

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

October, 2007

Do You Hear The Call?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: *"When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."*

What a graphic summary of discipleship! It is the call for us to die to self and sin. It is the demand that we be willing to suffer for what we believe. Occasionally it has been the call to die physically for the Lord Jesus.

"How dare anyone make such a radical demand of his followers!" an outsider might protest. And here is the answer a Christian gives: "He is entitled to make such a demand because he has already done as much for us."

Jesus' incomparable life and willing death were both founded on trust in his Father. He knew the absolute trustworthiness of the Father from eternity. God's purposes would not be defeated, and his words could not fail. Therefore God the Son obeyed every part of the will of God the Father.

The resurrection was the ultimate vindication of Jesus' trust in his Father. He knew the absolute trustworthiness of the Father from eternity. God's purposes would not be defeated, and his words could not fail. Therefore God the Son obeyed every part of the will of God the Father.

When Christ called you to be his follower, he did not call you to pleasantries and politeness. He called you to join with him in doing battle against the spiritual forces of darkness that war against our souls. He called you to step into the breach so that the battle for what is holy, just, and pure can be pressed forward on Planet Earth.

How seriously you take this call will depend largely on how earnest a faith you have in God's promise. What looks hopeless by human standards is easy enough for God. So when the call is clear for you to take a disciple's stand to confess Jesus or to act with ethical integrity, measure your odds by the divine scale rather than a human one.

One writer recently said, "We are producing millions of consumers of religion, but consumers of religion are a far cry from true disciples." His statement is so correct that it is embarrassing. Perhaps more of us need to decide whether we are "consumers of religion" or real disciples.

He is calling you to come and die. Can you hear the call?

—Rubel Shelly
LoveLines

Letters from Dad

Words of Faith, Hope, and Love *Unlocking the Hearts of Fathers*

"Turning the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers..." Malachi 4:6

The Big Question?

Men—If God were to take you home today, what would your wife and children hold in their hands tomorrow that would let them know that they were the treasures of your life? The right answer..

Letters from Dad

After the beginning of the year, the men of our congregation will be invited on a journey... a journey to leave a legacy of Faith, Hope, and Love through the lost art of letter writing.

Our journey will take us through the lessons on learning to write five specific types of letters. We will learn what it means to give our blessing to our wives, children, and grandchildren. In addition we will:

- Learn to write and say the things we have always wanted to say, but just didn't know how.
- Leave treasured letters of love that will be read long after we are gone.
- Learn to speak and write these blessings to our families.
- Build deep and lasting relationships with other men in the "Legacy Group."
- Store, in letter form, the only 3 things that remain: Faith, Hope, and Love.
- Finally, we will deliver our letters to those we love.

This "Legacy Adventure" will be scheduled after the beginning of the year. I hope that you will look forward to blessing your family in this tangible way. Watch future *Couriers* for developing details. —Pastor



American Baptist Women's Ministries



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

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

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

Please bring in your filled box by Wednesday, November 7th. Here is a list of suggested gifts you can use in your box.

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

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

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

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

Do NOT include the following:

Used Items

War-related Items

Chocolate or Perishable Food Items

Liquids

Medicines: vitamins, cough drops, ointment, etc.

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

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

Missionaries for the Month of **October:**

- Thailand
- Jeff & Annie Dieselberg
- Thailand
- Karen Smith

Bible Book of the Month II Samuel

"My God is my protection, and with Him I am safe."
II Samuel 22:3 (TEV)

The book is the history of David's reign as king over Judah, then over the whole nation, including Israel. David is shown to be a man of deep faith and devotion to God and one who was able to win the loyalty of His people. When he is confronted with his sins, he confesses them and accepts the punishment that God sends.

PRAY for those who suffer from hunger, disease, and lack of shelter—and for Christians to respond to their needs.

—Madge Walters

ABW Miami Association Fall Rally

Saturday, October 6, 2007

9:00 Registration and Fellowship

9:30 Business Mtg. and Program

12:00 Lunch - Adults \$6.50, Students \$4.00

Location: Immanuel At Lakewood Baptist Church

4008 Western-Northern Blvd.

Cincinnati, OH 45211

Speaker: Tina Breitenbach, First Baptist, Middletown

Music: Joyful Noise Dulcimer Group, First Baptist, Hamilton

Theme: "Come to the Edge!" Joshua 1:9

Reservations by October 1, 2007 to Lillie Wilson 868-1585, or Anna Russell 858-2335

Women's Day Luncheon

The women of the church are invited to the Women's Luncheon at the Annual Gathering of American Baptist Churches of Ohio. The luncheon will be Thursday, October 18th, at 11:00 at the Cincinnati Marriot, 9664 Mason-Montgomery Road, Mason, OH. Cost is \$13.00. Kim Brown, missionary from Thailand, will be the speaker. Contact Lillie Wilson, 868-1585, for reservations.



