

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

February, 2007

A Message From The Son

I sat in the theater anxiously waiting to learn if my son had made it safely to his destination. It was a foggy, icy afternoon and he had a three-hour trip to complete by nightfall. I enjoyed the movie, but in a nervous way, a way all parents know when waiting to hear from their children. Suddenly, my pocket vibrated wildly. At first it startled me, then a warm calm swept over me. I knew he had arrived safely. His email page was simple and sweet:

Hey Dad
You and mom have
a good night alone
together. I love you.
Z-Man

As I drove home, I told Donna how much I appreciated technology at times like these. Then we got to talking about how precious it is to hear from our children, especially when they are away and we still worry about them.

"Abba Father, all things are possible for you. Let this cup pass from me I pray, but not my will, but yours be done." This was the Son's message to the Father. In a pre-technological world, the Creator of the universe received a message from his Son so urgent, so emotional, that the Son sweat great drops like blood. He had told his friends that he was overwhelmed with emotion, even to the point of death. It was such a powerful and trying moment, God sent angels to attend to his Son. But he also answered his Son, "No!"

*He loves us and
wants us as his
children.*

In a world adrift in permissiveness, "No!" hardly sounds loving and attentive. But this "No!" was loving

because God loved us enough to endure watching the torture of his Son so that we could become his children. It is one thing to watch your child suffer and not be able to do anything about it. It's quite another kind of suffering when you have the power to stop the suffering and do not. God had the power to end it and yet he didn't because he loves us and wants us as his children.

But there was more than one message delivered to God from the Son as he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. "Not my will . . ." Jesus had said. It was his way of saying, "If there is no other way to redeem them, no other way to save them, then Father, like you, I love them too much to live without them. I would rather bear the pain of the Cross, than to live and they be lost!"

No matter what Valentines we get this week, our ultimate Valentine is found on "a hill far away" where we find "an old rugged cross" and the ultimate message of love sent by God's Son, and our brother, Jesus.

—Phil Ware
Heartlight



JOEL 2:12, NRSV



American Baptist Women's Ministries

Blanket Sundays–Disaster Relief

Blanket Sundays will be February 4th and February 11th. In natural disasters (tornado, hurricane, flood, fire, mudslide, earthquake, etc.) many people are left with little or nothing. Church World Service furnishes initial emergency service with blankets, mattresses, tents, etc. Suggested donation for a blanket is \$8.00. Checks should be made payable to American Baptist Women.

Don't forget that in February we will be collecting items baby layettes. If you see a bargain, please bring it in and give to Bertha Campbell (893-9808) or give to a greeter.

Baby Kit (Layette)

- 4 Cloth Diapers
- 2 Shirts
- 2 Washcloths
- 2 Gowns or Sleepers
- 2 Diaper Pins
- 1 Sweater or Sweatshirt
- 2 Receiving Blankets
(1 can be a knitted blanket)

Disaster survivors need essential items to reclaim their homes and lives. Through the White Cross you can help prepare special recovery kits that provide both tangible assistance to people in need and show that neighbors near and far truly care. The contents of these kits are small things but having or not having them can make a world of difference in an on-going development program or when disaster strikes. Would you help Church World Service build an inventory of baby kits?

–Bertha Campbell

Campbell Soup Label Change

For those who save Campbell Soup labels for projects, Campbells will no longer accept the label front panel. They now only want the UPC code from the label including the lad holding the pencil.

February Missionary of the Month:
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Wayne & Katherine Niles

Bible Book of the Month . . . Philemon

“And I pray that as you share your faith with others it will grip their lives too, as they see the

wealth of good things in you that come from Christ Jesus.”

Philemon 6 (LB)

Philemon is a letter concerned with individuals rather than churches, Paul's only private letter. It is a tactful intervention for a runaway slave whom Paul had converted and who had helped Paul in prison. Paul, who never criticized slavery overtly, was here attacking it indirectly, asserting the spiritual equality of all persons in Christ.

PRAY for the human family of earth, God's beloved children, friends and nurturers of one another. May we celebrate the worth and uniqueness of each of us.

–Madge Walters



The next scheduled Work Day at Matthew 25 will be Thursday, February 15th. As usual, we would like to have a good working group to go. We will leave the church at the usual time, 8:30 a.m. Bring your sack lunch and beverage and be prepared for a good day of work and fellowship. Thank you.

–Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham

KeenAger February Meeting

Our February meeting will be Friday, February 2nd. We will travel to Cedarville University to see *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. We will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. and will eating at the university before the play.

