

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

March, 2007

Trust And Gratitude

Choose life, then, so that you are your descendants may live, in the love of Yahweh your God, obeying his voice, holding fast to him; for in this your life consists.

—Deuteronomy 30:19-20

A life of faith is a life of gratitude—it means a life in which I am willing to experience my complete dependence upon God and to praise and thank him unceasingly for the gift of being. A truly Eucharistic life means always saying thanks to God, always praising God, and always being more surprised by the abundance of God's goodness and love. How can such a life not also be a joyful life? It is the truly converted life in which God has become the center of all. There gratitude is joy and joy is gratitude and everything becomes a surprising sign of God's presence.

Whenever Jesus says to the people he has healed: "Your faith has saved you," he is saying that they have found new life because they have surrendered in complete trust to the love of God revealed in him. Trusting in the unconditional love of God: that is the way to which Jesus calls us. The more firmly we grasp this, the more readily we will be able to perceive why there is so much suspicion, jealousy, bitterness, vindictiveness, hatred, violence, and discord in the world. Jesus himself interprets this by comparing God's love to the light. He says:

. . . though the light has come into the world, people have preferred darkness to light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, to prevent his actions from being shown up; but whoever does the truth comes out into the light, so that what he is doing may plainly appear as done in God.

Jesus sees the evil in this world as a lack of trust in God's love. He makes us see that we persistently fall back on ourselves, rely more on ourselves than on God, and are inclined more to the love of self than to love of God. So we remain in the darkness. If we walk

in the light, then we are enabled to acknowledge in joy and gratitude that everything good, beautiful, and true comes from God and is offered to us in love.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen
Show Me The Way

His Touch

When Jesus touched things . . . they changed.

He touched the lame
And they could walk.
He touched the dumb
And they could talk.

He touched the sick
And made them well.
His touch sent demons
Into hell.

He touched the deaf
And they could hear.
He touched the blind;
Their eyes were clear.

He touched the lepers
And made them clean.
He touched the dead;
They rose again.

But the last thing He touched—
Two pieces of wood
In the shape of an old rugged cross
Was His greatest change;
His greatest gift:
Forgiveness of sin for a world that was lost.

—Florence Jones

Baby Layettes

Due to the inclement weather in February, we are still collecting baby items for the layettes. If you see a bargain, please bring it in and give it to Bertha Campbell or 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

March Missionary of the Month:

Thailand
Kim Brown

Kim oversees five Christ-like ministries for tribal people who are coping with the problems caused by AIDS, disabilities, and migration from their traditional villages to urban slubs. Kim led a team of tribal people to develop an internationally acclaimed approach to HIV/AIDS education. She and her team seek ever-new ways to meet the needs of tribal peoples in the name of Christ.

Bible Book of the Month Ezra

“O Lord God of Israel, you are a just God what hope can we have if you give us justice as we stand here before you in our wickedness?”

Ezra 9:15 (LB)

Ezra deals with the return of the Israelites to the land of Palestine after their captivity in Babylon. The

temple was begun, finished after many problems, and finally rededicated to the glory of God. The ministry of Ezra is described in some detail, stressing the intercession that he made to God for the wayward people of the restored community.

PRAY for those who suffer hunger, disease, and lack of shelter, and for Christians to become more sensitive to their needs.

—Madge Walters

AB Girls

The Young Women of Hope met on Sunday, February 18th. We presented the Brantingham's with a lovely Spring door wreath for their new home at Berkeley Square. We held a business meeting and made decisions for our March, April, and May meetings. The girls made Valentines to give to a grandparent or a senior neighbor promising to do an act of kindness for them. They are collecting colorful paper products for children ages 4 - 18 that are in the *Mending Hearts* program at First United Methodist Church. If you can help with this project, please put the colorful paper products in a box in the coat room. A really nice lunch was prepared and served by Lauren, Heather, and Barb Keith. Our next meet will be Sunday, March 18th.

Serving in His name,
Marilyn Bowling, Mindy Hazelwood,
Karen Schumm, & Nancy Whipple



The next scheduled Work Day at Matthew 25 will be Thursday, March 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. Your reward for this ministry will be recorded in heaven. Thank you.

—Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham

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GROWING STRONG IN THE FAITH

It is one of my favorite comments from the pen of C. S. Lewis. I read it originally years ago in what became his very popular book, *Mere Christianity*. I stumbled across the paragraph in a book I had received as a gift during the Christmas season just past—*A Year with C.S. Lewis – Daily Reading from His Classic Works*. On Valentine’s Day, this was the passage quoted:

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about him [Jesus]: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool; you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising (sic) nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

During the Sunday School hour since February 11, I have been facilitating a small group study entitled, “*Growing Strong in God’s Family*.” It is the first of three books in the Navigator 2:7 series in personal discipleship designed to strengthen our walk with God. Before we are finished with this first book, we will have explored several foundational issues of our faith. We will...

- Learn how to read and mark Scripture, and record our quiet time with the Lord.
- Prepare and discuss Bible Studies based on the Wheel Illustration:
 - Christ the Center
 - Obedience
 - The Word
 - Prayer
 - Fellowship
 - Witness
- Memorize five foundational Scripture passages that are essential to a growing our faith.

Too often, those who find themselves attending church—even while engaging in its ministries—miss the basics of the faith journey. Occasionally, it is a good thing to return to those foundation stones upon which we are building our faith structure. Failing to seal these truths deep in our hearts causes us to utter (and even worse, believe) the things C.S. Lewis warned about.

In our second session together, we took some time to probe the simple question: “*Are the things spoken of in these foundational verses true? Or are they just “stained glass concepts” that the church talks about, but everyone knows that there is really no touch of reality connected to them?*” That is a key question. Believing the truths of these verses is an absolute must if we are to grow in our faith. Take some serious time to ponder these texts. Allow the Spirit of God to seal their truths deep in your heart. Memorize them, as the members of the group are doing:

Assurance of Salvation

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:11-12

Assurance of Answered Prayer

Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. John 16:24

Assurance of Victory

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. 1Cor. 10:13

From the Pastor's Heart (cont.)

Assurance of Forgiveness

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Assurance of Guidance

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

On the grand scheme of the things, this life God has given us is pretty short. Our lives are totally in His hands, and not a single one of us is guaranteed the next breath we wish to take. Eternity is at our door. Until then, let us strive to better understand the faith we profess. As we enter into this season of Lent, let each of us do all we can to "Grow Strong In God's Family." Let us trust the Lord with all our hearts. And let us labor to bring someone with us when we finally arrive at the throne of grace.

Believing Jesus is who He said He is, and loving you until He calls us home, Pastor

Budget Status Report

The Month of January, 2007

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$64,301
Offerings	<u>38,021</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$26,280)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$63,379
Offerings	<u>38,021</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$25,358)

The Year Through January, 2007

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$64,301
Offerings	<u>38,021</u>
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-The Board Of Trustees

Shh! It's A Surprise!

On Sunday, March 11th, immediately following the morning worship service, the Diaconate will be hosting the **2007 WatchCare Dinner**. Every member of the congregation has been invited to share this fellowship meal and spend a little time with those men and women who are making themselves available to the congregation for nurture, care, and fellowship.

During the moments before dessert, we wanted to make a special recognition of our own Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham.

- On March 8, Bill will celebrate his 80th birthday, and
- On March 10, Bill will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to Christian ministry.

We would like to for the congregation to bring to the service that morning a letter or card of appreciation and congratulations for these great anniversary dates. We plan to have a birthday/anniversary cake for Bill and Bert at the dinner as well.

We hope you will be able to join the diaconate for the WatchCare dinner, and especially that you will take a moment to express your appreciation to these wonderful servants of the Lord.

DON'T FORGET! IT'S A SECRET!

KeenAger March Outing

Our March outing will be to Parish Auditorium to see Rotary Revel's "Oklahoma" Friday, March 16th. We are eating together at The Golden Dragon before the show. For those needing a ride, meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. .

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

—
Serve
the LORD
with
Gladness
—

UPCOMING WOMEN EVENTS

****Ladies, mark your calendars now on April 24th because you are being invited to a Spring Tea. We are in the planning stages now so be watching for more information about this coming event.*

****It is still not too late to be a Big Loser. Join us on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in room 113-114.*

**** Some things in the beginning planning stages are movie nights, craft nights, a Bunco party and a visit to a tea room. Be alert for info coming in the future.*

****If any lady in our church has an idea or suggestion you would like to see sponsored by the Women's Ministry Council please let one of the members know. We are seeking ideas for activities that will honor Jesus Christ, unite us and give us the opportunity to get to know one another better.*

--Women's Council

Are You A Bed Maker?