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Rethinking the Mission of the Church

This summer, I picked up a book by Milfred Minatrea entitled *Shaped By God's Heart: The Passion and Practices of Missional Churches*. It is part of the Leadership Network series written by skilled practitioners of the ministry of the church in today's culture. Carol Davis, a consultant to mission leaders around the world commented about the book: "*Minatrea has distilled the essence of what it means to be a missional church...an insightful summarization and articulation of distinctive practices that can be the launch pad for every courageous church leader who wants to bring Kingdom impact to their world both locally and globally.*" That is another way of saying that Minatrea has given a lot of thought about the way we are to "do church" in our American culture today, and has some insightful things to share with the Christian community.

The planning team for ABC/Ohio's 182nd Annual Gathering was sufficiently challenged by Minatrea's reflections in his book to invite him to serve as the keynote speaker in October. It should definitely be a worthwhile investment of our time and energy to attend the annual conference this year, especially since it is being held nearby at the Cincinnati Marriott Northeast in Mason. In the paragraphs that follow, I have distilled the essence of some of his thinking. Read it carefully and determine if there is something there of value for First Baptist to consider as we serve our Lord.

Minatrea observes something that we have all come to know about the church: Once taking their place at the center of community life, churches have moved to the edge of that community life and have become increasingly irrelevant. People are still interested in spiritual life; but they have lost interest in the church. As a result of this shift, most churches today are focused on survival in a consumer culture looking for the church to provide goods and services. He challenges the Christian community to rediscover God's mission in this world.

Minatrea defines a Missional Church as "*a reproducing community of authentic disciples, being equipped as missionaries sent by God, to live and proclaim His Kingdom in their world. There is church because there is mission; not the other way around. In other words, the church exists for mission.*" When the church loses track of its mission, and instead looks only to its own survival, it will soon be irrelevant in a world looking for answers.

The missional church cannot accomplish its calling through the attention of only a few attentive staff members. With the challenge of God's mission on the table, the church must enlist the involvement of every member. The missional church places a high value on those who are a part of the community of faith.

The problem with the church is that we bring our idea of membership from the world into the church ministry. Being a member of the church is not the same as being a member of Blockbuster Video or Sam's Club. Membership in the missional church is not a casual thing. Membership defines who can be counted on to participate in the mission God has given us. A person committed to Christ's mission stands in stark contrast to a culture that is not committed to anything of eternal value.

In a missional church, church members have learned the value of being committed to one another. The church is a place where it is expected that members will invest their passions, their service, their resources, and their relationships. In return, the church itself will enable the members to encounter God, to be cared for in times of need by people they can trust, and get people connected with others with whom they can enjoy the journey.

In describing the practices of missional churches, Minatrea lists nine which stand out as essential. Missional churches...

1. Place a high value on a committed and energized membership;
2. Encourage people to be real, not real religious;

(Continued...)

From The Pastor's Heart (continued)

(Missional Churches...)

3. Teach people to obey the precepts of Scriptures, rather than just to know them;
4. Strive to make worship meaningful and relevant every week;
5. Live apostolically—they realize that they have been sent into the world to act on the Lord's behalf;
6. Expect to change the world;
7. Order their ministry and activity according to the purpose to which the Lord has called them;
8. Measure their growth by their capacity to release men and women into the world to make a difference, not to retain them in the confines of the church walls;
9. Finally, out of all the activities in which Christians can get involved, missional churches strive to place kingdom concerns first.

Shaped By God's Heart: The Passion and Practices of Missional Churches has been a challenging book. I have prayed that God would enable us to think through some of these issues in the days ahead. To that end, I invite you to join me in attending the Annual Gathering of our American Baptist Churches of Ohio on October 18-20 in Mason. I know that God is ready to challenge us to become more passionate about our love for Him and more effective in our service for Him and His Kingdom.

Joining you in thinking "missionally,"
Pastor

ABC/Ohio Annual Gathering Keynote Speaker, Dr. Milfred Minatrea October 18-20 in Mason

Milfred Minatrea is *founding* director of the Missional Church Center and author of *Shaped By God's Heart: The Passion and Practices of Missional Churches*, published by Jossey-Bass. He has also written numerous articles on the church's role in God's mission and served as contributing author and editor of *Hands on Ministry*, which equips laypersons in pastoral care skills for effective ministry. As director of the Missional Church Center, Minatrea coaches churches and individuals in their quest to live God's mission, leads experiential seminars exploring the missional culture and spiritual formation for authentic discipleship, networks church leaders who are journeying toward a missional posture, and joins them as a fellow learner in Christ's mission.

Experienced in church consultation, Minatrea has assisted more than 1400 churches of varying denominations in clarifying vision and developing strategies to advance their accomplishment of God's path from current reality toward His preferred future. A communicator of the Good News, he has served numerous churches as interim pastor helping them find fresh direction for ministry during periods of transition.

As a missiologist and urban ministry practitioner, Minatrea previously served in Executive Staff positions with Baptist General Convention of Texas and Dallas Baptist Association. Prior to serving in those ministries, he was senior pastor of churches in Texas. Minatrea earned a Doctor of Ministry in Missions Administration from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Minatrea enjoys walking the streets of the world's urban centers, finding wonderful "hole in the wall (mom and pop) restaurants," playing a rather poor game of golf, and reading. He is married to Pam and they have three adult children and five grandchildren. Beyond loving his family, he is passionate about *being real* as a disciple of Jesus and walking with others on that journey.

