

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

January, 2007

A New Year

It seems that a great deal of emphasis has been placed up a New Year. Let us try to make this New Year the best ever.

Hold Fast to your faith

(Hebrews 4:14)

Assemble with the saints

(Hebrews 10:25)

Pray earnestly every day

(1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18)

Pray for great blessings

(Malachi 3:10)

Yield not to temptation

(1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Neglect not your talents and opportunities

(Galatians 6:10)

Examine yourself daily

(2 Corinthians 13:5)

Work diligently for the Lord

(1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness

(Romans 6:11, 16)

Exercise yourself in godliness

(1 Timothy 4:7)

Aim at sinless perfection

(Hebrews 6:1)

Redeem the time

(Ephesians 5:15, 16)

—Gus Nichols
Friendly Visitor



The Old And The New

Let this New Year be the beginning of a new life in each of us wherein "old things are passed away." Not the old thoughts, of course, which are still true: but those that remain to nurse and encourage our prejudices. Not the old emotions that are filled with kindness: but all anger and bitter feeling and railing. Not the old reverence for the authority of God: but all fears born of our unworthy service apart from Him.

Not the old gracious ministries that blessed mankind: but the harsh words, the suspicious looks, the clenched hands, and unwilling feet. Not the old habits that keep us in the straight way: but the new fashions that make us unmindful of those things which hold life together in the unity of good manners. Not the old friends who grow more beloved each year because their worth is better appreciated: but the new associations made from mercenary motives.

Let all blessed old things stay, but let the clutter of our heads and hearts be removed, that new inspirations and new affections may come in to gladden our lives.

—Chester Burge Emerson

Advisory Board Meeting

The Advisory Board is made up of all elected officers of our church. The first meeting of this board will be on Sunday, January 21st, at 5:00. We will hear from boards and committees regarding their ministries and take care of any business items which should be presented to the church membership in the annual business meeting.

Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the church will be on Wednesday, January 24th, at 6:45 p.m. Your hearts will be encouraged as you hear how the Lord has worked among us in 2006 and the vision of the boards and committees for 2007.



American Baptist Women's Ministries

Missionary for the Month of **January**:

Dwight & Kari Davidson
Japan

Dwight and Keri serve at Kanto Gakuin University in Yokohama, where the vast majority of students and many of the faculty members are non-Christians. Dwight teaches Bible and English at the junior high and high school levels, and Kari is involved in the community and in the Japanese kindergarten their son, Adam, attends.

Bible Book of the Month Hosea

"Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know Him, and He will respond to us as surely as the coming of dawn or the rain of early spring."

Hosea 6:3 (LB)

Hosea, whose name means salvation, was an eighth century prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. He was a country man, devoted to the land but aware of the danger of life in protected open spaces. Against the background of his keen understanding of political affairs, his story of his tragic marriage to Gomer illustrates Israel's sins and punishment, inflicted reluctantly by a merciful God who loves and forgives through all. God's unfailing love is the theme of the book.

PRAY for the coming of peace and justice into our world: for responsible and powerful world leaders, and for world citizens who must learn to live caringly with each other, in the name of the Prince of Peace.

—Madge Walters

Upcoming Dates: Blanket Sundays—February 4 & 11

AB Girls Of Faith

Lunch and shopping! What could be more fun for the AB Girls and Leaders! We enjoyed a wonderful lunch together at Max and Erma's Restaurant and then proceeded to hit the stores! (Who was that girl riding in the shopping cart?) We shopped at Target, Wal-Mart, and Kohl's for gifts for a family adopted through the Salvation Army. The girls loved picking out cute clothes and cool toys for the little girl and boy. Our

group then returned to church, wrapped the gifts, and had a devotional led by Eris Cappelli. We want to thank the FOCUS Sunday School Class for their donation that helped with our shopping. We were able to meet our adopted family when we delivered their presents the week before Christmas.

The next meeting of the AB Girls will be on Sunday, Jan. 21, from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Amy Wallace will be the hostess, and we look forward to having Maria Miller as our speaker.

With joy and love,
Nancy Whipple, Marilyn Bowling,
Karen Schumm, & Mindy Hazelwood

KeenAger Outings

KeenAger outings for 2007 are in the planning stage. Please watch the weekly bulletin for details for January.

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



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, January 18th. We will leave the church at 8:30 a.m. returning at about 3:00 p.m. Come dressed to WORK and bring a sack lunch and a beverage. Remember - this is NOT just for the KeenAgers. Everyone is welcome to be a part of this ministry.

—Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham



January 21st, 2007

The Courier (ISSN 383367-29) January 2007 Published monthly by: First Baptist Church 1501 Hamilton-Cleves Road Hamilton, Ohio 45013 Volume 42, Number 1

Dissatisfied Contentment

As I write this article, our Christmas observance is still a few days away. Even so, I find myself returning to a question you may have asked yourself as we finish our last minute shopping, prepare for our guests who will slip into and out of our homes during these final days of the year—*What will the new year bring?* Perhaps you are glad to let 2006 fade from your memory this year. You have no desire to remember the experiences you endured, and you have prayed that God would spare you from a repeat of the year just finished. Perhaps your health has not been very good this year; a loved one died; you did not do as well in your classes this semester; a serious relationship lost its spark; a job took an unexpected new direction that left you wondering if you should start all over somewhere else; and on and on it could go. When it is all said and done, you have been praying that God would just wipe the slate clean so that you can start all over again. Or perhaps the days just gone by have been perfect for you. You can smile at the memories, and you savor the relationships shared and the experiences enjoyed. And you hope that there is more of the same in the days ahead.

One thing is certain as we approach the days of 2007—change is on the way. The turning of the page of the calendar is a symbol of what is in store for us. And nothing will prevent those days from their steady march through yet another year. So, it is a good time to stop for a moment to assess what is going on in our lives—our personal and professional life; our families; our past and our tomorrows; and especially our relationship with God Himself.

As long as we live in this age—with its pain, sorrow, and sin, our relationship with God should always be marked by a *dissatisfied contentment*. In the examination of his own life, Paul once wrote:

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me (Philip. 3:12).

Paul had a healthy viewpoint about the future before him. He did not say, “Because I am secure in the Lord, I will coast.” What he implied is “Because He made me His very own, I press on to make my faith more valuable.” Paul is dissatisfied with the status quo. He deeply desired to press on into the deeper things of God. **It was a “dissatisfied contentment.”** He praised the Father for what He had done in His life, He knew that God had blessed his life with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places (Ephesians 1:3). But he was also keenly aware that there was much more of God and God’s plan for him yet to be understood and experienced.

In his letter to the church at Ephesus, he

prayed that his fellow-believers would come to know God better; to comprehend the hope to which God had called them; to explore the riches of God’s inheritance in the saints; and to have a sense of God’s amazing power for all who believe. He wanted them to remember that once they were dead in their trespasses and sins, but because of His great love for them, God made them alive in Christ, and seated them with Christ in the heavenly realms. Here is a line you may have missed: “...*In order that in the coming ages, He might show the incomparable riches of his grace expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus...*” (Ephesians 2:7). That is an amazing window into God’s future plan for His people.

As we ready ourselves to enter this new gift called 2007, I pray that we will set out with a proper mingling of deep contentment in the unspeakable love of God for us in Christ Jesus, with a strong dissatisfaction that we have not yet arrived at the spiritual level where we would like to be. There is much to work on. Peter speaks of the spiritual virtues of faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, kindness, and love. Then he adds this comment: “*For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (2 Peter 1:8).

I invite you to join me in my quest in 2007 for a **dissatisfied contentment**. I think it will prove to be a great adventure! Pastor

From The Vision Committee On Prayer Strategy # 7

We greet you in Jesus' name, hoping you are reading, learning, and experiencing the blessings of God as you put the principles of prayer into action as spoken of in the continuing articles that were published in the bulletin. If so, please mention this to one of the committee members.

Also, we would like to have additions to our committee. Please prayerfully consider serving the Lord as part of the Strategy # 7 team.

Committee Members: Paul and Margie Braun, Mary and Walter Petry, Ruth Metzger, Dale Braun, Gene and Carol Howard.

The Curio Cabinets

A big and heartfelt "Thank you" to everyone who has responded to the call for items to exhibit in the curio cabinets. I hope you enjoy looking at them as much as I enjoy preparing the displays.

Guess what! I'm calling on you again for future artifacts. Upcoming themes will be "Missions", "Easter", and your "hand-crafted" artwork. Think about these themes and if you have something you can share from your travels to other countries, especially nations where we support Baptist missions, figurines depicting Easter, and your personal artistic creations, please consider loaning them for display in the curio cabinets. You are the greatest!

