastor,
Jeremy

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August 2nd: Board Game/Card Game Night during Lifeline. Bring your favorite card game or board game to share with all of us during Lifeline. I will provide drinks and some snack items if you will bring the fun. Hope to see you there.

August 6th: We will be going on a DU (Destination

Unknown) for youth that evening. Be at the church at 5:30pm ready to go. You will want to be in tennis shoes, or footwear you can run comfortably. You may also not want to wear white clothing for this activity. We will be indoors and the cost is \$5 per person and we will be back at the church at 7:30pm. A sign up sheet will be available on Wednesdays and Sundays to let me know you are going.

August 13th: From 5:30pm-7:30pm we will be at the Collier’s home, 2330 Millville Avenue, in Ross for a swim party, food, fun, and a devotional. Please be at the church at 5:00pm if you need a ride. Better yet, also let Jeremy know you need a ride.

August 16th: We will be playing outside games, weather permitting, for CREW. Please wear the appropriate footwear to be running outside. Fun begins at 6:30pm.

August 17th: We will be joining the normal crew that heads to Matthew 25 Ministries for a work day. Please be at church by 8:30am with a sack lunch, good attitude, and a willingness to work. Parents I am looking for some people to go on this service project so I can take my vacation. Teens sign up so we know how many are going. The group will return to the church around 3pm.

August 20th: Right now CREW is scheduled to be at the Morris home, 5346 Wayne Milford Road, in the Edgewood area from 5:30pm-7:30pm. This is also the day the TNT class will be heading to Silverton Park. Please see Jeremy if interested in helping out and a decision will be made very soon.

August 23rd: Wet N Wild night part 2 during Lifeline. We will finish our summer out with a long slip n slide, water balloons, plenty of fun, and lots of water. Come cool off for the last time with us at 6:30pm.

August 27th: We will have another picnic at Holloway Park with a sand volleyball game, food, devotional and loads of fun. Ladies bring a drink item to share and guys bring a snack/dessert item to share. We will start at 6pm and be finished at 7pm.

August 30th: Parent Teen Night during Lifeline. At this time I hope to share with you a schedule of events for the next quarter, or so. Please come so you can hear what is going on and also be a part of our discussion that evening.

Things will begin with some “talk time” at 6:30pm and activities around 6:45pm.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

August 2006

6 9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
6:00 Undivided Hearts
Quartet Concert

13
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
12:00 AB Girls/Young
Women of Hope
4:30 Board of Missions
5:30 CREW-Swim Party
6:00 Evening Celebration

20
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
12:00 Silverton Park CIA
4:30 Diaconate
5:30 CREW
6:00 Evening Celebration
7:00 Worship # 2 Strategy

27
9:15 Sunday School-
Promotion Day
10:30 Worship
4:00 C.E. Board
5:30 CREW-Laser Tag
6:00 Evening Celebration

7

14

21

28

1
9:30 MOPS Steering
Committee
10:00 Totally Terrific
Tuesday Pottery
Painting
Green Lake Mission
Conference

8
6:30 Abell Circle Picnic

15
10:00 Totally Terrific
Tuesday-Pool Party
@ John & Ruthie
Wallace's Home

22

29

2
6:30 *Road Rally For
Jesus*
6:30 Lifeline-Game Night
6:45 Adult Bible Study

Green Lake Mission
Conference

9
10:00 Wild & Wacky
Wednesday-Rumpke
Dump Tour
6:30 *Road Rally For
Jesus*
6:30 Lifeline
6:45 Adult Bible Study
6:45 Carpenter's Hands-
Picnic @ Jo
Manson's Home

16
6:30 *Road Rally For
Jesus*
6:30 Lifeline
6:45 Adult Bible Study

23
6:30 *Road Rally For
Jesus*
6:30 Lifeline-Wet N Wild
6:45 Adult Bible Study
6:45 Carpenter's Hands

30
6:30 Awana Kick-Off
Picnic
6:30 Lifeline-Parent/Teen
Night
6:45 Adult Bible Study
6:45 Carpenter's Hands

