

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

October, 2006

Fragrance

But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task? (2 Corinthians 2:14-16)

It's been said that Stilton cheese, the strong-smelling blue-veined cheese from Great Britain, smells like "old socks". Even fans of the, um, "aromatic" cheese have to admit that it makes its presence known. No matter how much you enjoy eating it, it's doubtful that anyone would want to wear it as a perfume. The Stilton Cheesemakers Association hopes I'm wrong about that, though.

The Association has commissioned a perfume maker to produce Eau de Stilton, a perfume inspired by the aroma—or stench—of Stilton cheese. The fragrance is described as featuring a "symphony of natural base notes including Yarrow, Angelica seed, Clary Sage and Valerian". Well, who doesn't want to smell like yarrow and clary yarge?

An association spokesperson said, "Blue Stilton cheese has a very distinctive mellow aroma and our perfumier was able to capture the key essence of that scent and recreate it in an unusual but highly wearable perfume". Unusual but highly wearable; just what that special someone might be looking for in a fragrance. In case you're interested, Eau de Stilton is available on the Stilton Cheesemakers Associate website, www.stiltoncheese.com.

But they aren't the first to recognize that the same smell that might remind some of old socks might be to others a beautiful fragrance. My wife's uncle enjoys the smell of a skunk—there's no accounting for taste.

And in case you aren't aware of it, we as believers in Christ are just such an aroma. Thinking of the victory procession of a Roman general, with its pageantry and

POW's in chains following behind, Paul pictures Christ as the victorious general leading those he has captured, us, in a procession before God. And thinking of the incense offered in thanks to the gods that would fill the air at such a celebration, Paul says that Jesus uses us to spread "the aroma of the knowledge of [God] everywhere". "We are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ," he says. Where believers are, there the aroma of Jesus Christ should hang in the air.

It hangs in the air because where believers are, the gospel of Christ is spoken. The story in which we have put our hope is a story that begs to be told, and so we tell it. In our offices, at school, in our neighborhoods, in our churches, the gospel of Jesus is told. We tell of His love, of His sacrifice, of His resurrection, of our hope in His coming again, and the aroma of Christ permeates the places where we live and work and play and gather.

It hangs in the air because where believers are, the life of Christ is lived. When we serve the weak and overlooked, feed the hungry, minister to the sick, comfort those who mourn, love those who are hated, and take the part of those who are oppressed, we allow Jesus to live in us. He serves with our hands, walks with our feet, speaks with our mouths, utilizes our resources, and cries our tears. When we forgive those who have injured us, bear the wounds of those who hate us bravely, and welcome into our arms those who have sinned against us, the world around us catches the scent of Jesus. When we refresh those weighed down by their own guilt, when we point them toward the God who forgives their sins and frees them from their regrets, they inhale the aroma of Christ.

It hangs in the air because where believers are, the values of Christ are held dear. When we live in the present with an eye on the horizon, the world notes the unfamiliar perfume. When we face life and its uncertainties with joy and hope, they sniff the air quizzically. When we noisily celebrate what God has already done, while waiting with anticipation for what he will do, the heady fragrance of the kingdom of God

(Continued)



American Baptist Women's Ministries



It's that time of year again! Last year, ABW along with members of the congregation, worked together to fill 100+ shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Operation Christmas Child, a unique project of Christian relief and evangelism organization, Samaritan's Purse, delivers gifts to hurting children while also telling them about God's greatest gift—His Son, Jesus Christ.

We are asking you, every member of the congregation, to join with us again to make this exciting project a success again this year. With your help we can bring joy and hope to millions of children again this Christmas.

Please bring in your filled box by Wednesday, November 8th. Here is a list of suggested gifts you can use in your box.

Toys: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, plastic kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.

School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, coloring books, writing pads or paper, solare calculators, etc.

Hygiene Items: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, comb, washcloth, etc.

Other: hard candy, lollipops, mints, gum, sunglasses, flashlights (with extra batteries), ball caps, socks, T-shirts, toy jewelry, hair-clips, watches, small picture books, etc.

Do NOT include the following:

Used Items

War-related Items

Chocolate or Perishable Food Items

Liquids

Medicines: vitamins, cough drops, ointment, etc.

Breakable Items: mirrors, china dolls, snowglobes, etc.

Brochures are available for anyone who would like to fill a shoebox to contribute to this project. Any one needing a shoebox, please see Lil Wilson or Ellie in the church office.

Missionaries for the Month of **October:**

Thailand
Jeff & Annie Dieselberg
Thailand
Karen Smith

Bible Book of the Month Joshua

“And the people said to Joshua, ‘The Lord our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey’”

Joshua 24:24 (RSV)

Joshua, written, not by, but about the man, is the story of the occupation of Canaan in fulfillment of Pentateuch promises. The narrative is combined from several documents, and is more picturesque than accurate as history. Its main purpose was to teach God's will for Israel through the account of the occupation of a country promised to God's people while they were “strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”

PRAY for National Ministries of American Baptist Churches as missionaries preach the Gospel, establish churches, and minister to persons of special needs to our country.

—Madge Walters

AB Girls Of Faith Young Women of Hope

The next regular meeting of AB Girls is Sunday October 15th, from noon until 2:00. The girls will be working on the Operation Christmas Child shoebox project. Erin Gingrich will provide lunch. They will also be working on a project for staff appreciation and one for their grandparents.