ABC/Ohio Annual Gathering Missionary Guest Kimberly Jo Brown, American Baptist Missionary Serving in Thailand

Kim's work includes overseeing 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 slums. Lack of land and employment has forced people from rural areas to cities to find work. They are often exploited on the job, and are at risk for being infected with the AIDS virus.

The Thailand Karen Baptist Convention sponsors these ministries. The Health Project for Tribal People, an AIDS education and home care program, provides AIDS and health education in five tribal languages. Teams travel to villages, supporting families and churches as they minister to those living with AIDS.

The House of Love is a home for women and children affected by AIDS. This includes women who had been sold into prostitution, AIDS orphans, and children taken out of their homes by the Social Welfare Department because of abuse. Many of the residents do not have Thai citizenship and have few rights in Thailand.

The Community-Based Rehabilitation Project reaches out to families who are caring for disabled in tribal villages. The disabled are often hidden away. This project is designed to help the disabled reach their full potential and be accepted within their families and communities. The House of Blessing Day Care Center provides a safe place for slum children to come during the day. It prepares children to enter Thai schools, and also works to strengthen their families. The Chiang Mel Tribal Youth Center works with youth as they migrate to the city and with churches ministering to tribal people living in urban areas.

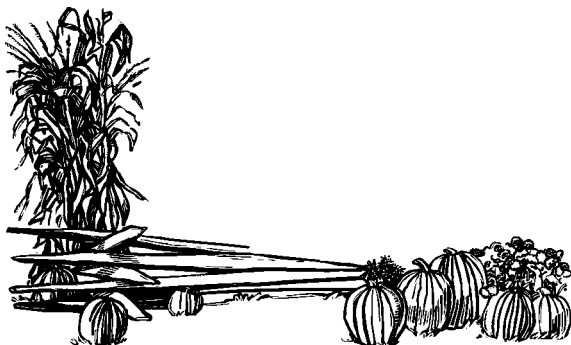
To register for the 2007 Annual Meeting of the ABC/Ohio, please check in with the church office for registration materials, or visit the ABC/Ohio website, <http://www.abc-ohio.org>.

Sunday Evening Leadership Video Series

On the second Sunday of each month, 2007-2008, during our usual evening services, we will have the opportunity to participate in a series led by men and women who are being powerfully used of God to make a difference in the lives of others. These video presentations are available to us through our Church Communication Network Satellite ministry. I hope that you will reserve these Sunday evenings October-November; January-May.

The next video in this series is scheduled for October 14 at 6:00 PM. The video is entitled "*Revolutionary Parenting*" and is led by George Barna, Director of the Barna group. This presentation will assist parents and grandparents establish a positive influence with the children in their care.

On November 11, Bob Coy and Joseph Stowell will present their challenge, "*Creating a Culture of Generosity in Your Church.*" This presentation will assist us in thinking about our role in Christian stewardship.



God Is Still Working Miracles! (God Works Through His People)

We would hope that none of you tire of hearing Maxine & I testify about the goodness of GOD's works with us through First Baptist Church of Hamilton and it's people. Please indulge us in yet another testimony. If you wonder why I use dates in this testimony it is to show that the LORD does not take forever to work his miracles with and for us.

On Wednesday August 29, 2007, Maxine & I visited her orthopedic surgeon. We were expecting him to give us a schedule of upcoming surgeries needed to replace her right hip, left knee and surgery on both hands to relieve trigger finger and carpal tunnel syndrome. Instead he said that we should seek long term pain management therapy. The reasoning is that he could not perform surgery on the knee without negatively impacting the hip. The same went for the hip replacement as to the negative impact on the spine. The hand surgery would only tend to cause more misery than help since she had both of these surgeries in New Orleans. Maxine's diagnosis is that she not only has severe arthritis but she suffers from severe degenerative bone disease. So now we had to start thinking of alternative ways for Maxine to have relief from pain as well as a way to function on an everyday basis. If there was ever a time for prayer and guidance, this was it.

We have been shown vividly from hurricanes Katrina and Rita, that if we trust in GOD no matter what his will, he will guide us. All we need to do is obey his will. We prayed that GOD would show us his will. Whatever he willed us to do we would do it.

On Thursday, August 30, 2007, we were led to check into getting a power wheel chair and a stair lift so that Maxine could be mobile inside the house as well as outside. After lots of prayer and checking with several medical equipment suppliers we found that our insurance company would cover a portion of the power wheelchair cost and none of the cost of a stair lift. This meant that we would have to come up with \$4500.00 to \$5500.00, cash, to get the equipment needed to retrofit the house and get the type of chair she needed.

(Continued on back of page)

It would also take from 3-6 months to get her qualified to get the type of power chair she needed. Those of you that have faced these situations know exactly what we were facing. Since we do not have this type of resources available my solution was to return to work and in time, earn the money needed. Then GOD continued to work!