Depending on how one counts, there are as many as 11 mulch beds around and above the church building. that is a lot of bedding to maintain. Planting flowers is the easy part; it's the watering, weeding, and trimming that can be tough. If you, your family, or a Sunday School Class would like to care for a bed during the upcoming growing season, the trustees would welcome your adoption of a bed of your choice. for those interested the trustees would help fund the reasonable cost of flowers and provide the mulch. you would plant the flowers (on or about Spring Clean-Up Day) and handle the upkeep until winter. See Rod Anderson for details. First come, first serve.



The God of Creation is Lord of My Heart

created by
CELESTE CLYDESDALE

arranged by
DAVID T. CLYDESDALE



Bring your family and friends to this children's musical performed by our KingsKids and witness wonderful truths tucked in this work about God while looking at His handiwork in creation. We'll also learn some lessons in trust, faith, and obedience from Daniel and Noah. If you know someone who needs to hear in a fun and entertaining way, how a life can be transformed by Christ, this would be it! Sunday, April 1st, 6:00 p.m. in the Family Center.

—Ruth Metzger
Director of KingsKids



**Order Easter
Flowers Now**



Although Easter doesn't arrive until April 8th, the deadline for ordering Easter flowers is already upon us! Would you like to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter in recognition of Jesus' resurrection and in honor or memory of a loved one? The cost per plant is \$9.00 for lilies and \$8.00 for hyacinths and tulips. Checks should be made payable to First Baptist Church. Order envelopes are available in the connector or office and must be returned to Marilyn Bowling or Lois Anderson no later than March 4th.





Awana Club

Awana March Calendar Update

- 7 - T&T Grand Prix Workshop (Game Time)
- 14 - T&T Grand Prix
- 21 - Cubbies & Sparks Matchbox Race
- 29 - Mission night with Evon Laubenstein

Awana Grand Prix

T&T Clubbers: If you haven't yet bought your Grand Prix car kit, do it now! They are just \$2 this year! You must turn in your registration form when you buy your car kit. We have new trophies this year, plus Grand Prix participation pins. Our Awana Missionary, Mr. Steve Schenk, will be attending our race! Refreshments will be served during the race. Bring your parents, grandparents, etc...

Awana Adopt-A-Club

Don't forget our adopted Awana club in Southern 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 Leaders

Many hands are needed to decorate & set-up the Family Center in preparation for the Grand Prix. Join me in the gym on Tuesday, March 13. I'll be there from 6 p.m. until it's done (hopefully by 8 p.m.).

—Emily Metzger
Awana Commander



March 11th



First Massed City Handbell Ring

First Baptist Church

March 25, 2007

6:00 p.m.

The time is fast approaching for the gathering of five Hamilton City handbell choirs to unite in ringing. Each choir will have the opportunity to perform a solo selection of their choosing in addition to four mass ring selections. The churches participating are: First United Methodist (Ludlow Street), director Marcia Weygant; Immanuel Lutheran (Main Street), director Pam Stumpf; Trinity Episcopal (N. 6th Street), director Mark Durbin; Zion Lutheran (Front Street) director Randy Runyon; and First Baptist, director Elaine Tragesser.

Our guest mass conductor will be Mr. David Finkam of Dayton, OH. Mr. Finkam holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in Music Education from Capital University in Columbus, OH and Miami University in Oxford, Oh, respectively. Mr. Finkam has directed church choirs since 1956 and this includes over 30 years as a handbell choir director, festival-conference conductor, clinician and handbell consultant. He has also directed the Miami Valley Chamber Wind Ensemble from the fall of 2002 to the spring of 2005. In March of 2004, Mr. Finkam was appointed to and continues to direct the Kettering Civic Band.

This will be our first attempt to unite our churches in participation through the music of English Handbells. Although not all Hamilton Handbell Choirs will be participating, we consider this to be a good representation.