—Carol Howard
(887-9415)



**Carpenter's Hands
Signs Of Love**



Silent Dinner

The **Silent Dinner** for **January** will be Friday, January 5th, at Florence Mall. See you there!

January



All annual reports are due in the office **on disk** (Word Perfect, Word, or generic text file, if possible) by Wednesday, January 3rd. Preparation time is needed to compile and print this valuable report.

W
I
N
T
E
R



Winter Reminder!

If Hamilton City schools do not open on a weekday because of snow or ice, the church will not be open that day either.

Did You Notice?

Did you notice the cross/star of lights on top of our building during the Christmas season? It's radiance could be seen from the Columbia Bridge, Miami University, and beyond. If you see **Mike Click**, give him a big thank you! He climbed on the roof to design it for everyone to enjoy. How cool is that?

Budget Status Report

The Month of November, 2006

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$60,143
Offerings	<u>53,539</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$6,604)
Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$55,941
Offerings	<u>53,540</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$2,401)

The Year Through November, 2006

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$656,642
Offerings	<u>564,300</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$92,342)
Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$618,063
Offerings	<u>564,301</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$53,762)

—The Board Of Trustees



Awana Club

Awana January Calendar Update

- 3rd - "Don't be Cold for Christ" Theme Night
- 10th - Regular Club Night
- 17th - Missions Night with Evon Laubenstein (Sparks & T&T)
- 24th - M&Ms Night (Movies & Munchies)
- 31st - Sparks Store Night

M&Ms Night (Movies & Munchies)

This club year we scheduled 3 "M&Ms" nights, corresponding to the expected dates of the quarterly church business meetings. If the business meeting is held on a different date than the one I scheduled our M&Ms night, we will reschedule our theme night to be on the same night as the meeting. Please watch the church bulletin for dates for M&Ms Night & the quarterly business meeting.

Awana Grand Prix

T&T clubbers can start looking forward to the Grand Prix. Car kits will soon be on sale (\$3 per kit). Two Grand Prix workshops will be held to help you get your car ready to race. You can look forward to new trophies this year, as well as more than one Design category. This means there will be 3 winners in the Speed category, 3 winners in Overall Design, and some winners for unique Design categories as well. Watch for club-night flyers for more information.

-In His Work,
Emily Metzger
Awana Commander



Martin
Luther
King Jr.
Day



A New Year has begun! Time for new beginnings, new commitments and new relationships. Many of you I'm sure have made New Year Resolutions and are striving to make some sort of change in your life for 2007. My daughter and I had an interesting conversation about resolutions about this time last year. She was not quiet sure just what a resolution was and what it exactly meant. As I explained to her that a resolution was something people see in their own lives that they need to improve on. That something could be very simple or very difficult. My daughter then replied why don't people just ask God for help everyday of the year? As my mother would say, "Out of the mouths of babes!" What an awesome idea! Why should we wait until January 1st to commit to a certain area of improvement in our lives? Why don't we all just ask our Father for His help with everything we need to improve on or are struggling with everyday? He loves to hear from us, for us to ask Him for help for He already knows what we need even before we ask it. I pray that this year as you embark on your New Year Resolutions that you ask God to be apart of them every step of the way. For without His help it will be almost impossible to keep any of them.

Mark your calendars now to join us on Tuesday, January 16th, as our topic will be I Need Peaceful People in my Life...how to deal with personality differences.

Living a Life for Him-
Elise Martin, Coordinator



Congratulations!

Science Fair

Congratulations to **Alyxandria Patrick** from Fillmore Elementary School who received a 1st place Excellent rating at the Hamilton Rotary Sixth Grade Science Fair in November. Her project was math and computers.

-Editor's note: Please report items of interest, honors, roles in plays, etc. to the office so they can be noted in the Courier. Thanks!



Free Concert By Teenage Prodigies



The extraordinarily talented 15 year-old violinist Alex Fager, and cellist Coleman Itzkoff, age 14, perform dazzling works at 12:05 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17th, at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main Street in Oxford. Both are recipients of numerous awards. For information call Jack Daugherty - 523-6969.



Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 4th, is Souper Bowl Sunday. Please bring to church with you a can of soup or any other food item and \$1. Members of CREW and JV CREW will be collecting these items at the doors. All items will be donated to the New Life Baptist Mission. Thanks for your participation!