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

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Remembering Love

The end of the month is a little like the end of the week. No matter what else happens during the week—funerals, weddings, hospital visits, meetings out of town (well, you get the idea), there is one constant in church life: “*Sunday cometh!*” The end of the month is the same way. Peggy used to walk into the office grinning from ear to ear, waving her finished *Courier* article at Jeremy and me, taunting us with her victory cry: “*I win—again!*” All we were able to do was groan, and issue another challenge: “*Just wait till next month*” (because, as we all know, “*The Courier deadline cometh...*”).

I miss Peggy—called home to the Lord, February 16, 2005. And she’s not the only one who haunts my memory of friendship and loss:

My sister called today. Our cousin, two years younger than I, died yesterday—57 years old. My memories of our childhood exploits goes back a lot of years—family picnics on the fourth of July in his huge back yard; chasing baseballs through his dad’s garden; homemade ice cream. Years pass. I went on to college and seminary; he to Viet Nam. Those were terrible days, and things were never the same for him (nor for our nation).

My dad has been gone for over eight years now. I miss him in ways I never thought I would.

I grew up with a friend in Akron. We lived two houses apart. His brother married my sister, sharing life for a decade before life separated them. I lost track of Jerry over the years, but always wondered about him—how he was, what he did for a living, what kind of family he had. Two or three years ago, on my birthday, my sister gave me a book. A note on the card told me to pay attention to the name of the author. A little puzzled, I unwrapped the book—*Thomas Jefferson: A Chronology of His Thoughts*, edited by Jerry Holmes. He had done it! Jerry always had an interest in history. And here was a book that he had labored over which had actually been sold in the Smithsonian. I read the book and decided to track him down. After a few tentative e-mails sent to unsuspecting (and wrong!) recipients, a note came back saying “*Yes, I am the same Jerry from our Robindale days. Sorry—I had erased your first e-mail; I thought it was spam.*” We had e-mailed a time or two after that. Then, over Christmas, I got the terrible news that his wife of “34 years, 358 days” had died of cancer. He sent me the eulogy he had written for her funeral. I sat alone that evening and wept for Jerry’s loss of his wife and friend. And I was blessed by his story of their love for each other.

There are stories in the Gospels of Jesus’ love for people. We remember His days with Lazarus, and the amazing miracle that brought him back from the power of death. We have read the account of Mary, pouring the expensive perfume on His feet, and wiping them with her hair. Then there was the Samaritan woman whom He had met at the well; and another woman caught in the act of adultery. We remember His compassion, the respect, and the love He had for these women. We reflect on His years with His disciples—times of patient teaching; moments of divine healing; days of revealing Himself to men so unused to confronting God’s glory. And we remember those terrible hours of His arrest, the trials, the horrible execution—all because of a passionate love that goes far beyond our comprehension. Sixty years after Jesus left His disciples, the “Apostle whom He loved” wrote in his epistle:

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1John 4:9-11)

It was Paul who celebrated the love of His Lord:

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

It’s an amazing thing—this love and affection God has given to us to enjoy and to share! The awesome thing is, the more we give away, the more we seem to have. There is an endless supply. The Father made sure of that. I am determined to give away as much as I can. I hope you are, too!

Sending you this valentine in this month of love, Pastor

Budget Status Report

The Month of December, 2006

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$58,585
Offerings	<u>93,066</u>
Over (Under) Budget	\$34,481

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$62,617
Offerings	<u>93,066</u>
Over (Under) Actual	\$30,449

The Year Through December, 2006

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$715,227
Offerings	<u>657,366</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$ 57,861)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$680,673
Offerings	<u>657,366</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$23,313)

–The Board Of Trustees

Vacation Bible School

The snow is flying but we are already planning and scheming for our summer VBS program! Think warm, sunny, and adventurous! Look for a blue flyer which we are distributing, gathering information about who may be interested in volunteering and preparing for our awesome adventure. We will be planning a staff meeting in the coming weeks, trying to get somewhat of a head start on the summer. And, for those of you who know Claire and me, planning this far ahead is absolutely amazing! See Claire or Brandi for more information.

In Celebration Of Our Childcare Volunteers. . .

To say thanks for those of you in our congregation who have volunteered to care for and guide our children during church services, we would like to invite you to dinner following our morning worship on February 11th. If you have helped in the nursery, toddler room, or kinderchurch during the '06 year, we would love to have you join us for a light lunch. Please RSVP to Brandi Emenaker at 738-2439 or br9@fuse.net. Childcare will be willingly provided by Chris Metzger and some fabulous teens.