On Sunday, March 25th, we will have approximately 50 guests in our church from approximately 1 p.m. throughout the day. They will be practicing in the sanctuary, dining in our multi-purpose hall, and using our various rooms as dressing rooms in preparation for the concert at 6 p.m. Please note that they will be in a new environment and may need assistance finding appointed rooms, restrooms, etc. Any assistance you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

—Elaine Tragesser
Director of Celebration Ringers

Kiddie Korner

We have had a lot of things to be thankful for this last month, we held our first Child Care Appreciation Dinner in celebration of those that help teach our children and we had a lot of fun planning it :) and we enjoyed the time we spent with all of you. Thank you once again!

Junior Jam At Cedarville Is Coming!!

Junior Jam is fast approaching and we want to know who will be coming to find treasures in the Sphinx! We'll be around on Wednesdays and on Sundays to have people sign up. Last year it was a laugh and we did learn some neat things (and some gross things!) It was worth going.

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.

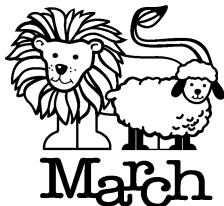
When? Saturday, April 14th. Registration is from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Dixon Ministry Center. Event concludes at 4:00 p.m.

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.

See Brandi, Claire, or Cheryl Motzer for more info.



We are having our Family night on March 24th, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. so keep an eye out for more details. This will be an evening of fellowship and fun. There will be plenty of door prizes and free give-aways! We urge you to come whatever your age and if you want to help (bake cookies, taste cookies, run a game etc) then let us know.

Vacation Bible School

June 18 - 22

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

MIAMI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

2007

Moderator's Dinner

Tuesday, March 20th

First Baptist Church of Middletown
4500 Riverview Drive, 45042

Dinner at 6:15 p.m.

Tickets: \$7.00

Advance reservations required

Reservations due March 8th

Speaker: Rev. Charles Jones
American Baptist International Ministries

Come to enjoy, learn, and be inspired
by our shared ministries locally and
internationally!

Free childcare available for children
(preschool-age 6) during the program time
(7:15-9:00 p.m.) by **reservation only!**



**From The Heart Of
Marilyn**

College Corner

E-Mail From God

Take A Chill Pill

*"In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds,
search your hearts and be silent."* —Psalm 4:4

Dear Child,

Has anyone ever told you, "Just sleep on it"? That's often good advice. Sometimes you'll be so angry about something that you can't see straight. That is not a good time to make a decision. When you are angry, you may blurt out something rude and later think, *I can't believe I said that.*

My advice is, just wait. When you're mad, don't act. If someone is forcing you to make a decision while you're mad, tell them, "I need some time to think about this. Let me get back to you." Then just chill out and pray about it. Ask Me what I think about the situation. Breathe deeply. Count to a hundred. Do whatever it takes to calm down. Yes, you have emotions. But you don't have to be a slave to them. I want you to control your emotions, not the other way around.

Your Peace,
God

—Serving in His name,
Marilyn Bowling,
College Coordinator

**Chancel Choir And Orchestra
Easter Cantata Presentation
Palm Sunday, April 1st
10:30 a.m.**

LOVE . . .
MERCY . . .
HOPE . . .
GRACE . . .
ANGUISH . . .
JOY . . .
VICTORY . . .
HONOR . . .

. . . all are depicted in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was the Word sent from the Father, declaring ever so clearly that

**God
So Loved
The
World**

Camp Kirkland and Tom Fettke offer this musical account of the ministry of Jesus Christ. Thoughtful lyrics and stirring music, featuring a moving narrative of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus, combine to declare that Jesus Christ is the embodiment of God the Father's love for humanity.

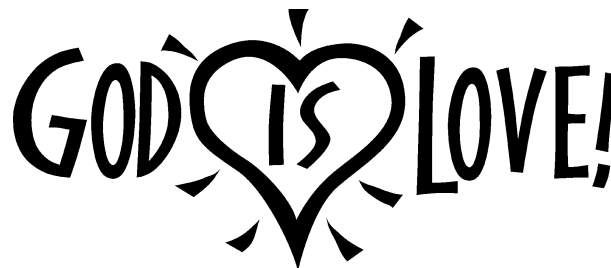
Hallelujah!

--Mike Wallick



Free Tax Service

Provided by IRS approved tax preparers under the supervision of AARP Tax Aide. Bring last years Income Tax returns to Senior Citizen's, C and Ross Avenue between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays. For further information see Gene Howard (887-9415).





Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



The next Silent Dinner will be held on Friday evening, March 2nd, at Kenwood Mall. See you there!

Interpreter Schedule for March

March 4	Maria Miller	Jo Manson
March 11	Robin Chamberlain	Jo Manson
March 18	Maria Miller	Jo Manson
March 25	Robin Chamberlain	Maria Miller

—Maria Miller
Director of Deaf Ministries



Free Piano Recital In Oxford



At 12:10 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14th, at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main Street in Oxford, the Midday Music series presents a free piano recital of works primarily by Chopin performed by the award winning 23 year old Russian pianist Dmitri Shelest. For information call Jack Daugherty - 523-6969.



What a relaxing meeting this month! We hosted our fourth annual Pamper Fair complete with haircuts, eyebrow waxing, massages, manicures and an assortment of delicious food and coffee creations! Local salons donated their time and talents to help our moms enjoy a day of relaxation--after three consecutive snow days we needed it!

Our theme for our March meeting is "I Need . . .", local author and pastor's wife, Georgia Sawhook, will share her new book, From Potty Training to Puberty the PITS with Hugs along the way. Having raised seven children of her own I'm positive that she will be an inspiration and role model for all of us, with some humor tucked in.

We have many fun and exciting events planned! Including a mom's only craft night which we will be making two pairs of earrings, a moms' only dinner and movie night and a mother/child trip to a local paint your own pottery studio. If you are interested in any of these events please give me a call or email me and I will be happy to fill you in on the specifics.

Please remember that if Hamilton City Schools are closed or delayed we will not have our meeting.

Living a life for Him-
Elise Martin
Co-Coordinator

W
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Winter Reminder!

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



Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

March 4 -

March 11 - John & Ruthie Wallace

March 18 - Brian & Barb Begley

March 25 - John & Ruthie Wallace

One & Two Year Olds

March 4 - Debbie Allen & Lauren

March 11 - Debbie Allen & Lauren

March 18 - Debbie Allen & Lauren

March 25 - Debbie Allen & Lauren

Kinderchurch

March 4 - Chris & Claire Metzger

March 11 - Brad & Jerri Begley

March 18 - Rob & Anne Ruwe

March 24 - Rob & Anne Ruwe

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!



Wednesday Family Dinners

March 7 - Pastor Bill's Birthday Dinner

Menu: Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy,
Corn, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Ice Cream

Hosts: Deaconesses

March 14

Menu: Cream of Broccoli Soup and Chicken and
Wild Rice Soup, Grilled Ham and Cheese
Sandwiches, Tossed Salad, Dessert

Hosts: Keystone II

March 21

Menu: Barbecued Chicken, Macaroni Salad,
California Blend Vegetables, Rolls, Dessert

Hosts: Chancel Choir

March 28

Menu: Beef and Noodles, Sweet Potato Souffle,
Cole Slaw, Rolls, Dessert

Hosts: FOCUS

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.

March Greeters

Don Gingrich, Jerry Hampton, and Nancy Follmer



Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

The Next Level

Okay so I am finally sitting down to write this article, and trust me it is getting pretty late. In fact I just glanced at the clock on the computer and it is reading 10:43pm, oh, and the article was due a couple days ago as well, 4 to be exact. So you see, it really is getting late around here. Oh well, such is the life of a youth pastor. Right? Late nights and early mornings, or something like that.

Something really amazing happened tonight that I feel God wants me to share with you. You see, I was going to write about two different states of our hearts; discouragement or the hardened state. However, after CREW tonight it became abundantly and crystal clear to me what God had in mind.

Have you ever had those moments when you knew God was telling you to do something else other than planned? Tonight, and this article, is a prime example of God doing that to me. As we got closer and closer to our lesson time this evening in Lifeline I felt God nudging my heart to go a different route than planned, so obediently, I did. The events that occurred will spur me on to my next level, so here is our lesson.

We asked and challenged ourselves to think about what “being with” someone means. What a great question and I hope you will explore that yourself as time allows, even now. Answers concerning communication, intentional effort, talking on the phone, reading letters and so forth ensued. Issues were raised about how difficult or easy being with someone is and the obstacles we face.

Then the Bible was opened and we read in Mark 3 where Jesus called the 12 disciples “that they might be with him.” We challenged ourselves to think of the call Jesus put out for them and how it is the same call for us today. Jesus wants to be with us personally.