—Karen Schumm, Marilyn Bowling,
Mindy Hazelwood, & Nancy Whipple

Fall Back Fellowship

The FOCUS Class will again sponsor the Fall Back Fellowship Sunday, October 29th, from 8:45-9:15 a.m. They will service a light breakfast of muffins, donuts, specialty breads, juice, milk, and coffee. All senior high through adults are invited. Children are welcome when accompanied with an adult.

—Janet Lewis
FOCUS Class

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Once Again— A Time for Encouragement!

Those of us who make an effort to study the Scriptures, then share with others what we are learning, often find ourselves contemplating what is on the hearts of those in the small group, classroom, or congregation. Thus it was that I recently returned to Hebrews 10:19-25, which I shared with the congregation some time ago. I wanted to once again remind myself what the writer had to say. The invitations of the text are familiar:

1. Let us *draw near* to God.
2. Let us *hold unswervingly* to the hope we profess.
3. Let us consider how we may *spur one another on* toward love and good deeds.
4. Let us *not give up meeting together*, as some are in the habit of doing, but ...
5. Let us *encourage one another*--and all the more as we see the Day (of Jesus' return) approaching.

These are powerful words of instruction and advice for those who want to become all they can become in the Spirit. I have been pondering the wisdom of point number five--“*Let us encourage one another.*”

As I look around me, it seems clear that many among us need encouragement—a shot in the arm of spiritual energy, focus, and peace. Life in this world is not a cake walk—not for the unbeliever; and not for the church either. We are sometimes bothered, anxious, and out of sorts, not even realizing that discouragement, possibly even a mild depression, has set in. People find us sighing with deep breaths, while we hardly even realize that we are doing so. Is it any wonder that in composing the historical record about the church in Acts, Dr. Luke has introduced us to a man whose life stood out from the crowd. His name was Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus. But that is not the name most knew him by. They called him “Son of Encouragement.”

Whenever we read about “Barnabas,” we find him in playing a significant role in clearing up mis-communication, intervening on behalf of someone, and generally building up members of the Body of Christ. He is characterized as “*a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith*” (Acts 11:24). After Paul met the Lord Jesus, it was Barnabas who vouched to the Apostles the genuineness of Paul’s conversion. It was Barnabas who judged that the Greek-speaking converts in Antioch had truly evidenced the presence of the grace of God upon their lives, and he encouraged them to remain true to the Lord. It was Barnabas

who stood beside John Mark when Paul refused to allow Mark to accompany them on the second missionary journey. Barnabas and Paul parted company over this incident (later to be restored into relationship), but Barnabas saw the promise in Mark’s character, and took him with him on a mission trip to Cyprus. It is interesting that late in Paul’s ministry, it is John Mark who comes to Paul’s side (“*Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry*” (2Tim. 4:11).

Encouragement! One never knows how even simple gestures can make a major

**Encouragement—
A consistent effort
offered over a period of time
enabling others to experience
hope and promise.**

difference in someone’s life—a word spoken at just the right time; an act of kindness expressed in a moment of need; a pat on the back, expressing appreciation to someone who did their very best for the Lord. But encouragement is more than just a warm fuzzie applied in a moment of emotional need.

From the Pastor's Heart, (continued)

Encouragement is a consistent effort offered over a period of time enabling others to experience hope and promise. An attentive effort day in, day out.

Like me, you may have noticed an interesting thing about life around the church. There are a lot of people who seem to need encouragement. I guess it's because people get so beat up in the world that when they come to the "church medical center," they expect a word of healing, understanding, and strengthening. Sometimes they get what they need; sometimes not. We do not always pick up on the fact that some need a word of encouragement, and when we do see the need, we are not always sure what to say or do that might help. This is where the encouragement of the whole Body comes to play its important role. We are in this "life stuff" together, and we need the understanding and compassion that can be offered by those who worship beside us in the next pew, or who share the dinner table with us on Wednesday evening. Each of us needs to affirm the truth found in Paul's letter to the Roman church:

"What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?... For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:31, 35, 38-39).

God's eternal love for us is the basis of encouragement. **When it is all said and done, encouragement is really an issue about trusting in God's sovereignty to bring about all things according to His plan for our good and His glory.** But this is a truth that can best be received not as sterile words, but as caring action by those who are willing to make a contribution to our lives. I hope you are one willing to follow in the footsteps of "the Son of encouragement."

Yours in the spirit of Barnabas, Pastor

P.S. I hope you are encouraged by the progress we are making with our Designed for Ministry Strategic Planning Process. I list the seven strategies here as a reminder. We welcome your thoughtful input as we press on in making these strategies a part of our continued ministry focus:

Strategy #1: Vision

We have, use, and are motivated by a vision for ministry in our current context. We have affirmed that *"First Baptist Church is a multi-generational, multi-community church family that ministers to all, and provides an opportunity for all to minister."*

Strategy #2: Worship

We will form a task force to develop, attract, retain, and assimilate people for our worship services.

Strategy #3: Community

We will develop a more loving, welcoming, and encouraging faith community.

Strategy #4: Outreach

We will form a task force to expand and publicize our outreach efforts.

Strategy #5: Leadership Development

We will develop leaders and communicate more effectively.

