

# The Courier

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



---

*"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"*

*December, 2007*

---

## ***"The Magic Of Christmas"***

**Isaiah 29:14**

In a period when satanic operations and methods are increasing and becoming more apparent, many of us have withdrawn from the use of certain words. The word "magic" is an example. Because of its relationship to superstition and deceptions, as well as to the realm of black arts and evil supernaturalism, one hesitates to use it. It seems its age of innocence is gone.

But C. S. Lewis redeemed the word "magic" for me in his book, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. He qualifies and distinguishes the evil from the good by the use of the adjective "deeper." The land of Narnia may lie under a curse as a result of the White Witch's magic, but the "deeper magic," worked through the lion Aslan's death, breaks the curse.

Christmas is a "deeper magic."

Beyond the spell of lights, carols, gifts, goodies, ornaments, tinsel, holly, plum pudding, mistletoe, stars, and generally endless loveliness, it's the magic of one specific miracle that captivates me.

"The Word became flesh."

That's the magic—the deeper kind—of this majestic season. Unquestionably, the mightiest magic of all is reflected in those few words from the prologue to the Gospel of John. God entered the arena of man. But more than that . . . *He became one*.

God . . . a man.

Please note. That wasn't "Man . . . a god." That image was forever destroyed by the coming of the true and living God—as a man. That fact must be secured for any clear thinking to come to our race.

The slowness with which this truth is seen and accepted is precisely the pace of civilization's progress. And the degree to which it is disregarded, shunned, mocked, or attacked marks the exact degree to which an individual or nation digresses toward inevitable decay. Man not only *isn't* diety, but we are *helpless* until we acknowledge that He is the only God.

Every human system of redemption is based on the supposition that mankind can somehow recover its lost estate by the energy of the flesh. Carefully calculated programs of human genius ceaselessly attempt to reascend the heights of our lost nobility and destiny. But all that the flesh can ultimately produce in its own strength is sweat. And the odor of the flesh's product is a commentary on its sufficiency.

No, flesh cannot become God. There is no magic that can work *that* miracle. But God did become flesh, and in

so doing brought a "deeper magic" to our human possibilities.

Interesting, isn't it, how that one word "became" not only describes an entrance, but it also suggests a beautification. "The new coat you wore," we say, "*became* you . . . It was so *becoming*." God "became" flesh, not only in that He also returned the possibility of "Beauty" attending "flesh" again. Because Jesus became—enabled to glow again with glory in this life, and readied to be ultimately glorified in God's presence forever!

Think on that.

Let's let Christmastime breathe of its deepest magic into our hearts until it possesses our minds. It will alter and stimulate everything about our observance of the special season we now share. The Lord of Glory, as the theology texts put it, "endless, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, filled with wisdom, power, and holiness," became human—yea, became a baby! And all to work the "deeper magic" of bringing to a race that lost paradise a second chance to receive it again.

In that holy moment of God's incarnation, the pristine unseen world invaded the tainted tangible one, and the magic began. In His coming, the unreachable, untouchable God became reachable and touchable. And now, every broken man or woman who reaches to touch Him can be made whole.

That magic He worked in Galilee and Judea still works today in your town and mine. It comes where the divine word is spoken. This is no cheap "abracadabra" of myth, nor an incantation born of hell. It's the heavenly Word of "deeper magic" which not only entitles humankind to hope, but which names the person who brings it. For that "Word" which became flesh has a name: JESUS.

Say it with me.

*Jesus!*

Praise Him with me, as come and behold Him.

He's not a magician, He's the Master.

He's not an illusionist, He is Reality.

Yet to say His name *IS* to discover the "deeper magic" we all need and seek. It's that which saves completely, restores entirely, and heals ultimately.

And it's all in the name.

Say it again.

—Jack Hayford  
*Come . . . And Behold Him!*



## American Baptist Women's Ministries



### Operation Christmas Child

In various parts of the world, 83 children will receive boxes filled with "love" due to the generosity of many at First Baptist. Our shoeboxes will carry

the spirit of Christmas into their homes, and we are thankful to be able to contribute in this small but meaningful way. Thanks to all who helped with this project.

–Nancy Whipple  
ABW President

### Missionary for the Month of **December:**

**Jim & Debbie Kelsey**  
Belgium

Jim and Debbie work with the Union of Baptists in Belgium to do new church development in the Ghent area, and to share the love of Christ with Ghent' sex workers. The Union is a group of 32 churches and preaching points where believers share and demonstrate the Good News of God's love through Jesus Christ. The typical Belgian attitude toward religious faith is one of total disinterest. Only 7.5% of the people living in this Roman Catholic monarchy have any association with a local congregation; many Belgians see no need for religious faith.

### Bible Book of the Month ..... **John**

*"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me."*

John 14:6 (RSV)

The Gospel of John presents Jesus as the eternal Word of God, who "became a human being and lived among us." John emphasizes the gift of eternal life through Christ, a gift which begins now and which comes to those who respond to Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life.