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

Congratulations, Larry Bowling!

Greater Hamilton Chamber Of Commerce Citizen Of The Year

Congratulations to Larry for being the recipient of the Greater Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year award. The citizen of the year is defined as a member of the Hamilton Community who has left a mark on the city in 2006 and has done so in a way that transcends his or her everyday job. Larry led the successful effort to pass the \$72 million bond issue to fund the district's master facility plan.

"Larry has served his community tirelessly with a passion and dedication that are unparalleled. His strong work ethic, coupled with a heart for service, are what set him apart from other deserving candidates," said Hamilton City School District Superintendent, Janet Baker, who nominated him.

Larry has served on the Hamilton Board of Education for 19 years—the last 10 as president or vice president. He has served and currently serves on the boards of the Boys and Girls Club of Hamilton, the Greater Miami Valley YMCA, the YMCA's Facilities Committee, the City of Hamilton Planning Commission, Butler Behavioral Health Services, and of course, on First Baptist Church's Board of Trustees for 30 years.

Larry was recognized at the chamber's annual meeting January 26th at Vora Technology.

Hamilton City School District's Athletic Hall of Fame

Larry Bowling will be inducted into the Hamilton City School District's Athletic Hall of Fame on February 3rd. Larry graduated from Garfield High School in 1964 after playing football and running track for three years. He was named most efficient offensive lineman for the football team as a senior.

He played football for two years at Indianapolis University (formerly Indiana Central) and graduated in 1970. Larry, along with Hamilton Hall of Famer Mel "Moody" Baker spearheaded a fund-raiser to build Hamilton High School's Fieldhouse.

The induction dinner will be held at Vora Technology Park. Tickets are \$30 each and can be purchased at Clark's Sporting Goods or at Hamilton High athletic office.

Congratulations, Larry, we are proud of you!

–Editor's note: Information taken mostly from Hamilton Journal News

TWO EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN!!!

The Women's Ministry Council is sponsoring two exciting, though different, activities for women.

Our Version of the Biggest Loser Competition!

"He must increase; I must decrease. (John 3:30 NKJV) is our theme! Don't miss out on the opportunity to be the "Biggest Loser"! Join with other women of the church as we set goals and take steps toward healthier lifestyles. We'll begin our weight loss program with an informational meeting on Wednesday, February 7th, at 5:30 in room 113 and continue to meet for 12 weeks at the same time and place. Our meetings will give us a chance to discuss tips and traps, weigh-in, share recipes, pray, and encourage one another. Weekly raffle prizes and incentives will be given. A grand prize will be awarded to the "Biggest Loser" at the end of the competition on May 2nd. Though you won't want to miss, if you can't come to the meeting you can still participate by weighing-in on Wednesdays or Sundays. The scale and all needed materials will be kept in room 113. A donation of \$10 will be appreciated to cover supplies and prizes. Call Nancy Whipple at 863-2309 with any questions. With encouragement and God's help we can all be losers!!

Beth Moore Simulcast

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 24th. First Baptist is again hosting a live, via satellite, simulcast of popular Bible teacher and author Beth Moore. We are inviting all the women of our church and our community to join with us in praise and worship and to hear Beth teach. She will be focusing on her newest book, *Get Out of that Pit!* This will be a one-day event. We are planning to offer a continental breakfast and refreshments for all attendees. Lunch will also be available at an extra cost. Tickets are \$15 for the simulcast and \$20 for the simulcast plus lunch. You may purchase tickets in the connector on Sunday mornings or by contacting Lois Anderson at either 894-1216 or randerson26@cinci.rr.com or Elise

Martin at either 844-1226 or sem892@fuse.net. Come join us for a great time of fellowship, praise and inspiration!!!



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 October, November, and December, 2006.

<u>Kindergarten</u>	<u>FOCUS</u>
Eugenia Sexton	Eris Cappelli
	Ruth Gaskins
<u>Middler/Junior</u>	Dolly Houser
Lisa Dulli	Carol Howard
Anna Wallace	Gene Howard
	Janet Lewis
<u>7th/8th Grade</u>	Don Perry
Alex Wallace	
Erin Gingrich	<u>Keystone</u>
	Ron Gerth
<u>Sr. High</u>	Bettie Carmack
Amy Wallace	Kathy Chambers
	Ray Chambers
<u>Homebuilders</u>	Isabell Johnson
Jerry Wallace	Evelyn Maddox
Judy Wallace	Jack Maddox
	Fred Schilling
<u>Parenting</u>	
Stan Brown	<u>Carpenter's Hands</u>
Mary Brown	Robert Williams
Kim Gingrich	
	<u>Office</u>
	Linda Gibbs