Strategy #6: Stewardship

We will educate and develop generous Christians.

Strategy #7: Prayer

We are a people of personal and corporate prayer.

In several of our morning and evening worship services in September, we examined the strategies of Vision and Worship. In October we will take a deeper look at the remaining five. I hope you will plan on being with us. –Pastor

KeenAger October Meeting

The KeenAgers will be going to Bearcreek Farms in Bryant, Indiana, Tuesday, October 3rd. They will have lunch together there and enjoy the comedian, Carl Hurley. The cost is \$30.00 per person and will be collected Sunday, October 1st. We will leave the church at 9:15 a.m. Please sign the list on the bulletin board.

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

(Continued from front page)

disperses the noxious, choking odors of the world's preoccupation with now and more. When we give thanks for our bodies and physical sensation without thinking that physical sensation should drive the bus, the aroma of Christ overpowers the rank smell of unrestrained carnality.

Some will smell that aroma, and smile, and realize that this is what they've been waiting their whole lives for. They will detect the base notes of life in the aroma of Jesus. Others will not be so receptive. All they'll smell in the aroma of Christ is death; death of their way of life, death of their illusory and temporary freedom, death of their self-centeredness. They will respond, well, kind of like I imagine I would respond to my first whiff of Eau de Stilton: with aversion, distaste, and avoidance.

That isn't our worry, though. There's an interesting fact about the human sense of smell; we can get accustomed to almost anything. A nose that's trained can pick out pleasant scents even in smells that most of us consider unpleasant.

It's up to God to train spiritual noses. Many who at first find little to appreciate about the aroma of Christ later become connoisseurs. Believers continue to make that aroma known, and God works on training their noses. We can't make our world appreciate the aroma of Christ. All we can do is continue to smell like him.

May our lives continue to spread the aroma of Christ in the places where God has sent us. May his scent so permeate our lives that those who know us cannot help but smell him on us. And may God give those around us the discernment to appreciate the fragrance of life when they smell it.

May the aroma of Christ in our lives be, to the world around us, "highly wearable and unusual".

–By Patrick D. Odum
HeartLight



**Announcing
The First Annual
First Baptist
AMAZING
RACE**

Saturday, October 28
4:00 p.m. - ???

Get ready for an action-packed adventure of searching, sleuthing, and code-cracking into Hamilton and Fairfield.

Follow easy and not-so-easy clues to destinations where the next clue lurks somewhere in the shadows. But beware—what looks easy at first might turn out to involve a camera, or a bucket of water, or both!

Time is of the essence, but be sure to obey all traffic and property laws (1 Peter 2:13-14, 17).

Teams will consist of 4-8 people (or however many you can *safely* fit into one vehicle). There is a clue-solving advantage to having more people on your team. However, a larger team may be slowed by certain “events” – you will see!

We will meet at the church at 4:00 where the brief rules will be discussed and any last questions answered. The final clue will direct you to the Braun's, where the CREW will be having a Barn Party beginning at 7:00. You are welcome to stay as long as you wish. The winner will be the first team to arrive at the barn with all of their clues!

If you would like to participate, please R.S.V.P. to Josh Metzger at 907-0774. **SPACE IS LIMITED!** There will be a maximum of 12 teams, and except for **two large teams for teens** that Jeremy will be organizing, teams must be limited to **adults only**.

Do you have what it takes to win the Amazing Race?

–Josh Metzger



Celebration Ringers In His Service

- October 21 Program at the Fairfield Pavilion for the residents at 2:00 p.m.
- December 3 Pre-service - Christmas carols played from the balcony
- December 10 Pre-service - Christmas presentation - Guest Choir "The Blessings" under the direction of Dick Eckert, former minister of music at Montgomery community Church and our "Celebration Ringers", under the direction of Elaine Tragesser, will combine for this morning service.

2007

- March 25 The first Hamilton City Handbell Ringing Event will be presented at First Baptist church. Eight church choirs have been extended an invitation. Each choir will present a musical selection plus there will be three combined choir selections. The mass choir selections will be under the direction of David Finkham of Dayton who is a AGEHR certified director.

Celebration Ringers welcome old and new bell ringers. If you wish to be a part of our ministry, please contact director, Elaine Tragesser @ 863-5018.

76 English Handbells 6 Ringers An Impossible Situation

On September 17th we rang the service with only 13 handbells. Is this using the instruments our Lord have provided honorably? On Sunday, March 25th, six city handbell choirs will congregate at First Baptist Church. This is the first time the handbell choirs of Hamilton have come together for a mass ring. Three of the churches have 3 octave choirs and two of the choirs have 5 octave choirs. We have 6 1/3 octaves which is more than any of the participating choirs. However, in contrast, all the outside participating churches have 9-12 ringers. We have 6. Each choir will perform an individual selection. Unless our numbers increase, we will not be able to participate as a solo choir. What does this say about our witness in the community?

Have A Nice Day!

Presented by Middletown Lyric Theatre
1530 Central Avenue
Middletown, Ohio

Friday & Saturday October 13 & 14 - 8:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday October 20 & 21 - 8:00 p.m.

Cast of 12 includes Molly Bowen, Kim Bryant, Jeff Christian, Scott Christian, Megan Demoret, Heather Evans, **Drew Helton**, Paul Jutte, Sarah Oliver, Chris Rosenberry, Brett Sandlin, and Beth Vance.