—Deaconess Relief Committee

All Teachers Are Invited

All Sunday School and VBS teachers are invited and encouraged to attend the **Supernatural, Parenting, and Your Teen** Parent Seminar in Room 200 on January 27th from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple which includes a light breakfast, lunch, notebook, and other resources. The seminar will look at the supernatural and the latest findings which concern our children from the **little ones** through the **teenage** years. A portion of the seminar will also deal with issues concerning the Harry Potter books. Call Jeremy to register. You will find this seminar to be very helpful as you teach your Sunday School or VBS class.

—Barb Arnold, SS Superintendent



Mark Your Calendars For Sunday, March 25th, 6:00 p.m.

For the first time in Hamilton five city church handbell choirs will be assembling at first Baptist Church for a mass Handbell Ring. Each choir will have the opportunity to present an individual handbell selection and all choirs will join together to play three mass ring selections. **David Finkham**, a Certified American Guild of English Handbell Ringers Director, will be arriving from Dayton, Ohio to direct the mass selections.

Coming January 14th Chad Allen - Marimba

This is an unusual opportunity to hear a vibraharp in our Sunday morning worship service. Chad is a young man with an amazing talent for rhythm. You have heard him play other percussion instruments with the Cancel Choir and the Celebration Ringers, but never a Marimba.

Currently, Chad is a senior at Ross High School, however, in January, he will begin auditions for scholarships and admission in various universities.

Chad is looking forward to sharing the gift of music that God has given to him.

—Elaine Tragesser
Director of Celebration Ringers

Annual Pro Life Prayer March

All churches in the Butler County area are invited and urged to participate in the 18th Annual Butler County *“Prayer March For Life”*, taking place on Monday, January 22nd, around the Butler County Courthouse from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. All churches, individuals, and families are encouraged to attend and pray together for an end to abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. If each church community would send just “12 disciples” or more, willing to pray together for an end to the killing of our modern day “Holy Innocents”, we would have the largest diverse prayer gathering that butler county has ever seen! Signs and church banners are welcome. The Prayer March will take place regardless of the weather!

—Mike Mignery
Butler County Right To Life



Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

January 7 - Cheryl Motzer & Chelsey
January 14 - Ruthie Wallace & teen helper
January 21 - Emily Metzger & teen helper
January 28 - Cheryl Motzer & teen helper

One & Two Year Olds

January 7 - Debbie Allen & Lauren
January 14 - Debbie Allen & Lauren
January 21 - Debbie Allen & Lauren
January 28 - Debbie Allen & Lauren

Kinderchurch

January 7 - Ryan & Angie Inloes
January 14 - John & Cheryl Motzer
January 21 - Brandi Emenaker & teen helper
January 28 - Brandi Emenaker & teen helper



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, please call the following Child Care Coordinators:

Kim Schuermann - (674-7321)
Brandi Emenaker - (738-2439)

Thank you for volunteering as a child care worker and may you always know how much we appreciate you!

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



Wednesday Family Dinners

January 3

Menu: Ham Loaf, Scalloped Potatoes, Honey Glazed Carrots, Applesauce, Rolls, Dessert
Hosts: Keystone II

January 10

Menu: Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Dessert
Hosts: TNT

January 17

Menu: Chicken Stir-Fry, Fried Rice, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert
Hosts: FOCUS

January 24

Menu: Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert
Hosts: Family Life/Missions/Homebuilders

January 31

Menu: Chilli and Vegetable Soup, Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwiches, Tossed Salad, Dessert
Hosts: Keystone I

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.

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.

January Greeters

January 7 - Wayne Miller, Mary Petry, & Brad Begley
January 14 - J.K. Walker, Evelyn Maddox, & Connie Taylor
January 21 - Betty Emenaker, Sharon French, & Nancy Follmer
January 28 - Jerry Hampton, Bob Stanger Sr., & Jerry Wallace



Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

A Prayer for you and me

As I sit in my office writing this article I am in the middle of listening to music, figuring out what books I need to read next, looking at the piles (upon piles), of paper and stuff on my desk, and trying to figure out what gift I still need to buy in order, when to buy it, where to buy it, and the likes. I also realize that Christmas is just a couple days off and there is much to do and little time to do it.