Sunday School Perfect Attendance - 2005

Eugenia Sexton	Eris Cappelli
Bettie Carmack	Kathy Chambers
Isabell Johnson	Robert Williams
	-Linda Gibbs



February 19, 2006



For the shortest month of the year February packs a lot of punch. The month is known for Ground Hog Day, the Super Bowl, winter Olympics, Valentine's Day and Black History month. More uncommon celebrations include World Marriage Day (February 12) and International Friendship Month. The month always reminds me of love. What better way to follow up our new "resolutions" than to be reminded of the unconditional love Christ has for us. The Bible uses the word "love" alone in over 180 verses indicating the importance of this emotion, feeling, reaction and response not only to those we come into contact with but also to Christ. For this time of year I think it's appropriate to reflect on what Paul wrote to the church of Corinth over 2000 years ago. *"Love- And now I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."* (1 Corinthians 13:1-8)

I'm sure many of you have used the later part of the verse in your own marriage vows, I know that I did over fourteen years ago. How many people do you really love today? As I read these verses I am reminded at how much I need God's help to truly love everyone.

Won't you join us February 20th for our annual pamper fair. Several area salons will donate their time and talents to pamper all of our moms.

Hope to see you there!
Elise Martin, Coordinator



Edgewood Winter Plays

Edgewood Thespian Troupe #591 will present four one-act COMEDIES on Friday, February 23rd and Saturday, February 24th at 7:30 p.m. in the Edgewood High School Auditorium. **Drew Helton**, will appear in "Shut And Bar The Door" and "The Bible In 30 Minutes...Or Less!". "The Lost Elevator" and "Check, Please" will complete the evening's performances. Tickets will be available at the door.

–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!

Junior Jam At Cedarville Is Coming!!

Who? Students in 3rd-6th grades and their Sunday School teachers or sponsors!

What? A one-day, high-energy, event that includes music, videos, games, hands-on activities, lunch, and one-on-one time with university students. All of these activities converge to encourage kids to uncover the "Secret of the Sphinx: A Dig for the Truth"—a challenge to look back through HIS-story to discover the message that can change their lives forever.

When? Saturday, April 14th. Registration is from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Dixon Ministry Center. Event concludes at 4:00 p.m.

Where? Cedarville University, Cedarville, Ohio.

Cost? \$20 per person covers lunch and all activities. Add \$5 for a Junior Jam T-shirt!

Sponsors? At least one sponsor should accompany students to Junior Jam. Sponsors will enjoy meeting the University student counselors assigned to your group and may participate in all of the activities of the day.

Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks! See Brandi, Claire, or Cheryl Motzer for more info.





Awana Club

Awana February Calendar

- 7th - T&T Store Night
- 14th - Valentine's Day Theme Night
- 21st - Regular Club Night
- 28th - T&T Grand Prix Workshop (Game Time)

Awana Grand Prix

T&T clubbers can start looking forward to the Grand Prix. Car kits are now 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.

Awana Adopt-A-Club

Our adopted Awana club is in Southern Ghana. The Awana missionaries there are Samuel & Patience Larbi-Eck. They help the Awana clubs there in Ghana, just as our Awana missionary, Mr. Steve Schenk, helps us. There are 108 Awana clubs in Ghana! Any clubber or leader who contributes \$3.50 to help our adopted club will earn a Adopt-A-Club patch to wear on their uniform. First year sponsors get a red patch. 2nd year—blue patch; 3rd year—green patch; 4th year—yellow patch.

Awana Commander College 101

Awana has excellent training available for Leaders, Directors and Commanders, but they just kicked it up a notch. Last month I went up to Streamwood, IL (Chicago area) for Awana's first-ever Commander College 101. This training seminar began Thursday evening January 11th and ended Sunday January 14th. There were about 38 Awana Commanders there. For some of them, this was their first year as Commander, and their first year to ever work in Awana. For others, like my roommate, it was their 16th year as Commander, and 25th year working in Awana.

We were kept busy, from dawn to dusk. We did get to tour Awana headquarters and their warehouse. We also were taken on a tour of downtown Chicago and had an opportunity to do a little shopping.

I got a sneak peak at a new Awana program, called "Puggles." This is a club they are developing for 2 year olds, and features a platypus character. It will be available in the fall of 2007, and will meet the needs of many churches looking for material for their 2 year old class.