Have A Nice Day! follows a traveling youth group as they share in song and dance over forty familiar songs from the 1960's and 70's. This musical revue features songs originally recorded by such groups as The Mamas and The Papas, Cher, The Brady Bunch, and many more, including songs such as "Everything Is Beautiful", "I Believe In Music", and "American Pie". The **Have A Nice Day!** cast promises a performance you won't soon forget.

Tickets: \$12 - Adults; \$10 - Children under 12
Call MLT ticket line at (513) 425-7140 or contact Drew Helton. Seating is limited.

Family Fun Fall Festival

Saturday, October 21st

Come one, come all! We are holding a family event at the end of October. This is as a Halloween alternative. We will be celebrating that Jesus is the shining light, even when things seem dark. Prepare yourself for games, food, and fellowship, all in Fall themes. This will be held at church from 5 p.m. onwards, we encourage people to come as a family, but please don't feel that you can't just come on your own. The more the merrier! If you would like to offer your services, be it in the entertainment, catering (food!) or friendly industry please speak to Brandi or Claire! We will send out more details, closer to the event.

—Claire Metzger
Co-Director of Children's Ministries



Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. It is a special time that congregations set aside each year to honor their pastors and pastoral families for the hard work, sacrificial dedication and multiple blessings provided by these special people. It is typically scheduled in October, but can be held at any time that is convenient for the church and the community. It is also important to remember that appreciation, affirmation and prayer support of our spiritual leaders is appropriate throughout the entire year.

The nature of the service provided by pastors and their families is unique. God has entrusted to them one of the most precious of assignments—the spiritual well-being of His flock. When a pastor becomes ineffective, the very souls of his or her parishioners are endangered. When eternity is in the balance, we should all be concerned.

Pastors and their families live under incredible pressures. Their lives are played out in a fishbowl, with the entire congregation and community watching their every move. They are expected to have ideal families, to be perfect people, to always be available, to never be down and to have all the answers we need to keep our own lives stable and moving forward. Those are unrealistic expectations to place on anyone, yet most of us are disappointed when a pastor becomes overwhelmed, seems depressed, lets us down or completely burns out.

That's why God has instructed us to recognize His servants.

"The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching" (1 Timothy 5:17).

The good news is that we can make a difference! Clergy Appreciation Month is one way we can counter the negative erosion in the lives of our spiritual leaders with the positive affirmation they need.

Pray for, thank, and honor your pastors! Send notes of love and appreciation to your pastors. Let them know that you love them and appreciate their efforts to make Jesus known to everyone.

"And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you . . . Overwhelm them with appreciation and love!"

I Thessalonians 5:12-13a, *The Message*

Top 10 Clergy Appreciation Gifts Pastors Secretly Wish For

10. Gift certificates to a restaurant that doesn't have a 99-cent menu.
9. Surround-sound speakers for his study computer.
8. Any article of clothing, other than a tie.
7. A motorcycle, preferably larger than 70 cc.
6. A DVD player upgrade for his study computer.
5. Fifty volunteers eager to serve in the preschool department.
4. Travel expenses paid for the Greater Outreach Leadership Forum (GOLF) hosted in Honolulu.
3. A 27-inch plasma screen for his study.
2. A trip on a ship, but preferably not the "Critiquing You" cruise.
1. An all-expense paid trip far from the island of unrealistic expectations.

Budget Status Report

The Month of August, 2006

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$60,044
Offerings	<u>46,104</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$13,940)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$57,426
Offerings	<u>46,104</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$11,322)

The Year Through August, 2006

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$477,836
Offerings	<u>411,018</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$66,818)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$450,514
Offerings	<u>411,018</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$39,496)

—The Board Of Trustees

Outreach Ministry Survey

There are many “servants” at First Baptist Church—people who are actively taking Jesus into our church and community. We are seeking to compile a list of “ministers” and “ministering” groups from First Baptist in order to share in and encourage our endeavors. We are looking for all the small groups and/or Bible studies, outreaches like the Friday night nursing home ministry, MOPS, mission agencies such as New Life Mission or Serve City and people who volunteer to serve in a ministering capacity such as at the hospital, in Meals on Wheels, or Faith Works. We know there are a lot of you out there and there are many places and organizations represented—we just want to know who or what.

Watch for a form like the one below that will be inserted in the church bulletin. Please complete it and put it in the offering plate, in the Friendship Register, or drop it off to the church office. If you are not sure what you are doing should be included put it down anyway and we will decide if it fits our list. Include as many as you and members of your family are involved in.

—Dale Braun

Name _____

Ministry or organization _____

My role is _____

Butler County’s 9th Annual Life Chain

October 1st
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Abortion reveals that the real battle in our nation is spiritual, and therefore, can never be resolved politically. Abortion is a lie that represents *my rights, my body, my choice*. But what this lie brings is enslavement and death. The truth, “not my will, but Thine be done” brings liberty and life. There is no middle ground!

The Life Chain begins at the Courthouse and stretches through the railroad underpass to 7th Street. First Baptist’s links in the chain are between 5th and 6th Street on the north side of High Street. Please join us this year Sunday, October 1st, from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

—Linda Davis

Faith Works Conference October 13-14 Taking it Back: Radical Redemption of our Community

Redeemer Church
3431 Hamilton-Middletown Road

Friday Night Old Fashioned Revival!
7:00 p.m.