If you are like me this is one of the greatest problems we face. We have so much to distract us, people to see, places to be, and things to do. We love to “multi task” but never learn what it means to just “be with” Jesus. Is that true for you? It is for me on occasions.

Then we stated this very evident truth; we can't give someone something we haven't experienced for ourselves. Maybe that is the problem with our evangelism and outreach efforts, we are trying to give Jesus to someone when we have yet to experience and “be with” Him our self.

I then challenged the teens the same challenge God gave me a couple weeks ago. Will you go to the next level? Each teen is doing what I had to do, evaluate

what that meant and decide what to do. For me, it meant waking up around 7-8am each and every morning (more of a sacrifice than you can imagine when bed doesn't come until 1am.), being in the Word first thing, restarting my prayer journal, focusing more on Jesus each day than I have before. And you know what happened? I have experienced the presence of Jesus and truly I am filled with joy unspeakable.

Afterwards something amazing happened; teens are deciding to go to the next level with me. What about you? The call is simple but the choice is yours.

Fellow traveler on his way to the next level,
Jeremy

UPCOMING EVENTS:

2nd and 3rd: Senior High Ski Outing to Perfect North Slopes. Cost will be around \$20 per person. We will meet at the church around 7:30pm. Forms are available online at www.firstbaptisthamilton.org/youth You need to have both the “group waiver” form and the “permission slip” form to attend. Pick up or leave from church around 8am.

9th-10th: 30 Hour Famine. We will partnering with a couple other churches in the area again this year. Plan now to join us in helping save the lives of others in the world. The fun begins at 6:30pm at First Baptist. I do need adult leaders to help on Friday night and Saturday all day, please let me know if you can help. Also if you would like to donate to the 30 Hour Famine please come see me. All funds collected will be at least doubled by the US Government. For more information please see Jeremy. Schedule and forms can be found at www.firstbaptisthamilton.org/youth.

11th: Diaconate WatchCare Dinner in the evening. Small groups will be canceled. See your small group leader for more information.

21st: Youth Ministry Team meeting at 5:30pm to discuss ideas from our Outreach discussion.

24th: CORE training for all student and adult leaders of the CREW Student Ministries. We will leave the church around 8am and return around 2pm. This training event is put on by Youth Specialties in Mason and is **free**. It will be an awesome time. See Jeremy to register.

24th: Family Fun Festival at the church in the evening. Please see elsewhere in the Courier for more information or Brandi or Claire. This sounds like it will be a star studded evening and you won't want to miss it.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

March 2007

4

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

11

9:15 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship
 12:00 WatchCare Dinner
 4:30 Board of Missions
 5:15 Youth Choir
 5:30 KingsKids
 6:00 Cherub Choir

18

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

25

9:15 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship
 4:00 C.E. Board
 5:15 Youth Choir
 5:30 KingsKids
 6:00 Cherub Choir
 6:00 Handbell Ring
 6:00 Small Group

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
 6:15 Moderator's Dinner
 @ First Baptist in
 Middletown

27

7

5:00 ABW Meeting
 5:30 "Biggest Loser"
 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

14

5:30 "Biggest Loser"
 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

21

5:30 "Biggest Loser"
 5:30 Youth Ministry Team
 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

28

5:30 "Biggest Loser"
 6:00 Family Dinner
 6:30 Awana - Mission Night
 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
 6:30 Ladies Bible Study
 7:00 Small Group

8

9:30 Ladies Bible Study
 5:30 Music & Worship
 5:30 Board of Trustees
 6:30 Ladies Bible Study
 7:00 Small Group

15

8:30 Matthew 25
 10:00 Ladies Bible Study
 6:30 Ladies Bible Study
 7:00 Small Group