Well, by the time you sit down to read this I will have completed all the gift buying tasks, spent a couple days trying to relax, but I have a feeling I was "working" more than not, and back into the swing of things with the New Year just days or hours away. With this in mind let me share a prayer with you as found in the *Uncommon Book of Prayer2* by Steve Case, a youthworker:

God, you have given us what we need. So many of our frustrations come from our unmet desires, not our unmet needs. Jealousy and greed convinces us we'll never be happy unless we have what someone else has. You have promised to give us all we need in order to do what we are called to do. Help us learn to be content with what we have. If you give us popcorn, we won't complain there is no butter. If you give us one another, we can't complain someone isn't coming through for us. Stacking up toys and more toys doesn't get us happiness or true friendship or any closer to you. The person who dies with the most toys...still dies. Help us leave behind the selfishness and celebrate the gifts you've handed to us. Amen

Such a simple prayer but one I am starting to pray now, before the season ends, but will continue after the Christmas season has passed and the new year has dawned.

Here is another prayer from Case's book, read it as another prayer of mine. A prayer of blessing and thanksgiving.

God love, thank you for this family at First Baptist Church. We don't all have to live under the same roof to be family. We don't even have to share the same blood. This church is my family. Family is there when you hurt and when you dance. Family is there when you are lost and when you have found your way home. God, this church family is made of **love**. We don't agree all the time.

We argue with love, we create with love, we teach with love. That's what family is, God. You have given me this family and I will cherish them. I will cherish each moment we have together. We will be your family. Thanks for this church family. Amen. (Bold added)

Thank you for letting me be part of the family.
Be God's,
Jeremy

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 7 : CIA Project in the city of Hamilton. Watch for more details. Linda Davis is heading up this project.

January 14 4:00pm-10:00pm: Gameworks Outing. Since you don't have school the next day we will have an extended CREW Outing to Gameworks on Newport on the Levy. Cost will be \$15 per person which includes everything you will need for the evening. Extra money may be brought for additional games. A permission slip will be passed out/available very soon.

January 17 5:30pm-6:30pm: Youth Ministry Team meeting to look at events and schedule for the May-August months of the CREW Student Ministry calendar. If you have ideas, please pass them to one of the adult or student leaders to bring up at the meeting.

January 21 4:30-7:30pm: LaserWeb Outing. Join us for this great night of laser tag. Cost will be around \$5 per person so invite your friends. We will be at LaserWeb in Fairfield no later than 5pm and should be leaving there around 7:10pm.

January 27 9:30am-2pm: *Supernatural, Parenting, and Your Teen* Parent Seminar in Room 200 of the church. Cost is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple that attends. We will be looking at the supernatural and the latest finding concerning our teenagers. To register call Jeremy at 868-1412, or sign up after church in the connector on January 14th and 21st.. This should be a wonderful time for parents or anyone what wants to gain information that will help in raising and loving teenagers in our culture today. A light breakfast, lunch, notebook, and other resources all provided in the cost.

January 28 5:30pm-7:00pm: Bowling Outing. Cost \$5 per person. Meet at the church.

Also in January, probably towards the end, there will be a Junior High tubing outing. The cost will be around \$10 per person to attend and keep looking for details on that.

Personal Notes



From Curtis & Jean Bradbury

Thanks to everyone for all of the Christmas remembrances. The cards, gifts, and words of encouragement are greatly appreciated.

From Zeke Gibson

Thank you for the prayers, cards, and visits I received during my recent illness. They were greatly appreciated. We are truly blessed by being a part of such a wonderful church family.

From Jean Grimes

Thanks so much to my church family for your concerns for me as I spent a few days in the hospital for tests recently. Also thanks for the cards and calls and all your prayers for me. I know He heard and answered. God is so good.

From Walter & Maxine Hillman

On behalf of Walter & Maxine Hillman and Ms Grace Chisholm, we would like to extend our special thanks and appreciation to the Extreme Love In Action committee, Pastor Jeremy Spence, Dwain Brewer and Ken Hendricks, for the blessing of their time and energy in the unloading and placing of the furniture and household goods of Grace Chisholm. Grace relocated here from New Orleans, Louisiana, because of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Acts of Love like these, should NEVER go without acknowledgement. Grace, arrived on December 4th. Due to the blessings of the LIA Team and the minister that drove her to Hamilton, Ohio, she was able to move in December 5th. Grace is a Senior Citizen that is looking forward to associating herself with First Baptist Church of Hamilton, Ohio. Once again, our church family has shown us what true Christian Fellowship is about. Our thanks and prayers will always be with you and for you. Your brother & sister in the name of Christ Jesus.