Saturday Morning:
Continental breakfast followed by
praise and worship

Saturday Afternoon Workshops:
Lunch followed by workshops.

Workshops on hot-button issues affecting our community: racism, immigration, mental health
Workshops to equip the saints including how to plug into existing ministries

Workshops on how to reach our youth when competing with today’s culture.

Prayer of Unity service at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday –
Prayer for our Community

Cost: Friday night – no charge – freewill offering
Saturday - \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door—
includes lunch and workshops

Come join fellow Christians as we reclaim
our community for Christ!
See Linda Hoover for more information
or call 513-285-4085



Free Midday Music In Oxford Concert



In Oxford at 12:10 p.m. on October 18th, the Midday Music series presents a program by the Duveneck String Quartet, with pianist Sandra Rivers. The Quartet includes members from the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and the Dayton Philharmonic. Rivers, world renowned pianist, has accompanied violinist Itzhak Perlman & soprano Kathleen Battle. FREE at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main Street. Information/brochure: 523-6969.



Awana October Calendar

- 4 Missions Night with Evon Laubenstein
- 11 Special visit from Steve Schenk,
Awana Missionary
- 18 M&Ms Night (Movies & Munchies)
- 25 Regular Club Night

Opening Ceremonies Location Change

We have moved our Sparks and T&T Opening to Room 109/110. Both of these clubs will meet at 6:30 p.m. for pledges, Awana theme song, announcements, etc...

Special Visit From Our Awana Missionary

Our Awana Missionary, Mr. Steve Schenk, will be visiting our club on October 11. He will be our special guest speaker for Sparks Green Meadow Time and T&T Council Time.

New Adult Sunday School Class

A new adult Sunday School class began this quarter for Awana leaders & helpers (and anyone else interested in children's ministry). It is called **Awana Basics & Beyond**. This is a topical Bible study relating to children's ministry with a focus on ongoing Awana leadership training. Some of the topics include: evangelism & discipleship; knowing, loving & serving Christ; sharing the gospel with a child; the importance of children's ministry; the importance of scripture memorization; character qualities of a children's worker; etc... This class meets in Room 115 and is taught by Emily Metzger.

Awana Harvest Party/Costume Party, November 1st

We will be dressing up for this year's Harvest Party. The theme is "Harvest". Some costume ideas are: farmer, scarecrow, farm animal, vegetable, fruit, tractor, barn, bale of hay, etc... Be creative, but please, no witches, ghosts, etc...



Awana Adopt-A-Club

We will again be participating in the Awana Adopt-a-Club program. Our adopted Awana club is in Ghana. You can help by giving 50 cents a month for 7 months (\$3.50 total per person).

Each clubber who contributes on a monthly basis (or \$3.50 for the year) will receive an Awana Adopt-a-Club patch to put on their uniform.

Each Awana Leader who contributes on a monthly basis (or \$3.50 for the year) will receive an Awana Adopt-a-Club pin or patch (their choice) to put on their uniform. The patches and pins will be awarded as soon as the full donation has been received.

First year Adopt-a-Club sponsors receive a red patch. 2nd year, blue patch. 3rd year, green patch. 4th year, yellow patch.

--Emily Metzger
Awana Commander



We will be making our monthly trip down to Matthew 25: Ministries for a wonderful day of fellowship, fun, and WORKING FOR THE LORD Thursday, October 19th. We will leave the church at 8:30 a.m. returning at about 3:00 p.m. Come dressed to WORK - bring your own sack lunch and beverage. Remember - this is NOT just for the KeenAgers. Everyone is welcome to be a part of this ministry.

--Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham





From The Heart Of Marilyn

College Corner



E-Mail From God

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

“You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody.”

–2 Corinthians 3:2

Dear Child,

Are you more impressed by someone who makes a rousing speech about world hunger or by someone who gives away money to feed a hungry family? Are you more impressed by someone who writes newspaper article about ending racial discrimination or by someone who makes a true friend with someone of a different racial or ethnic background? Don't actions always speak louder than words? They do to Me.

There are people all around you who may never read the Bible. But they will read the letter of your life, and hopefully they'll say, “There's just something about that person that's different. What is it? I want it!” So write My words on your heart where they can make a difference in your world.

The Author of Your Life,
God

Important!! We need **all** college students addresses as soon as possible. If you have not turned yours in, please call Marilyn Bowling 863-2435 or the church office 868-1412.

–Marilyn Bowling
College Coordinator



September – what a busy month! By now you have some sort of “routine” down between getting children to school, sports practice, preparing dinner and enjoying the last few months of being able to go outside. I hope that you have added MOPS to your regular schedule and enjoyed our first meeting, as you were able to “speed meet” all the moms. Perhaps you were able to meet someone that you have more in common than you thought and it has open a window for the possibility of a wonderful friendship. More importantly I hope that you have started a more intimate relationship with Jesus. It is so important to stay connected to our Father daily, whether it be by prayer, reading the Bible or more importantly attending a Bible study with others that search to know Him more deeply. This year the MOPS steering team voted unanimously to get into the Word at each of our steering meetings. So for the first 15-20 minutes we have been discussing Elisa Morgan's Bible study *Naked Fruit*. It is so exciting to see the moms on steering interact and express what they have learned-that you don't have to be “nice” all the time to live a life like Jesus and that we all grow our fruitful gifts differently. There are many opportunities for you to become involved in a Bible study as well; this is one of the best ways to see God working in your life! Be sure to check out the MOPportunity section in our monthly newsletter to see what study would work best for you and your schedule. Our prayer is that you grow more deeply in Him.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Tuesday, October 17th. Our topic will be – *I Need to take Care of Myself*. Rachel Sizemore, CNP will be our guest speaker and will share information on a variety of woman related health concerns including breast cancer and displaysia. We will also have Ft. Hamilton Hospital at our meeting providing free BP screenings and other test for a nominal fee.