More news from Awana includes an update to the Sparks curriculum. This is still in development, and should be ready for fall 2008. An update to the current T&T curriculum will be available fall 2007. The content of the T&T books will not change much—mostly some rearranging will occur, so that more verses are reviewed, and some of the current verses will move into extra-credit sections (Silver & Gold).

Awana will continue it's commitment to local Awana clubs with Commander College 201 in 2008, and Commander College 301 in 2009. Commanders who participate in Commander College receive a new certification: Ruby Level Certified Commander (CC101), Silver Level Certified Commander (CC201), and Gold Level Certified Commander (CC301).

I learned a lot that I plan to put to good use, and I had a good time fellowshiping with other Commanders. If you get a chance, take a look at the Awana bulletin board outside the Ladies' Lounge. I posted a group photo from the conference.

—Emily Metzger
Awana Commander



Family Fun Festival

Join us for a Family Fun Festival!
Watch the weekly bulletin
for day, times, and other details!





From The Heart Of Marilyn

College Corner

E-Mail From God

Go After Love

“Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it—because it does—1 Corinthians 14:1 (The Message)

Dear Child of Mine,

Lots of people set their sights on some specific goal in life. It’s like they circle a dot on the map of life and then point themselves in that direction. They may not meet their goal, but they spend their entire lives trying.

Some people may not even be aware that they’ve set a goal, but they have. One dot on the map says “Rich,” one says “Popular,” one says “Intelligent,” one says “Rebel,” or one says “Class Clown.” Then every action in their lives is focused on that goal.

Okay, now I want you to circle another dot on the map of your life: “Love.” Point yourself in that direction and go for it as if your life depended on it—because it does! Love the people in your life and love Me. That’s why you’re here. Love is the goal worth going for. Go after love!

Your Loving Guide,
God

Valentine’s Day is a wonderful time to remember that our Father’s love never changes and His heart is always open to receive us. May our college students feel His special love this Valentine’s Day. Our college students would love to receive a loving thought of encouragement from their First Baptist Church family. The wintery days can get cold and long when you are on a campus and a card in their mailbox really will help to pick them up!

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Bo Stanger (University of California-Pittsburgh) 250 University Avenue Longanecker Hall Room 324 California, Pennsylvania 15419 Phone # (513) 328-3081	4/3		

–Marilyn Bowling
College Coordinator



Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



Happy Birthday!



February 11 Jack Wyant

Interpreter Schedule for February

Feb. 4	Maria Miller	Jo Manson
Feb. 11	Robin Chamberlain	Jo Manson
Feb. 18	Robin Chamberlain	Maria Miller
Feb. 25	Jo Manson	Maria Miller

The next **Silent Dinner** will be held on Friday evening, February 2nd at Cincinnati Mills. See you there!

—Maria Miller
Director of Deaf Ministries



Free Valentine's Day Concert



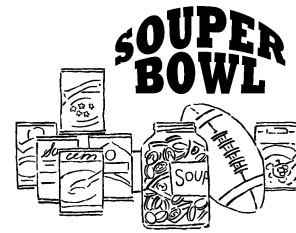
Classical music with a jazz twist, including the two piano version of Gershwin's "American in Paris", will be performed at 12:05 p.m. on Valentine's Day, February 14 on the Midday Music in Oxford series at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main Street. Information: 523-6969.



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.

—Elaine Tragesser
Director of Celebration Ringers



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 will be collecting these items at the doors. Food items will be donated to the New Life Baptist Mission. Money will be divided between New Life Baptist Mission and Serve City. Thanks for your participation!

—Jeremy Spence



Rotary Revels Present



Oklahoma

March 15, 16, & 17 at 8:00 p.m.
March 18 at 2:00 p.m. (sold out)

At Parrish Auditorium
Miami University Hamilton

Tickets are \$15.00
Contact Karen Buchanan
863-1472

Tisha Patton - Vocal Director
Bob Borden - Orchestra Director
Denise Cox - Aunt Eller
Karen Buchanan, Katie Buchanan
Herb Cox, Krys Schramm,
and Iris Patton - Chorus





Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

February 4 - Debbie Miller & Megan
February 11 - Chris & Claire Metzger
February 18 -
February 25 - Rob & Jenny VanMeter

One & Two Year Olds

February 4 - Debbie Allen & Lauren
February 11 - Debbie Allen & Lauren
February 18 - Debbie Allen & Lauren
February 25 - Debbie Allen & Lauren

Kinderchurch

February 4 - Chris & Claire Metzger
February 11 - Brad & Jerri Begley
February 18 - Laurin Sprague
February 25 - Chris & Claire Metzger