**PRAY** for the oppressed peoples of the world, that through God's love and mercy they might truly be free.

–Madge Walters

## AB Girls Of Faith Young Women Of Hope

We enjoyed having Evon and Paul Laubenstein as our guests at our November meeting. Lauren Schwartz provided a delicious lunch and Heather Keith dedicated our Love Gift offering.

Evon presented a program entitled "Women of the Cloth", focusing on African women and missionaries. She demonstrated how the pagne, their brightly colored cloths, are used for clothing, blankets, and carrying small children and goods. Evon related the words of one Christian African women who said, "Jesus is my pagne. He gives me beauty like my cloth by shining from inside me. He is my pagne as he covers me with His blood in salvation so I can live forever. He covers me like a pagne by protecting me for the cool winds, storms, and harsh heat in my life. Most of all, Jesus is my pagne when He carries me as a mother carries her precious baby, when I feel I cannot walk alone." We were left with the question, "How is Jesus a pagne to you?"

The AB Girls will meet again on December 2nd, right after church. We will go to Wendy's for lunch and then to Bridgewater Falls to shop for a family that we are supporting for Christmas. We will return to the church to gift wrap our purchases.

With joy in the Lord,  
Marilyn Bowling, Mindy Hazelwood,  
& Nancy Whipple



We will be making our monthly trip down to Matthew 25: Ministries facility at 11060 Kenwood Road in Blue Ash for a wonderful day of fellowship, fun, and WORKING FOR THE LORD Thursday, December 27th. 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.

There will be a Christmas party for all of the volunteers at Matthew 25 Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m. We will leave the church at 10:30 a.m.

–Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham

The Courier (ISSN 383367-29)  
December 2007  
Published monthly by:  
First Baptist Church  
1501 Pyramid Hill Boulevard  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013  
Volume 42, Number 12

## A Cosmic Christmas

**D**o you know who you hold, Mary? You secure the Author of grace. He who is ageless is now moments old. He who is limitless is now suckling your milk. He who strides upon the stars, now has legs too weak to walk; the hands which held the oceans are now an infant's fist. To Him who has never asked a question, you will teach the name of the wind. The Source of language will learn words from you. He who has never stumbled, you will carry. He who has never hungered, you will feed. The King of creation is in your arms."

Those are the words of Max Lucado, in his small Christmas book entitled *Cosmic Christmas* (Word, 1997, pp. 95-96). Lucado is a writer considered by many to be "a Christian wordsmith." Every phrase he pens is well-crafted. As you read his descriptions, you find yourself in the scene, a quiet but profoundly interested observer—a careful reader who is challenged by Biblical truth. Often, as I read, I find myself with a smile, or a tear; and sometimes with the thought, "I wish I had said that!"

**I** write this article on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Two weeks ago, Meijer already had their Christmas musak blaring away. Several homes in our neighborhood have just plugged in their Christmas displays. And I heard yesterday that Kohls and Penneys will open their doors at 4:00 AM on Friday for the early Christmas shopping onslaught. And off we go for another year of Christmas distraction. I read Lucado's little tome to set the tone for an attitude adjustment and to help me prepare my thinking for the true season that stands at our doorstep.

During this season, most of us seldom give much thought to the "Christmas narratives" that appear outside the Gospels. Oh, we have read some of the Biblical texts that speak of the incarnation. (Take some time, for example, to check out these passages: Philippians 2:6-11; Hebrews 1:1-2:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Colossians 4:4-5). But have you ever thought of Revelation 12 being a Christmas narrative?

Earlier this year, we opened the pages of the book of Revelation in our morning worship services. In the twelfth chapter, John received what he called "a great and wondrous sign." It was a vision of the birth of our Savior. In this vision, a woman, expecting a child and about to give birth, was confronted by an enormous red dragon, with seven heads, seven horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. John said that it was this dragon who had swept to earth one-third of all the angelic beings in heaven. In the time of Lucifer's rebellion in the early days

after creation, a war took place in heaven; but Satan and his vast army was not strong enough to defeat the armies of God. Lucifer and the rebellious ones were cast out of heaven and hurled to earth. From that moment Satan (the accuser) has stood as God's enemy, and it has constantly been his ambition to lead the whole world astray, enticing the world to join him in his hatred of the God of the universe.

***"Upon Him is bestowed the names,  
Faithful and True, Word of God,  
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords."  
Revelation 19***

In the vision, this representation of Satan himself stood before the woman, ready to devour the child after his birth. John describes this child as the Lord who would one day rule the nations with an iron scepter (Rev. 12:5). Upon Him is bestowed the names, Faithful and True, Word of God, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords (Rev 19). One day our Lord Incarnate will totally defeat and judge Satan and his vast army, and all of those who have loved evil.