I hope to see many FBC moms!

Living a Life for Him-
Elise Martin, Coordinator



Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



Silent Dinners

The **Silent Dinner** for **October** will be held on Friday evening, October 6th, at Northgate Mall. See you there!

Interpreter Schedule For October

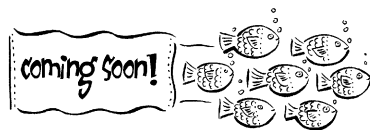
October 1	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
October 8	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
October 15	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
October 22	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
October 29	Jo Manson	Maria Miller

Happy Birthday



October 3 Lisa Miles
October 4 Maria Miller
October 27 John Brown

—Maria Miller
Director of Deaf Ministries



New Believer's Class

We are starting our New Believers Class, following the many responses and commitments made during VBS, this in October. After much discussion and considerations we have decided to hold this class during the Sunday School hour on Sundays. We will be using various ideas and methods to challenge, encourage, instruct, and build up these new believers. We will meet in room # 115 from 9:15 – 10:15. If you know someone who has decided to follow Jesus, invite them to come. We will be contacting those who made decisions during VBS personally, but we welcome information about others.

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

ATTENTION ALL FIRST BAPTIST WOMEN!

A Women's Ministries Council is being formed so that all major women's ministries in the church can be recognized, and communication among the groups can be enhanced. This council will not be a supervising board, but will act as a planning committee for all women's activities within the church. Our goal is not to take over the work of existing groups, but instead, we want to combine forces so that all women of First Baptist Church will be united in their work for Christ.

Representatives from American Baptist Women, the Ladies Bible Studies Groups, Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) and other specialized ministries will sit on this council, so that all recommendations and concerns of each group can be addressed. Our belief is that with a more unified effort, each of these vital women's ministries will grow, as the entire church body learns more about who they are and how they function.

The Women's Ministries council will meet monthly to discuss all issues of importance that may arise.

The Women's Ministries Council's mission of purpose, includes our goal that we are being organized to enhance and unify the women of our church. We look forward to the input of all First Baptist women as we move forward, and we are anxiously awaiting the blessings of our Lord, as we combine our efforts to serve Him.

—Teri Horsley



Children's Library Grand Opening

Krys Schramm has been working very hard to organize the Children's Library. There will be an open house Sunday, October 15th, during the Sunday School hour. Everyone is invited to check it out! Thanks, Krys for a job well done!

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



Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

October 1 - Linda Cain, Sarah & Emily
 October 8 -
 October 15 - Teri Collier, Aly, & Cat
 October 22 -
 October 29 - Linda Cain, Sarah & Emily

One & Two Year Olds

October 1 - Debbie Allen & Lauren
 October 8 - Debbie Allen & Lauren
 October 15 - Debbie Allen & Lauren
 October 22 - Debbie Allen & Lauren
 October 29 - Debbie Allen & Lauren

Kinderchurch

October 1 - Brandi Emenaker
 October 8 - Brandi Emenaker
 October 15 - Brandi Emenaker
 October 22 - Brandi Emenaker
 October 29 - Brandi Emenaker



Attention All Morning Worship Child Care Workers

Just a reminder that all child care workers should try and trade with someone on their schedule sheets when something comes up and they are not able to keep their scheduled Sunday. Also, it would be extremely helpful if child care workers would be in their scheduled room by 10:15 a.m. to help with the transition time between Sunday School and Morning Worship time. Several of our Sunday School teachers need to be relieved for choir and the adult worship service. When you have difficulty finding someone with whom to trade with, please call the following Child Care Coordinators:

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

Thank you for volunteering as a child care worker

and may you always know how much we appreciate you!



Wednesday Family Dinners

October 4

Menu: Spaghetti Casserole, Tossed Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert
 Hosts: Deaconesses

October 11

Menu: Beef Stew, Apple Salad, Corn Bread with Butter, Dessert
 Hosts: Keystone II

October 18

Menu: Pork Chops, Scalloped Potatoes, Honey Glazed Carrots, Applesauce, Rolls, Dessert
 Hosts: TNT (Seekers)

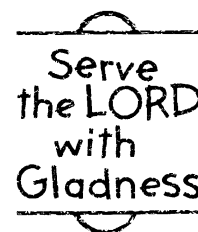
October 25

Menu: Chicken Pot Pie, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Dessert
 Hosts: FOCUS

Reminder: Adults should contribute \$4.00 per person for the meal; \$12.00 for **immediate family living in the same household**. The cost for children under 12 years old who eat at the "Hot Dog" table is \$1.25. If they chose to eat from the main table, the cost is \$2.00. Be sure to make your reservation on the Friendship Folder each Sunday.