On Friday, August 31, 2007, Maxine and I were having our morning coffee and suddenly Maxine said, "What is wrong with you?" I was sitting there holding the telephone and according to her I had a strange expression on my face. I told her that I had this strong urge to call Pastor Bill and update him on your condition. This I did, as I felt this was a message from GOD. When I spoke with Pastor Bill, I relayed to him all the information we had received from the doctor and the medical equipment suppliers. His immediate response was, "I think I can help you with part of that." Not having any idea what he meant, I asked him to explain. He said, "There was a church member that had died some 14 years ago. He and another member had asked the family if they could have his stair lift with the thought of another use for it. When this use did not materialize the stair lift was stored at the church where it remained for the next 13 years." Pastor Bill said that he did not know if it was still there or not but he suggested that we contact Pastor Metzger and ask if it was there if Maxine and I could use it. GOD continues to work. Pastor Den, immediately said he would go and check to see if it was still in the church. He asked that I call him back in 5 or 6 minutes for his answer. He found the stair lift there and said, "If we could come and get it we could have it." This may not seem like much to most of you but to me it was the same as having a CEO of a large company volunteer to go look through the factory warehouse for me instead of delegating such a task. GOD still works through people. I informed Pastor Bill and he made plans to meet me right away at the church. There we were met by George Wade and Curtis Bradbury who helped us get it loaded for transport to our house. Another amazing thing is that George informed us that if we had not picked up the stair lift he was going to clean out the room and get rid of it in 2 or 3 weeks. The stair lift had only been used once by the owner so it was in great condition. GOD is good!

Pastor Bill also informed me that one of the last items left in the estate of Jack Baker was a power wheel chair. He said that it was a big chair and if I thought Maxine could use it I should call Rod Anderson and see if it was available. Upon visiting Jack Baker's house we found the wheelchair to be exactly what the medical equipment suppliers had said that Maxine needed. I called Rod Anderson that evening and

explained the entire situation to him. He said that the chair was available. He told me what they were asking as an opening bid and then he made me an offer that could have only been inspired by the spirit. We agreed to meet at the Baker house at 10:00am the next day. GOD is still working through his people!

On Saturday, September 1, 2007, Pastor Den, informed me that the men wanted to meet earlier at the house. To my surprise there was Rod Anderson, Dwain Brewer, Ralph Jones and Walter Petry. We loaded the chair, an extra chair that Jack kept for parts, a bed lift, and a battery charger and also included were portable ramps needed to transport the chair. GOD will supply your every need! In four days GOD answered our prayers and blessed us beyond our every expectation through Jesus Christ his son, his church and his people.

Maxine and I would like to offer a special word of praise and thanks, first to GOD, the special men he chose to do his work; Pastor Metzger, Pastor Bill, Rod Anderson, Dwain Brewer, Walter Petry, Ralph Jones, George Wade and Curtis Bradbury and to the church as a whole that GOD led us to, First Baptist Church of Hamilton, Ohio. May GOD bless and keep all of you.

Your brother and sister in Christ,
Walter and Maxine Hillman



2007 Taxpayer Tip For Those Over Age 70 1/2

Under the Pension Protection Act, a taxpayer who is **age 70 1/2 or older** may distribute **up to \$100,000** from an **IRA tax-free** to a **qualified charity** in a **trustee-to-trustee transfer** in 2007. The distribution **CAN NOT** go to the taxpayer first & then to the charity - it must go directly to the charity, such as the church. According to the IRS, these **qualified charitable distributions** will be shown on Form 1099R with a code 7 as a normal distribution. The entire distribution should be reported on Form 1040, line 15a and the taxable amount (if any) should be reported on line 15b. **QCD** should be entered next to line 15b.

-Linda Gibbs



Pastor Appreciation Month

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

The nature of the service provided by pastors and their families is unique. God has entrusted to them one of the most precious of assignments—the spiritual well-being of His flock.

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

That's why God has instructed us to recognize His servants. *"The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching"* (1 Timothy 5:17).

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

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

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

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

Budget Status Report

The Month of August, 2007

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$70,015
Offerings	<u>42,964</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$27,051)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$58,641
Offerings	<u>42,964</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$15,677)

The Year Through August, 2007

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$494,368
Offerings	<u>394,889</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$99,479)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$462,114
Offerings	<u>394,889</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$67,225)

—The Board Of Trustees

Don't Forget!

If you have borrowed any chairs or tables from church, please remember to return them.

Our Security Is Not Eternal!

Although our salvation is eternally secure, our physical security is not. That is why your help is important. If you believe that you might be one of the last to leave the building, regardless of the time of day or night, please check the door as you exit. Sometimes a door will not close all the way. Test it. Give the door a push, if necessary, and make sure that it latches. Thanks for protecting the church from a loss of security.