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

February 7 - Jeremy's Birthday Dinner

Menu: Spaghetti Casserole, Bread Sticks, Peach Cobbler
Hosts: Parenting Class/CREW

February 14

Menu: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Green Beans, Rolls, Cherry Crunch
Hosts: Chancel Choir

February 21

Menu: Chicken and Dumplings, Peas and Carrots, Fruit Jello, Rolls, Loretta's Texas Sheet Cake
Hosts: Trustees

February 28

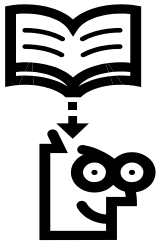
Menu: Roast Pork and Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes, Apple Salad, Dessert
Hosts: Deacons

Reminder: Adults should contribute \$4.00 per person for the meal; 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.

February Greeters

February 4 - Brian Begley, Sharon French, & Kim Gingrich
February 11 - Ken & Barb Hendricks & Katie Hoskins
February 18 - Flo Gill, Sandy Keller, & Mary Petry
February 25 - Dennis Dudley, Mike Moorehead, & Ryan Inloes



Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

You Are Special!!!

Do you know you have something I need? What would you do if you knew you had something that could only make me better? Would you actually figure it out and then use it for the good? Or would you just keep tight and try to hide it so that I cannot be all I can be because of it?

Actually that may happen more times than what we would like to admit in the church, in general, and maybe here at First Baptist. You see, we are all special and gifted for the purpose of serving the church and making it the best place it can be. Will we ever be perfect? Absolutely not but if each part of the body is doing its share we are much healthier than not.

So my question is this; Are you using your gift in the church? Is this body running as smoothly as it can be because you are helping out? Only you can answer that question but I beg and plead you to seriously consider your response before answering.

Need a place to serve and use your gifts? Well I know there are plenty of opportunities in our family for this to happen but let me put a plug in for Student Ministries. After all that is the part of the body I know can use some extra muscle and help.

Before you say you "can't do student ministry" listen to what I have to say. There is no age requirement or too old bracket to effectively minister to a student. In fact all it takes are a couple things. Here is my list of must haves in order to effectively minister to Students at First Baptist Church.

1) Must love the Lord Jesus and want Him to have complete control over you life. This means you are committed to Jesus and seek His will for you life. You aren't perfect but you are trying.

2) You want to see students come to know Christ and be sold out for him. Your heart must be broken for another generation and pray their hearts would be captivated by the Lord.

3) Be willing to learn more each day about God, yourself and students. You can never know enough.

4) Willing to use your gifts in connection with students and willing to be just yourself. Students need someone who will be the person God created them to be and that is it.

Am I looking for you to help in student Ministry? Are you able and willing to do these four things? If so the student ministry here at First Baptist could use you. Come see me for more information and get the ball rolling on using your gifts for the Lord with regards to students.

Be God's,
Jeremy

UPCOMING EVENTS:

4th: After the morning service we will be collecting money for the Souper Bowl of Caring drive. Canned goods will be collected as well at that time. The funds will be split between two organizations this year that help serve people in Hamilton. There is more information elsewhere in the Courier.

4th: CREW Super Bowl Party at the Moorehead's. Things will start around 6pm. No cost but you will need to bring a drink or snack item to share.

9th and 10th: Jr High Tubing Outing at Perfect North Slopes. Cost will be around \$10 per person. We leave in the evening and return to the church around 2am on Saturday. Pick up will be at 8am for parents to get their Jr Higher.

11th: Small Groups will resume. There will be a 7th-8th grade group, 9th-10th, and 11th and 12th. Get ready to join us for this great time.

21st: Youth Ministry Team meeting in board room at 5:30pm. to discuss Intentional Outreach and Connecting with our Teens.

23rd-25th: Sr High Only event up to Columbus for the ABC/Ohio State Youth Convention. We will leave the church around 6pm on Friday and return Sunday afternoon. Cost \$75 per person and that includes everything you will need for the weekend, food, lodging, and a t-shirt. Plan now and start saving for this great event. This year's theme is Pirates. A \$25 deposit is due on February 11th. There is no refund after this time. Pick up your registration from Jeremy as soon as you know you can go.

24th: For you ladies unable or want to attend the Sr High Youth Convention there will be the Beth Moore Simulcast here at church. Times can be found elsewhere in the Courier. You won't want to miss this if you are around.

March 2nd and 3rd: Senior High Ski Outing to Perfect North Slopes. Cost will be around \$20 per person. We will leave around 9:30pm and return early morning. Pick up or leave from church will be around 8am.