22

9:30 Ladies Bible Study
 6:30 Ladies Bible Study
 7:00 Small Group

29

9:30 Ladies Bible Study
 6:30 Ladies Bible Study
 7:00 Small Group

2

7:30 Sr. High CREW to
 Perfect North Skiing

9

6:30 CREW 30 Hour
 Famine

16

5:30 KeenAgers to
 Golden Dragon
 & to Oklahoma

23

30

3

10

CREW 30 Hour Famine

17

24

8:00 CORE training CREW
 Student Ministries in
 Mason
 5:00 Family Fun Night

31



HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

- | | | | | | |
|------|--|------|--|------|--|
| 1 - | Charles Glynn
Derek Hines | 13 - | Elaine Tragesser | 24 - | Lisa Witmer
Brian Martin
Jared Morris |
| 2 - | Edward Allen
Katie Ford | 14 - | Christopher Arnold
Stephen Campbell
Charlotte Furginson
Elinor Macko
Lauren Schwab | 25 - | Ryan Inloes
Nick Wilson |
| 3 - | Adam Begley
Rich Hazelwood
Cameron Jenkins
Kelley Taylor | 15 - | Oakley Wardlow | 26 - | Bertha Campbell |
| 4 - | Jerri Lenehan | 16 - | Rob Ruwe
Barbara Perkins-Salcedo | 27 - | Taylor Emenaker
Freida Tuley
Lee Trent Yates |
| 5 - | Jim Baker
Bruce Helton
Janet Messer
Anne Ruwe | 17 - | Miranda Gabbard
Gary Hetterich
Emma Imhoff
Grant Johnson
Durb Tuley | 28 - | Michael Shalloe |
| 6 - | Jim Cornett
Brandon Sapp | 18 - | Hank Miller
Lisa Stanger
Jill Saylor | 29 - | Josh Braun
Bob Stanger |
| 7 - | Taylor Schuermann | 19 - | Paul Bryant
Jean Grimes | 30 - | Chris Johnson
Danny Sparks
Katie Hoskins |
| 8 - | Barb Blevens
Bill Brantingham | 20 - | Michelle Harris
Jim Yates | 31 - | Ann Brown
Andrea Thomas
Craig Keller
Janice Russo
Buddy Wallin |
| 9 - | Lauryn Emenaker
Chris Metzger
Keith Wallace | 21 - | Heidi Martin | | |
| 11 - | Betty Dulli
Mikayla Laney
Lynette Moorehead | 22 - | Dwain Brewer
Pat Gingrich | | |
| 12 - | Janet Hazelwood
Debbie Miller
Joey Sackenheim
Dale Titus
Dorothy Wallace | 23 - | Andy Dungan
Kristin Fryer | | |

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 Bud Braun

Just a note of thanks for the many cards, visits, phone calls and the prayers of God's people on my behalf during my recent surgery. I am feeling better and getting stronger each day. Thanks to Pastors Den and Bill for their many visits. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

From Bettie Carmack

I would like thank everyone for all of the many beautiful cards that I received for my birthday.

From Philip Dudley

Thank you for your generosity in helping me get to the Urbana Missions conference. It was truly an amazing experience for me. God was certainly there working in students hearts and lives and I know He encouraged me in the direction I've seen Him leading me. The next clear step for me in God's plan for my life is graduating from Cedarville University this May with a Bachelor's degree in International Studies Social Science. Thank you again for your gift and your prayers.

From Ed Emrick

Would like to thank all my friends and members at First Baptist for all the prayers and cards during my surgery. I am in rehab now which is going slow. hope to be back at church soon.

From Lucille Lancaster

Thank you so much for all your prayers, cards, phone calls, and concerns for me during my time of anxiety waiting for the results of my recent CT Scan. I know God heard your prayers. I am so thankful the resulting diagnosis was diverticulosis when it could have been more serious. No matter the result, I know our Lord Jesus Christ is always right there beside us. Thank you all.

From Sandra McCartney

Thank you for all the cards, calls, thoughts, and prayers for my mother, Betty Gilbert, at the time of her illness and homegoing to her Lord.

From Pat Miller

Thank you more than I can tell you for the visits from Pastor Brantingham and Pastor Den when my mother had her surgery this past December. She was in Middletown Regional Hospital facing serious surgery at 91 years and your visits meant so much to her and to me. Also, thank you for all the prayers, calls, and cards received in her behalf. It is a blessed thing when your church family stands by you in time of crisis. Even though we are not there in the winter, we appreciate and think of you. Thankfully, she is doing well at this time and is in residence in Hawthorne Glen Assisted Living.

From Bob & Thelma Stanger

Bob and I want to thank our church family for the loving concern which was extended to us during our recent surgeries and recuperation time. The prayers, card, telephone calls, and visits were greatly appreciated. It is a joy to the heart to be part of such a loving and caring fellowship of believers.

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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