October Greeters

October 1 - Sandy Keller, Katie Hoskins, & Flo Gill
 October 8 - Brian Begley, Teri Horsley, & Nancy Follmer
 October 15 - Brad Gerth, Helen Mullen, & J.K. Walker
 October 22 - Janet Day, John Riczko, & Carolyn Dudley
 October 29 - Evelyn Maddox, Mary Petry, & Connie Taylor





Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

The Key of It All

As of late I have caught myself thinking about lots of things. I know that some of you may be picturing billows of smoke coming out of my head, or are laughing at the idea of me thinking, or scared to death at the idea. All are valid pictures but let me assure you, I am okay and it has actually been a great process to go through.

One of the items going through my head and been thought of in depth is centered around this question: What makes a program successful? Or in the negative light: What makes a program not successful? As you can tell the questions are really the same just different ways of looking at it. I found thinking through the second question may be easier but doesn't help you in the long. So let me share a few thoughts with you.

The answer is directly related to what we as human beings need the greatest, relationships. Now I know some of you are thinking "don't I need clothes, food, water, and shelter" or a list of other things. You may be true but let me ask this: If you have all these things what else do you **need** to have?

This is why solitary confinement for long periods of time is so harsh. We may have all our "other" needs provided but if we do not have contact and a relationship with other people we will go insane.

It is with this in mind that I started thinking about "successful" programs and ministry. A ministry is "successful" not by how many people attend but by how many relationships are formed and the connection people have together. "Successful" ministry is not in what you do and how you do as it is with whom do you ministry to and the relationship with those.

A person may come to a "mediocre" program or ministry because of the relationships they have with others there. This, I believe, becomes the key for us. Sometimes it will not matter as much what we do but on the different ways we connect with each other and who else may be there. If I have a meaningful relationship with someone I am more apt to stick around, be a part of, or start attending a "program/ministry" because of that relationship and not what is being done.

Yet, this is exactly where we meet brick walls. You see, ministries/programs are easy to do and sometimes do not take much work. However, relationships are just the opposite. They take much time, hard work, sweat, tears, and energy. Yet the relational end of things is the more effective approach.

Let me ask you this: What relationships do you need to form in order to make ministry effective? Are you willing to put the time, energy, sweat, and tears into a relationship for God? Your answer to those two questions will show what you are willing to do for the kingdom.

We will not see people come to Christ by great programs and the ministries we do. We will see people come to Christ by loving them and sharing with them the relationship God wants to have. This takes place when we enter into relationship with them and God. Join me on this relational journey called life.

Your relational brother,
Jeremy

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday Evenings: Small Groups are now taking place and I am sure you will want to be a part of a group where you can talk about life and see what the Bible says about it. Three different small groups meet at 6pm here at the church. See John and Ruthie Wallace (11-12 grades), Mike and Dale Braun (9-10 grades), or Jeremy Spence and Linda Davis (7-8 grades) for more information about what you are studying and where you are meeting. You won't want to miss small groups.

October 21st: The CREW will be going paintballing to enjoy each other's company and have fun shooting paint balls at each other. The cost will be \$10 per person for the whole outing. Time and place have yet to be determined but I am sure you will want to come to this. Don't forget to invite your friends, this is a GREAT way to get them connected with our church.

October 28th: We will be on the Amazing Race event with the rest of the church. There will be two CREW teams going about on the search for clues and hopefully winning it all. The fun begins at 4pm here at the church. Look for the sign up sheet to be passed around.

October 28th: Approximately at 7pm, right after the Amazing Race, we will be at the Braun's for a Barn Party. You will need to bring at least 2 canned goods to share with those in need and to put in our Hobo Soup. Other activities will be included in the evening so you won't want to miss. For those on the Amazing Race adventure we will end up there.

October 29th: A \$20 deposit is due for the Miami Association Junior High Fall retreat. This is a non-refundable deposit ensuring you place for the retreat. The total cost is only \$30 per person and you won't want to miss this weekend, November 3-5th. This is for 7th and 8th graders.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

October 2006

1 9:15 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship
 2:30 Butler Co. Life Chain
 4:45 Women's Council
 5:15 Youth Choir
 6:00 KingsKids
 6:00 Cherub Choir
 6:00 Evening Celebration
 6:00 CREW Small Group

2

3 9:15 KeenAgers to
 Bearcreek Farms
 9:30 MOPS Steering
 Committee

4 5:30 ABW
 5:30 Nominating
 Committee
 6:00 Family Dinner
 6:25 Awana Mission Night
 6:30 Lifeline
 6:30 Celebration Ringers
 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer
 6:45 Carpenter's Hands
 8:00 Chancel Choir

5 9:30 Ladies Bible Study
 6:30 Music & Worship
 6:30 Ladies Bible Study
 8:00 ONE Bible Study

6

7

8 9:15 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship
 5:00 Board of Missions
 5:15 Youth Choir
 6:00 KingsKids
 6:00 Cherub Choir
 6:00 Evening Celebration
 6:00 CREW Small Group
 7:00 Worship Strategy

9

10 10:00 Holloway Circle
 7:00 Abell Circle
 7:00 Smith Circle

11 6:00 Family Dinner
 6:25 Awana Missionary
 6:30 Lifeline
 6:30 Celebration Ringers
 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer
 6:45 Carpenter's Hands
 8:00 Chancel Choir