Mr. Snowman

For some, winter time is a fun time
With sledding and ice skating
on the frozen ponds.
The building of forts and of course
the most wonderful of all,
The building of Mr. Snowman
standing his guard so tall.
What a delight to see the Old Gent
on the front lawns,
The smile on his face seeming
to say—"This time is mine."

Then winter gives way to spring
with its beautiful scents.

What a pity and sadness, when the sun
sends down its warm rays on the Old Gent.
with his eyes so big and head slightly bent
He starts to slip away and slides to his knees,
And finally gives in and sinks to the ground
With that look of glee awaiting
another winter to roll around.
So once again on the lawns he can be found
Standing his guard for all to see.

Then one winter morning you throw open
the drapes and look out in amazement to see
The Old Gent standing there once again so pleased.
With a glint in his eye and a crooked smile
He takes up his stand on the front lawn,
As if he were there all the while and never gone.
What a joyful sight once again to behold
The Old Gent standing his guard so brave and bold.

—Written by Bettie Carmack in 1972

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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.

Not Alone

A gentle wind blows, from whence does it come?
The seasons fade, yet what orchestrates the passing of
time?
When I feel the warmth of the sun, I know I am not
alone.

What makes dirt unclean—the perceptions of our mind?
For whence do they come?

The most amazing things in the world are those over
which man has not control
For these are directed by the Unseen.
A man can plant a tree and tend it
Yet what is it that allows it to grow?
Who inscribed the laws of nature into the world?
There can only be one answer—
I know I am not alone.

Whereas the frivolity of life passes away,
The creations of the Unseen never truly change.
There is more wonder in the beauty of one leaf,
One tree.
Time can't take that away.

Everything is within our grasp,
Understand waiting to be unlocked,
Perhaps the key lies in the Unseen,
For I know I am not alone.

The skies are like eternity,
Endless and lovely, untainted and pure,
For until we have lived in eternity
Can sin darken its doors?

—By Lindsey Leanne Jones,
16 year old grand-daughter of
Florence and Ralph Jones



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

February 2007

4 Souper Bowl Sunday
 9:15 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship
 4:45 Women's Council
 5:15 Youth of Praise
 6:00 CREW Super Bowl
 6:00 KingsKids
 6:00 Cherub Choir
 6:00 Evening Celebration
 6:00 Small Groups

11
 9:15 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship
 12:00 Childcare Dinner
 4:30 Board of Missions
 5:15 Youth of Praise
 6:00 KingsKids
 6:00 Cherub Choir
 6:00 Evening Celebration
 6:00 Small Groups

18
 9:15 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship
 12:00 AB Girls
 4:30 Diaconate
 5:15 Youth of Praise
 6:00 KingsKids
 6:00 Cherub Choir
 6:00 Evening Celebration
 6:00 Small Groups

25
 9:15 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship
 4:00 CE Board
 5:15 Youth Choir
 6:00 KingsKids
 6:00 Cherub Choir
 6:00 Evening Celebration
 6:00 Small Groups

5

12

19

26

6
 9:30 MOPS Steering

13
 10:00 Holloway Circle
 7:00 Abell Circle
 7:00 Smith Circle

20
 9:30 MOPS-Pamper Fair

27

7
 5:00 ABW
 5:30 "Biggest Loser"
 6:00 Family Dinner
 6:30 Awana T&T Store
 6:30 Lifeline
 6:30 Celebration Ringers
 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer
 6:45 Carpenter's Hands
 8:00 Chancel Choir

14
 5:30 "Biggest Loser"
 6:00 Family Dinner
 6:30 Awana-Valentine
 6:30 Lifeline
 6:30 Celebration Ringers
 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer
 6:45 Carpenter's Hands
 8:00 Chancel Choir

21
 5:30 "Biggest Loser"
 5:30 YMT
 6:00 Family Dinner
 6:30 Awana
 6:30 Lifeline
 6:30 Celebration Ringers
 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer
 6:45 Carpenter's Hands
 8:00 Chancel Choir

28
 5:30 "Biggest Loser"
 6:00 Family Dinner
 6:30 Awana
 6:30 Lifeline
 6:30 Celebration Ringers
 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer
 6:45 Carpenter's Hands
 8:00 Chancel Choir