—The Board Of Trustees





Awana October Calendar

- 3 Missions Night with Evon Laubenstein
- 7 Awana Leaders & Helpers Meeting @ 5:00
- 10 Regular Club Night
- 17 Awana Store Night—Mini Store
- 24 Regular Club Night
- 31 Awana Harvest Party/Costume Party
Theme: *“All God’s Creatures, Big & Small”*

Awana Store Night—Mini Store

Our first Awana Store Night of the year will be October 17th. This will be a “Mini Store.” Sparks and T&T will be allowed to spend up to 20 Awana Bucks at the store. There will be lots of good stuff at the Awana Store, but clubbers will want to save most of their Awana Bucks for the “big stuff” at the Awana Fair at the end of the year.

Awana Harvest Party/Costume Party

This year’s costume theme is “All God’s Creatures, Big and Small.” You may dress up as a bug, bird, fish, animal, etc... Think of all the wiggling, crawling, flying, swimming and walking creatures that God has made.

Adopt-a-Club



Connecting kids, changing lives

Awana Adopt-A-Club

2 years ago we adopted an Awana club in another country—Ghana. The name of the church that has this Awana club is **Nyangania Bible Church**. Our contributions help this church with the costs of running their Awana club, including helping their clubbers with the cost of their handbooks and uniforms. You can be an Adopt-a-Club sponsor by bringing in \$3.50 (or 50¢ a month for 7 months). Clubbers who become Adopt-a-Club sponsors will get a patch for their uniform. Leaders have the choice between a patch or a pin. Contributions from the church congregation are appreciated, too (I’m sorry, but you won’t get a patch or pin unless you become an Awana leader or helper). To the church members who have contributed in the past, thank you!

Looking ahead to November...

November 7th is “Bring a Friend—Double Bucks” day. This year we’re giving 5 Awana Bucks for bringing a visitor to Awana Club, so on this day, you’ll get 10 Awana Bucks for each visitor you bring. Bringing a friend doesn’t mean they have to come in your car. As long as you invite them to club, and they are able to come, it counts!

--Emily Metzger
Awana Commander



Cherub Choir October 6:00 Schedule



- October 7 - Cherub Devotion & Fellowship Time
- October 14 - Cherub Choir Rehearsal
- October 21 - Cherub Devotion & Fellowship Time
- October 28 - Cherub Choir Rehearsal

Respect Life Sunday Annual Life Chain

October 7th
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Respect Life Sunday is October 7th and the Annual Life Chain, silently praying for an end to abortion and a call to forgiveness will take place on High Street from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. starting at the west end of the High Street bridge filling in eastward as you arrive. Families, individuals, or church groups are invited to stand along both sides of High Street in a prayerful way with a sign facing the street that may say “Adoption Not Abortion” or “Jesus Forgives”, etc. Signs will be available from Linda Davis who will be in front of Elder Beerman on High Street at 1:50 p.m.

--Linda Davis

Fall Back Fellowship

The FOCUS Class will again sponsor the Fall Back Fellowship Sunday, November 4th, from 8:45-9:15 a.m. They will service a light breakfast of muffins, donuts, specialty breads, juice, milk, and coffee. All senior high through adults are invited. Children are welcome when accompanied with an adult.

--Carol Howard
FOCUS Class

Family Fun Fall Festival

Saturday, October 27th
5:00 – 8:00

Dinner (taco buffet), games, entertainment, and crafts provided!

This year we will kick our evening off with Trunk 'n' Treating, held in the lower level parking lot (weather permitting). People young and old may disguise themselves in non-scary costumes! This will provide a safe place for the children of our area and of our church to come and trick and treat. Following the Trunk 'n' Treat, we will move into the church for a talent show, food, crafts, games and outreach. Many countries around the world celebrate Halloween, and as Christians, we want to celebrate this time of year as remembering that Jesus is more powerful than darkness!

To do this we need support from our family – **you!** We would like volunteers to sponsor a trunk, preferably representatives of each of our church's ministries. The idea behind this is to "advertise" our different ministries to visitors of this event. For example, the choir and the deaconesses would each sponsor and decorate a car for the Trunk 'n' Treating. A pamphlet about their ministry and their schedule of events could be attached to the item. Items to be handed out wouldn't need to be candy, but could be goodies such as pencils, notepads, restaurant certificates (those seasonal ones for kids' meals, Frostys, french fries, etc.), snack bags, etc. They will be getting so much candy from other sources! Dr. Miller and mothers everywhere would appreciate it! ☺

We also need willing people to drop leaflets like we did for VBS, game station attendants, dessert donations and talent show participants. If you were ever a child, please think about coming along and helping out, as we would not be the Christian people we are today without the support we had from families when we were young! Please see Claire or Brandi if you have any questions or suggestions, or would like to sign up to help in some way!

In summary, here are the areas in which we need help: game station volunteers, dessert donations, treat donations, publicity team, ministry representatives for each trunk, talent show participants, inviting others by "word of mouth", set-up/take-down helpers.

We need YOU in order to be successful! ☺

Thanks!
Brandi and Claire

New Believers' Class

Our class is drawing to a close. We've had a lovely bunch of girls join us this year. We've been studying what the Bible tells us about God's plan for our lives and we're happy to say that we will be having baptisms later this fall. Stay tuned for a date to be announced soon. Please let the church office know if there are others outside of this class who are interested in participating in baptism.