12 9:30 Ladies Bible Study
 5:30 Board of Trustees
 6:30 Ladies Bible Study
 7:00 Small Group Bible
 8:00 ONE Bible Study

13 7:00 Faith Works
 Conference

14 9:00 Faith Works
 Conference

15 9:15 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship
 12:00 AB Girls
 4:30 Diaconate
 5:15 Youth Choir
 6:00 KingsKids
 6:00 Cherub Choir
 6:00 Evening Celebration

16

17 9:15 MOPS

18 6:00 Family Dinner
 6:25 Awana-M&M's Night
 6:30 Lifeline
 6:30 Celebration Ringers
 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer
 6:45 Carpenter's Hands
 8:00 Chancel Choir

19 8:30 Matthew 25
 9:30 Ladies Bible Study
 6:30 Ladies Bible Study
 8:00 ONE Bible Study

20

21 2:00 Celebration Ringers
 @ Fairfield Pavilion
 5:00 Family Fun Fall
 Festival
 CREW Paintball

22 9:15 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship
 4:00 C.E. Board
 5:15 Youth Choir
 6:00 KingsKids
 6:00 Cherub Choir
 6:00 Evening Celebration
 6:00 CREW Small Group
 7:00 Worship Strategy

23

24

25 6:00 Family Dinner
 6:25 Awana
 6:30 Lifeline
 6:30 Celebration Ringers
 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer
 6:45 Carpenter's Hands
 8:00 Chancel Choir

26 9:30 Ladies Bible Study
 6:30 Ladies Bible Study
 7:00 Small Group Bible
 8:00 ONE Bible Study

27

28 4:00 Amazing Race

29 8:45 Fall Back Fellowship
 9:15 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship
 6:00 KingsKids
 6:00 Cherub Choir
 6:00 Evening Celebration
 6:00 CREW Small Group

30

31

October



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 - Ellie Dinger
Sandy Keller
Kelly Mozingo
Tom Thomas

2 - Eva Miller
Tisha Patton

3 - Steve Gingrich
Paul Laubenstein
Lisa Miles
Caleb Russo

4 - Maddie Buchanan
Jane Day
Maria Miller
Kathy Reynolds

5 - Steven Click
LaVerne Gerth
Toni Schwab
Katie Roberts

6 - Alma Holmes

7 - Linda Holmes
Steve Lewis
Molly Shalloe
Connie Smith

8- Thomas Ellison
Doug Moorehead
Pat Nesbitt
Jim Patton

9 - John Hampton
Walter Hillman
Julie Hines
Dolly Houser
Callie Hyde

10- Thelma Ditmyer
Kalyne Schuermann
Ben Shalloe

11- Jeremy Sapp
Bobby Stanger
Alyssa Witmer

12- Brandon Allen
Kim Moorehead
Cheryl Motzer

13- Barb Burton
Dorothy VanNatta

14- Tom Farris

16- Alexis Ankrum
Cooper Chaney
Sara Wilson
Rose Young

17- Rachael Davis
Hannah Imhoff
Jean Janutolo
Anne Owen
Madge Walters

19- Dora Fields

20- Brenda Gabbard
Brad Hefner
Abby Metzler
JoAnn Russo
Trisha Zeek

21 - Susi House

22- Aria Joy Metzger

23- Joe Arnold
Joan Chatham
Sydney Wilson

24- Teri Collier

25- Richard Apgar, Jr.
Mary Petry
Libby Roberts

26- Patricia Miller
Paul VonStein

27- Sandy Schrader

28- Marilyn Bowling
Tia Huelseman

29- Josh Baker
Linda Gibbs
Fred Lakes
Josie Metzger

Jeff Nabors
Shauna Teeters
30- Kerry Collier

31- Ruth Beerman
Mark Farmer
Bridget Sapp
Thomas Scott
Mindy Finnerty

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 Bob Eicher

My sincere thanks for all the prayers, cards, and calls during the time of my recent angiogram and subsequent stent. I also want to thank Pastor Den for his visit which meant a lot to me. I go for my followup visit to the doctor on Wednesday and then hopefully everything will return to normal. I am very grateful for the prayers of God's people and I thank you very much.

From Martha Frickert

Phil and I thank you for your steadfast prayers concerning his health. He is now home and recovering. I haven't lived in Hamilton for over 40 years, and it profoundly touches me that you still care.

From Bernie & Pat Griesinger

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, phone calls, cards, and visits during Bernie's recent knee replacement surgery. Also your ongoing prayers and support for Pat over the past 13 years is truly a blessing. Thanks to both pastors for their calls and visits.

From Tari McKee

I'd like to thank the church members for the thoughts, cards, and prayers during my recent surgery for colon cancer. The doctor is certain all the cancer was removed and I should have no further problems.

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.

Arnold, Bob
email: arnie59@gmail.com

Dudley, Dennis
cell phone # 513-461-1829

Guynes, Dale & Teri
10 Pond Ridge Circle
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
Phone # 737-1075

Metzger, Dennis & Ruth
1086 Arbor Springs Drive
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

(Thank you for your encouragement during the summer months as we completed the work on our new home. You are all welcome to stop by. –Pastor and Ruth)

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.

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