1
 9:30 Ladies Bible Study
 5:30 Music & Worship
 6:30 Ladies Bible Study

8
 9:30 Ladies Bible Study
 5:30 Board of Trustees
 6:30 Ladies Bible Study

15
 8:30 Matthew 25
 9:30 Ladies Bible Study
 6:30 Ladies Bible Study

22
 9:30 Ladies Bible Study
 6:30 Ladies Bible Study

2
 9:00 KeenAgers to Cedarville University to see *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*

9
 Jr. High CREW to Perfect North Tubing

16

23
 6:00 Sr. High CREW Only to Columbus for ABC/OHIO State Youth Convention

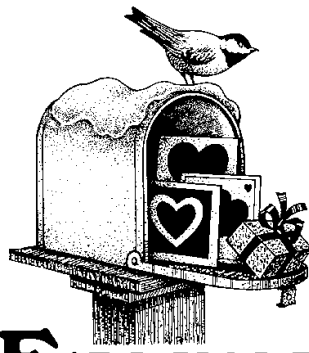
3
 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering

10
 Jr. High CREW Tubing at Perfect North

17

24
 9:30 Continental Breakfast
 11:00 Beth Moore Simulcast

 Sr. High CREW Only
 Columbus for ABC/OHIO State Youth Convention



FEBRUARY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | | | | | |
|------|--|---|---|--|--|
| 1 - | Sophie Wallace
Geneda Cox | Adam Davidson
Ken Hendricks
Richard Law | 26 - | Rosemarie Emrick
Amie Gard
Allyson Payne | |
| 2 - | Mike O'Hara | | 27 - | Nikolas Acus
Betsey Kelly
Flo Gill
Helen Mullen | |
| 3 - | Sharon Brewer
LeiLing Brown
Mary Brown
Pastor Metzger | 13 - | Chelsea Bowman
Kaye Haberthier
Beulah Hampton
Lauren Keith
Cynthia Nabors | 28 - | Gerry Retherford |
| 4 - | Jacob Metzler | 14 - | Noah Hampton
Sandy Morris
Nellie Wardlow | | 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. |
| 5 - | Garry Day
Stephanie Mullins
Jeremy Spence | 16 - | Debbie Gibson | | |
| 6 - | Reva Hensley | 17 - | Daniel Gabbard
Rachel Harris
Everett Hoskins | | |
| 7 - | Betty Powell
Kasey Jenkins | 18 - | Jonathan Bell
Eric Dietrich | | |
| 8 - | Chrissy Apgar
Betty Emenaker
Lainey Hanna | 19 - | Emily Miller | | |
| 9 - | Rosie Smith
Cleo Tiernan | 20 - | Cledith Humbach
Cathi Thomas | | |
| 10 - | Matthew Farris | 22 - | Rodney Anderson
Steve Cain | | |
| 11 - | Gene Campbell
Suzanne Garver
Richard Jackson | 23 - | Bettie Carmack
Miyoshie Jenkins
Jill O'Hara | | |
| 12 - | Carol Dawson | 25 - | Chris Forrest | | |

Personal Notes



From Norb & Helen Baker

We truly appreciate the many anniversary cards from so many dear friends. God has richly blessed us and we see His hand in our lives daily. He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us.

From Bettie Carmack

Thank you so much for the many cards, calls, and especially your prayers regarding my recent eye surgery.

From Ron and LaVerne Gerth & Family

LaVerne and I want to thank our church family for their prayers and support in the passing of our dear brother-in-law, Glenn Farner. Glenn and his family were so pleased and thankful for the card with so many signatures praying for him during his illness with cancer. It means so much to have brothers and sisters in Christ praying and lifting each other to the Lord when they are hurting for whatever reason.

From Alma Holmes

Thanks to everyone for the cards, prayers, the deaconesses visits, and the carolers led by Brad and Linda Hoover and also the can of cookies. May God bless all of you.

From Megan Miller

I would like to thank everyone who prayed for me when I was having my surgery in December. I appreciated the cards as well and it encouraged me to get better. I especially want to thank my best friend, Amy Wallace, for calling me the night before my surgery. It meant a lot to me. Thanks again!

P.S. Thanks for praying for my grandma Betty. I really miss having her home and I'm sure she's making fast recovery.

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.

Bailey, Paul & Nicole

728 Gordon Smith Boulevard # 4
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
Phone # 513-288-1037

Bowling, Deron

1388 Oakmont Drive
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
Phone # 885-8817

Profitt, Anna

2401 Queen Mary Lane
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
Phone # 863-3377

Spence, Jeremy

Phone # 374-4742 (Has cell phone only)

Stinson, Eric & Christy

728 Gordon Smith Boulevard # 3
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
Phone # 513-642-6892

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
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