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



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

Empty Pill Bottle Collection Program

In developing countries, medicines (when available) are dispensed into hands, pockets, handkerchiefs, tin cups . . . any available container. Help improve health care quality in hospitals and health clinics in developing countries by saving basic medical supplies such as empty pill bottles! Then, to help with shipping, drop a nickel, a dime, or a quarter in each bottle.

Empty pill bottles can be placed in the coat room and will then be taken to Matthew 25 on their work day.

Thanks for helping!

–Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham

KeenAger October Meeting

The KeenAgers will be going to LaComedia Thursday, October 11th, to see *The Fantastics*. The cost is \$36.00 per person. We will leave the church at 9:00 a.m.

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



**From The Heart Of
Marilyn**

College Corner



E-Mail From God

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

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

–2 Corinthians 3:2

Dear Child,

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

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

The Author of Your Life,
God

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

–Marilyn Bowling
College Coordinator



What an awesome meeting our moms enjoyed September 18th as we kicked off the new MOPS year! Our attendance included 30 moms, 10 of which were brand new to MOPS–Praise God! All of the moms enjoyed our annual speed meeting, as we were able to get to know a little over half of the moms in attendance. We also were able to enjoy devotion with mentor Lois Anderson. It has been our goal this year that each mom that comes to MOPS instantly recognizes that we are indeed a Christian organization. October's meeting will continue with the MOPS Home Factor theme as we “visit” the playroom. We will welcome a guest speaker from the John Engle Christian Counseling Center to speak on sibling rivalry.

Our outing for the month of October is Thursday, October 25th; we will be visiting a local pumpkin patch.

At Home with Him-
Elise Martin, Coordinator

AB Young Women of Hope

The AB Girls met after church September 9th. Leaders provided lunch and then presented the program, "Come to the Edge." The group learned about the lives of two missionaries, Joanna P. Moore and Amy Carmichael. Lauren Schwartz, president, conducted the business meeting and Amy Wallace, vice president, gave the devotion.

The next meeting will be Sunday, October 21. Sara and Emily Cain will provide the meal. The girls will be bringing items to fill two shoeboxes - one for a boy 2-4 yrs. and for a girl 10-14 yrs. Also each girl will donate a children's book to the Dayton Christian Center.

–Marilyn Bowling, Mindy Hazelwood,
& Nancy Whipple



**MAY GRACE AND PEACE
BE YOURS IN ABUNDANCE.**

1 PETER 1:2, NRSV



Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



Silent Dinners

The **Silent Dinner** for **October** will be held on Friday evening, October 5th, at Cincinnati Mills. See you there!

Interpreter Schedule For October

October 7	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
October 14	Jo Manson	
October 21	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
October 28	Maria Miller	

Happy Birthday



October 3 Lisa Miles
October 4 Maria Miller
October 7 Timur Islambekov
October 27 John Brown

—Maria Miller
Director of Deaf Ministries

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.

Baker, Faye
email: FBaker559@comcast.net
cell phone # 513-315-7856

Wallace, Larry
cell phone # 513-200-1071

Women's Council Mystery Dinner Theater

It's time to put your thinking caps on, and get ready to solve The Treasure Chest Mystery! A chest full of treasure has come up missing from the church, and someone within the congregation is the thief! The mystery will be presented in a dinner theater setting on Thursday, October 25th, and all who attend will have the opportunity to watch our own First Baptist actresses drop mysterious clues about the guilty party. The fun gets underway at 6:30 in the Family Center, and delicious soup, salad and desserts will be served. The cost is just \$6, and reservations will be taken in the connector through October 14th. All women are invited to attend and the evening is sure to offer fun, fellowship, and a look at how each of us can unravel the mysteries of our Lord Jesus Christ, developing a stronger bond with Him in the process. We know you will be blessed as the mysteries of our perfect Lord, are contrasted with the weaknesses of our imperfect humanity. It promises to be an evening you won't soon forget.

Upcoming Women's Ministry Events

October 2 - Craft Night 7 - 9. Participants can decide to decorate either a journal or paper bag album. Cost for materials \$10.

October 25 - Dinner Theater - 6:30 in Family Center. Cost \$6.

Healthy Lifestyle -- There's still time to participate in this special weight loss group. Through fun, fellowship and support you can get rid of those extra pounds. The group meets on Wednesdays at 5:45 at church.

December 6 - Cookie Exchange at Karen Buchanan's. More details in the November Courier

January 2008 - Christian Authors Book Club led by Nancy Follmer and Judy Farris

We also plan to host a Mission luncheon for the John Engle Christian Counseling center this winter, as well as a Conference with a morning speaker and lunch. Details will be in the Courier as we get closer to these events. There will also be a Mother and Daughter Tea on April 26, 2008. (for those who like to plan ahead)

—Women's Ministry Council,
Dale Braun, Lois Anderson, Elise Martin,
Johnny Wallace, Nancy Whipple, Teri Horsley



Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

Upward Basketball

What would it look like to see 150 kids practicing and playing basketball in our gym each week? What would it look like to share the Gospel to 300 people in a matter of months in a non evasive way? Can you picture this in your head? Well, read on and you will see the tremendous opportunity we at First Baptist have.