3
6:30 Ladies Bible Study
8:00 ONE Bible Study

Green Lake Mission
Conference

10
5:30 Board of Trustees
6:30 Ladies Bible Study
8:00 ONE Bible Study

17
8:30 Matthew 25
8:00 ONE Bible Study

24
8:00 ONE Bible Study

31
6:00 ONE's Parents'
Night Out

4
6:30 ONE Gathering @
Moorehead's Home

Green Lake Mission
Conference

11

18

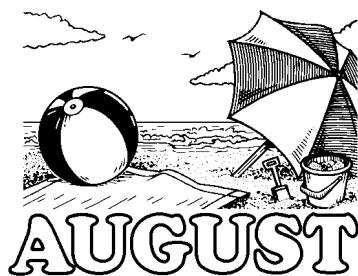
25

5
8:00 Men's Prayer
Gathering

12

19

26



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 - Naomi Hoskins
Jeff L. Miller | 12 - Tim Schwartz | 27 - Matt Acus
Elise Martin |
| 2 - Brenda Abney
Danny Acton | 13 - Andy Garver | 28 - Vickie Baker
Linda Davis |
| 3 - Lauren Imhoff
Eyvone Isaacs
Todd Keith
Janet Lewis
Jerry Wallace | 14 - Jeff Hollowell
Jared Messer | 29 - Josh Irwin
Olivia Hoskins
Alexandria Patrick |
| 4 - Madalyn Buchanan
Edna Hughes
David Zeek | 15 - Diane Wallick | 30 - Johanna Hines
Atha Wallin |
| 5 - Ruth Blount
Lauren Hampton
Kerri Miller
Edith Rish | 17 - Barbara Begley
Jasmine Taylor-Rigling | 31 - Ed Allen
Samantha Hampton
Malvrie Landis
Jack Maddox
Samantha Mosley
Carl Schwab |
| 6 - Dale Braun
Shelley Ebbing | 18 - Bill Burton
Ola McFadden | |
| 8 - Charles Campbell
Norbert Lerch
Sue Sizemoore
Doug Wallace | 19 - Dale Kimble | |
| 9 - Karen Bell
Cindy Shalloe | 20 - Steve Martin
Jeff Schwab | |
| 10 - John Motzer | 21 - Josh Day
Betty Gilbert
Herb Murrell | |
| 11 - Janet Baker
Jessica Day
Judy Wallace | 23 - Emily Cain
Conner Gleason | |
| | 24 - Don Lewis
Shirley Wade
Susan Wells | |
| | 25 - Bill Roberts | |
| | 26 - Ruby Gessendorf
Irene Moran
Gary Mozingo | |

Note: Please call the church office if you notice that one of your family members has been inadvertently overlooked on the birthday calendar. We do not intend to overlook anyone but do not realize it unless you inform us.

Personal Notes



From Dave & Dorothy Hollowell

Dave and I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers for Max, our newest grandson. He has been home one month and he is healthy! We give God the glory and all of you our thanks for keeping Max in your prayers. What a blessing for prayer and our church family.

From Linda Hoover

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, notes, and phone calls during my recent shoulder surgery. I've done very well, and I am thankful. It is wonderful to have Christian friends who care so much.

From Martha Perry

Again, I want to thank all of you for your prayers, visits (Pastor Den and Bill were faithful), cards, calls, food and concern during my recent illness and hospitalization (June 10-21). There is no way to get through each day and setbacks without you and the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May God bless you richly.

From Jim Tankersley (son)

We want to thank you so much for the wonderful food you provided at the passing of my father James E. Tankersley. My mother, Virginia, and I, as well as all of our family, were deeply touched by the outpouring support that so many church members extended. May God bless you and the church.

From The Family of S.D. Terry

Your kind expression of sympathy and friendship will always remain in our memories. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. God bless First Baptist Church.

From Nellie Wardlow

I would like to thank everyone for the cards and prayers when I fell and broke a bone in my foot. I thank God that it did not require surgery as was first reported. Also I really appreciated the tapes of the services that I missed.

Corrections and Additions To The Directory

We will be using this spot each month to update the directory. Please call the church office with additions or changes to your address, phone number, or e-mail address.

Becknell, Branan and Marilynn
Littlefield Memorial Baptist Church
1 Waldo Avenue
Rockland, ME 04841
Phone # 207-594-5093 (church)
207-596-7878 (home)

McFadden, Ola
5015 Winton Road
Fairfield, Ohio 45014
Phone # 858-1800

The Courier is a monthly publication of The First Baptist Church of Hamilton, Ohio. Deadline for articles to be submitted is the fifteenth day of each month. The pastor: Dr. Dennis M. Metzger; Editor: Ellie Dinger. Our purpose statement: We are believers in Jesus Christ, called of God, Gathering for Worship; Instruction and Fellowship...Scattering for Care, Evangelism and Transformation of the World for His Kingdom.

First Baptist Church
1501 Pyramid Hill Boulevard
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
Phone: 513-868-1412

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 29 Hamilton, Ohio