From Teri Horsley

I want to thank everyone for their prayers and cards during my recent trip back to the hospital for an angiogram. I want to especially thank Pastor Den for his calls and visit in the rain, and his prayers. I would also like to thank Jewell Bowling for putting me on the prayer list, the Deaconesses for the beautiful flowers, and Dwain and Sharon Brewer for helping us clean up our tree that partially blew down in the windstorm, the day of my procedure. I truly appreciate

the kindness of my entire First Baptist Family. God bless each of you!

From Glenn Madden

It is hard for me to explain how I felt Sunday morning after I received those cards and small items from you young people. It showed me one thing, the most important thing in my life, that you cared for me. So I'll always remain your friend.

From Ola McFadden

Thank you so much for the many cards and especially the prayers received following my recent stroke. They were greatly appreciated.

From Lisa Sprague

I want to thank my church family for your cards, flowers, and, most importantly, your prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. Everything went well and I sound like my old self again. Thank you for your support.

From Kelli Stonecipher

I sincerely appreciate all the prayers. Knowing there are so many kind people out there thinking of me and especially honoring me with prayer has been instrumental in getting me through this nightmare that I hope will end soon. Once all joints are replaced and if the rheumatoid arthritis behaves I should be doing okay. The RA going into remission and getting off all these medications is in the forefront of my prayers. It is a tall order to ask but I believe God will take care of me and see to it that I am not given more than I can bear. But without wishes and hopes as well as prayer, where would we all be? God bless you all!!!

From Jack & Joan Swicegood

Jack was so grateful for your cards—but especially for all your prayers during his heart surgery and recovery. We feel God gave us another miracle with the stent in the 27 year old graph after we found out the new graph had a “kink” in it and was not functioning properly. We truly felt the Lord’s blessings thru prayers. Praise God. He is so good. Again, many thanks to all! God bless you.

From Johnita (Johnnie) Wallace

No words can express our gratefulness for your many cards, calls, prayers, and visits. To the “funeral dinner” committee and to all who prepared dishes for our lunch, thank you! Finally, to all of our church family who shared your lives with my mom, Cynthia Wallace, thanks again.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

January 2007

1 Have a happy
blessed New Year!

2
9:30 MOPS Steering

3
5:00 ABW
6:00 Family Dinner
6:30 Awana Club
6:30 Lifeline
6:30 Celebration Ringers
6:45 Bible Study & Prayer
6:45 Carpenter's Hands
8:00 Chancel Choir

4
5:30 Music & Worship

5

6
8:00 Men's Prayer
Gathering

7 9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
4:45 Women's Council
5:15 Youth of Praise
6:00 KingsKids
6:00 Cherub Choir
6:00 Evening Celebration

8

9
10:00 Holloway Circle
7:00 Abell Circle
7:00 Smith Circle

10
6:00 Family Dinner
6:30 Awana Club
6:30 Lifeline
6:30 Celebration Ringers
6:45 Bible Study & Prayer
6:45 Carpenter's Hands
8:00 Chancel Choir

11
5:30 Board of Trustees

12

13

14
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
4:30 CREW Gameworks
5:00 Board of Missions
5:15 Youth of Praise
6:00 KingsKids
6:00 Cherub Choir
6:00 Evening Celebration
7:00 Worship Task Force

15

16
9:30 MOPS

17
5:30 Youth Ministry Team
6:00 Family Dinner
6:30 Awana Club-Missions
6:30 Lifeline
6:30 Celebration Ringers
6:45 Bible Study & Prayer
6:45 Carpenter's Hands
8:00 Chancel Choir

18
8:30 Matthew 25
10:00 Ladies Bible Study
6:30 Ladies Bible Study

19

20

21
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
12:00 AB Girls
4:00 Diaconate
4:30 CREW LaserWeb
5:00 Advisory Bd. Mtg.
5:15 Youth Choir
6:00 KingsKids
6:00 Cherub Choir
6:00 Evening Celebration

22
7:00 Annual Pro Life
Prayer March

23

24
6:00 Family Dinner
6:30 Awana Club-M&Ms
6:30 Lifeline
6:30 Celebration Ringers
6:45 Annual Business Mtg.
6:45 Carpenter's Hands
8:00 Chancel Choir