For a month or so, Josh Metzger along with myself and the Christian Education Board have been exploring the possibilities of bringing Upward Basketball to our church. We were presented with this program with the help of another church in this area in need of a space to host the program. After much prayer and consideration we are looking to be more than a “host site” for this ministry but more of “partners” in ministry this coming year.

Upward Basketball exists to “introduce children to Jesus Christ by creating opportunities to serve through sports.” It is a program that is geared at bringing children and their family in an atmosphere where the Gospel can be presented in a clear way. As I am sure you agree, the sharing of the Gospel is one of the main reasons we as First Baptist exist. Here through Upward Basketball we have a tool to present the Gospel to families coming to our gym in order to allow their children to play basketball in a safe and encouraging atmosphere.

As I am sure you will realize, this needs to be more than just a small group of people “doing” the work or ministry. We will need EVERYONE to help out. This ministry is only a 10 week commitment starting in January and will only ask maybe 3 hours, at most, a week of your time. Those that may not be able to commit for that much are still needed to be praying for this ministry now. We will need people to help in the following areas: promote and pass out flyers, coaches, referees, follow up people, people to give their testimony, devotion leaders, behind the scenes people, gym set up people, organization people, registration, finances, and many more areas. You will be adequately trained to complete any function you sign up for.

If you feel you could be good in any area please let me know. Remember we cannot do anything without prayer so I hope you will join me in praying for Upward Basketball and how God is going to use that here at First Baptist.

Also if your heart is beating to the drum of sharing

Christ with kids through sports and you want to help direct this ministry, please also see Josh Metzger or myself now to get involved. We are looking for someone to make Upward Basketball their ministry for God here at First Baptist Church.

I hope you will take serious what you have read and see what your involvement may need to be. You will be trained in any area you will serve. All you need is a willing heart. Will you allow God to bless you and others through you in this ministry? Will you pray God will raise up people to serve? Will you pray God will prepare the hearts of the kids and parents who will take part of this program? I hope the answer is yes as we seek to further the Kingdom of God by using Upward Basketball this winter.

Shooting for God,
Jeremy

Upcoming Events

Wednesday Nights at 6:30pm: Lifeline. We are continuing to ask questions from the book *Case for Faith* & seeing what the Bible has to say about them. We will ask other questions as we see our faith, the Christian faith, stand up to scrutiny and questions.

Sunday Nights at 6:00pm: Small Groups will resume. John and Ruthie Wallace will be leading our 11th and 12th grade group and you are studying the book *The Case for Christ*. This group meets in the Library; Mike and Dale Braun will be leading the 9th and 10th grade group. You are participating in a study around the movie *Napoleon Dynamite* and meet in rooms 113-114. Jeremy Spence and Linda Davis will be leading the 7th and 8th grade group in room 117 and our discussions always center around the Bible and our lives. See anyone of these small group leaders for more information or questions.

October 20th: The CREW will have their annual Barn Party at Braun's. The fun begins around 7pm and go until 9:30pm. Wear your barn attire, bring two canned foods for soup, and your square dancing shoes. More details may come but plan now to join.

October 24th: Reservations and a \$20 deposit will be needed for the Miami Association Fall Retreats, both Jr High and Sr High. The total cost of the retreats is \$50 per person & includes a t-shirt this year.

November 2nd-4th: Jr High Miami Association Fall Retreat at Kirkwood. *Got a Pulse? If So God Can Use You!!* is the theme this year and it looks like it will be a great time. We will **leave** church at 5:30pm and please eat before you come. We will return Sunday before morning service lets out. You will receive a permission slip and list of things to bring when you pay your deposit on October 24th.



Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

October 7 - Dorothy & Dave Hollowell
 October 14 - Dale & Mike Braun
 October 21 - Jené, Noah, & Michael Krall
 October 28 - Cheryl & John Motzer

One & Two Year Olds

October 7 - Juli & Katie Ford
 October 14 - Johnnie Wallace, Alex & Samuel
 October 21 - Emily Metzger & Erin Gingrich
 October 28 - Jenny & Rob VanMeter

Kinderchurch

October 7 - Brandi Emenaker & Teen Helper
 October 14 - Jerri & Brad Begley
 October 21 - Angie & Ryan Inloes
 October 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 with, please call the following Child Care Coordinators:

Brandi Emenaker - (738-2439)

Claire Metzger - (642-0434)

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



Wednesday Family Dinners

October 4

Menu: Spaghetti Casserole, Tossed Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert
 Hosts: TNT (Seekers)

October 11

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

October 18

Menu: Pork Chops, Scalloped Potatoes, Honey Glazed Carrots, Applesauce, Rolls, Dessert
 Hosts: Keystone I