25
10:00 Ladies Bible Study
6:30 Ladies Bible Study

26

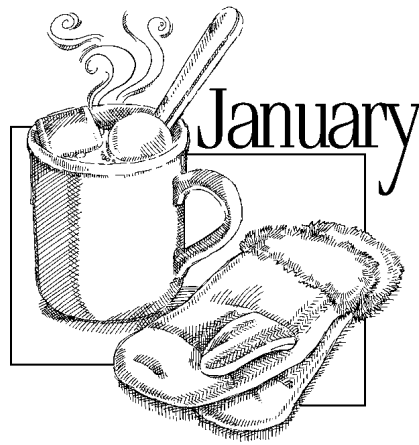
27
9:30 Parent Seminar

28
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
4:00 C.E. Board
5:15 Youth Choir
5:30 CREW Bowling
6:00 KingsKids
6:00 Cherub Choir
6:00 Evening Celebration

29

30

31
6:00 Family Dinner
6:30 Awana Club
6:30 Lifeline
6:30 Celebration Ringers
6:45 Bible Study & Prayer
6:45 Carpenter's Hands
8:00 Chancel Choir



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1 - Janet Hetterich | | Amy Wallace |
| 2 - Pat Brown
Charlotte Day
Tina Reed | 16 - Jan Wade Griffin
Sheryl Morrow | |
| 3 - Fuz Buchanan | 18 - Fred Isaacs
Logan Andrew Sapp
Margie VonStein | 29 - Verna Pickett
Charles Walters
Nancy Hoskins |
| 4 - Felicity Hines | 19 - Ed Dawson
Sandra Williams | 30 - Maggie Baker
Teri Guynes |
| 5 - Alex Wallace | 20 - Bob Tragesser
George Wade | 31 - Robert F. Williams |
| 6 - Brian Begley
David Dawson | 21 - Adam Metzger
Ted Soderholm | |
| 7 - Brenda Roddy | 22 - Jeffrey D. Miller | |
| 8 - Florence Jones
Thelma Stanger | 24 - Zeke Bowling
Larry Wallace | |
| 9 - Robert Abney | 25 - Scott Dawson
Evelyn Maddox | |
| 10 - Mark Schumm
Susan Thomas | 26 - Ralph Lenehan
Bonnie Titus | |
| 11 - Ed Emerick
Hannah Ruwe | 27 - Brittany Nesbitt
Candace Yates | |
| 14 - Jesse Brown
Nicole Campbell
Elyse Hendrickson | 28 - Adrian Benzing
Toni Grubbs
Lisa Rankey | |

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.

Caution: Construction Ahead

Now, in the days of youth,
Our future lives we build;
And, someday, several years from now
If dreams are not fulfilled,
We may look back o'er our lost youth
And, sadly wonder why,
Without the slightest thought or care
We let these days slip by.

We then will start to realize
That each day, as a brick,
Was meant to help us build our lives,
To fill each tiny nick;
But we were using blissfulness,
A substance soft as paste,
Instead of using foresight
To keep the days in place.

We built our future carelessly
Without a plan or guide,
So it is little wonder that
It seems to slip and slide
Without a firm foundation
To hold it in its stead.
We then, too late, will realize:
We didn't plan ahead.

We didn't use each precious hour,
Each very precious day
For something that would help us
As we went along life's way
From carefree youth to manhood
And responsibility.
In spite of what the whole world cried,
We didn't have eyes to see.

But, we are young; we still have time
To build a future grand
Upon a firm foundation.
We will not build on sand.
And when, at last, we finish,
And see our dreams fulfilled,

We will look back contentedly,
For we knew **how** to build!

—Florence Jones
(Written while in High School)

★ Thank You! ★
★ THANK YOU! ★

Additional Thank You Notes!

From Pat Gingrich

A special thanks to all who participated in the FOCUS Sunday School's food bag project. There were many grocery bags of food placed in the parking lot by your cars for New Life Baptist Mission. There are so many requests for food this time of year and the New Life Baptist Mission is very grateful for your generosity. Thanks also to the CREW for their help in retrieving the bags, etc.

From Rev. Tim Schwartz

I want to thank all of you for your prayers and the cards that you sent during the time of my bout with kidney stones. I am fully recovered now after 2 surgeries, and life is back to normal. I praise God for that! I also want to say thanks to those who remembered me with cards at the time of my ordination. It was a beautiful service and you were with me in spirit! May you all have a blessed Christmas and may God guide your path in the new year!

Corrections and Additions To The Directory

Brantingham, Bill & Bert
23 Historic Crescent
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

McFadden, Ola
Chestwood Village
Room 102
8073 Tylersville Road
West Chester, Ohio 45069

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