October 25

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

October 25

Menu: Chicken Noodle and Vegetable Soup, Grilled Ham and Cheese Sandwiches, Tossed Salad, Dessert
 Hosts: Chancel Choir

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

October Greeters

Don Gingrich, Evelyn Maddox, Nancy Follmer,
 Mary Petry, & Jerry Hampton



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>October 2007</h1>						
	1	2 9:30 MOPS Steering Committee 7:00 Women's Ministry Craft Night	3 5:00 ABW 5:30 Women'sHealthy 6:00 Nominating Comm. 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana- Missions Night w/Evon 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	4 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	5	6 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering 9:00 ABW Fall Rally @ Immanuel Baptist Lakewood
7 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 2:00 Butler Co. Life Chain 4:45 Women's Council 5:00 Celebration Ringers 5:00 Awana Leaders & Helpers Mtg. 5:15 Youth Choir 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Devotion 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 CREW Small Group	8	9 10:00 Holloway Circle 7:00 Abell Circle 7:00 Smith Circle	10 5:30 Women'sHealthy 6:00 Nominating Comm. 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	11 9:00 KeenAgers to LaComedia "Fantastics" 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Music & Worship 5:30 Board of Trustees 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	12	13
14 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:00 Mission Board 5:00 Celebration Ringers 5:15 Youth Choir 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Video on Parenting 6:30 CREW Sm. Groups	15	16 9:20 MOPS	17 5:30 Women'sHealthy 6:00 Nominating Comm. 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Mini-Store 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	18 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study ABC/Ohio Annual Gathering	19 ABC/Ohio Annual Gathering	20 7:00 CREW Barn Party @ Braun's ABC/Ohio Annual Gathering
21 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 AB Girls 4:30 Diaconate 5:00 Celebration Ringers 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Devotion 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:30 CREW Sm. Groups	22	23	24 5:30 Women'sHealthy 6:00 Nominating Comm. 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana/Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	25 8:30 Matthew 25 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Women's Ministry Mystery Dinner Theater	26	27 5:00 Family Fun Fall Festival
28 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:00 CE Board 5:00 Celebration Ringers 5:15 Youth Choir 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:30 CREW Sm. Groups	29	30	31 5:30 Women'sHealthy 6:00 Nominating Comm. 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Harvest Party 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir			

October



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 - Ellie Dinger
Michael Gipson
Sandy Keller
Kelly Mozingo
Tom Thomas

2 - Eva Miller
Tisha Patton

3 - Steve Gingrich
Paul Laubenstein
Lisa Miles
Caleb Russo

4 - Maddie Buchanan
Jane Day
Maria Miller
Kathy Reynolds

5 - Steven Click
LaVerne Gerth
Toni Schwab
Katie Roberts

6 - Alma Holmes

7 - Steve Lewis
Connie Smith

8- Thomas Ellison
Doug Moorehead
Pat Nesbitt
Jim Patton

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

10- Thelma Ditmyer
Kalyne Schuermann

11- Jeremy Sapp
Bobby Stanger
Alyssa Witmer

12- Brandon Allen
Cheryl Motzer

13- Barb Burton
Dorothy VanNatta

14- Tom Farris

16- Alexis Ankrum
Cooper Chaney
Sara Wilson
Rose Young

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

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

21 - Susi House

22- Aria Joy Metzger

23- Joe Arnold
Joan Chatham
Sydney Wilson

24- Teri Collier

25- Richard Apgar, Jr.
Mary Petry
Libby Roberts

26- Patricia Miller
Paul VonStein

27- Sandy Schrader

28- Marilyn Bowling

29- Josh Baker
Linda Gibbs
Fred Lakes
Josie Metzger
Shauna Teeters

30- Kerry Collier

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

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

Personal Notes



From Bob Eicher

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

From Jim Powell

Many thanks to everyone for your prayers, cards, and thoughts for me during my knee replacement surgery July 6th. They were greatly appreciated!

From Bernie & Pat Griesinger

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

Now Showing In Room 113/114. . .

Thanks are due Charlie and Teene Campbell and Mike Click. Because of their expertise, physical labor, and volunteer spirit, room 113/114 has been equipped with new and secure audio-visual equipment. In the past, the showing of tapes and discs in that room had been iffy because of problems with availability, dependability, or complexity. Now Bible study groups and others can rely on a permanent, simple-to-use system. Charlie and Teene installed the electrical line extension to the overhead projector and Mike designed, ordered, and set up the AV system and handcrafted a cabinet for the receiver and VHS/DVD player. Funds for this project, which had been suggested by Mike Braun, came from the Blanche McKay bequest.

Jack Baker's House Still For Sale

The Bible notes that a house built on a solid foundation will not fall. First Baptist Church's own Steve Lewis was the contractor for much of the construction of Jack Baker's house, so you know that that house was well built. If you would like to become the new owner of Jack's house or know of someone who would, please tell a trustee or call the church's Christian real estate agent, Ron Turvey, at 382-4485. The county auditor has valued the home at \$269,970 but the current asking price is \$249,900 and the trustees will consider any reasonable offer.

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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