Most true believers understand that Christmas is not about annoying music, decorations displayed in a untimely fashion, and Christmas sho-o-o-opping for gifts we really don't need. We understand that Christmas is about the incarnation of the Son

From the Pastor's Heart, cont.

Jesus, who grew up, taught about the Kingdom of God, performed miracles that gave us a hint of life the way it was meant to be, gave His life on a cross for the sins of the world, and who was gloriously raised from the grave to live eternally with the Father. But we must also understand that this was no cake walk for Jesus. The incarnation and life of Jesus is about the defeat of sin, death, darkness, and evil.

Thus it is that we stand ready to celebrate a Cosmic Christmas. This is an eternal issue that is on the table. I hope that in your home, this is a season of more than gifts and lights. But of celebration for a victory that has been gloriously won through the gift of the Son.

Celebrating with you a "cosmic" Christmas,  
Pastor

---

---

## 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

On January 28, 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 begin with a *Letters from Dad* informational dinner on Monday evening, January 28. Following the dinner and a brief program, we will introduce the details of the adventure with video testimonies about the experiences of others who came to value the heart-felt expression from their fathers and husbands.

**We will also invite participants at the dinner to sign up for the four-session experience.** Dates for the four sessions are the first Monday evenings of February through May (Feb 4; Mar 3; April 7, and May 5).

Dads, husbands, grandfathers—I hope that you will look forward to blessing your family in this tangible way. Watch for the publicity videos we have scheduled in December and January. Prepare for God *"to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers..."*

Check in with any member of the *Letters from Dad* planning team for further details (Brad Begley, Brian Begley, Larry Bowling, Roger Chamberlain, Jerry Wallace, and John Wallace). You may also want to explore the excellent website from *Letters from Dad* ([www.LettersFromDad.com](http://www.LettersFromDad.com)) – Pastor

---

---

### Budget Status Report

#### The Month of October, 2007

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$59,545
Offerings	<u>44,679</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$14,866)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$55,455
Offerings	<u>44,679</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$10,776)

#### The Year Through October, 2007

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$610,655
Offerings	<u>499,230</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$111,425)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$578,367
Offerings	<u>499,230</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$79,137)

–The Board Of Trustees



The Memorial Fund has provided money for several projects this past year. Approval is received from family members prior to designating funds to a project. Following are items purchased and the accounts from which the money was taken:

#### **Doors For Room 200**

In loving memory of  
*Mark Hornung*  
*Herbert Humbach*  
*Rachel Wilson*  
*Janice Rupp*  
*Catherine McMahan*  
*John Baker*  
*Ruth Niekerk*  
*David Trench,*  
*Paul Henson*  
*Jim Lemp*  
*Emma LeRoy*  
*Jim Tankersley,*  
*Myrtle Baker*  
*Cecille Strunk*  
*Beulah Ross*  
*Ann Campbell*  
*Cynthia Wallace*  
*Jack Baker*  
*Don LeRoy*

#### **Playground Fence Rock and Plaque**

In loving memory of  
*Peggy Chamberlain*  
*Hank Hoskins*

#### **Basketball Goal for Upward Basketball**

In loving memory of  
*Millie Hangbers*  
*Lydia Burns*  
*S.D. Terry*  
*Don LeRoy*  
*Betty Gilbert*  
*Dale Grollmus*  
*Dorothy Jackson*  
*Ola McFadden*  
*Beulah Benzing*  
*Toni Grubbs*  
*Don Anderson*

The gifts to the church from the Memorial Fund enrich the ministry of First Baptist Church and honor the memory of loved ones and friends. Should anyone wish to consider a lasting tribute as a memorial, please

contact any member of the Memorial Committee.

–Eris Cappelli, Lisa Dulli,  
Ruth Gaskins, Dolly Houser,  
Shirley Wade, & Madge Walters

---

---

### **Christmas Cards**



### **Family Life Committee A Very Special Evening of Music**

As the Christmas season draws nearer, our thoughts turn to the sounds of Christmas music. Once again this year we are pleased to be presenting a wonderful gift from the vocalists and musicians of our congregation. Plan to be with us on Sunday evening December 9th, at 6:00 p.m. as we open the 2007 edition of *A Musical Christmas Card*. Come share with us the joy of Christmas as presented by our church family. A light buffet supper will be served at 5:00 p.m. in the Family Center.

–Rich Hazelwood



### **KeenAger December Outing**

Our December outing will be a trip to Sharon Woods on Monday, December 3rd, to enjoy the Christmas lights. We will meet in front of the church at 5:00 p.m. and eat somewhere on the way. Please sign the list on the bulletin board.

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



*Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him*



## Awana Club

### Awana December Calendar Update

5th - Regular Club Night

12th - Christmas Theme Night

19th - No Club - Church Family Christmas Banquet

27<sup>th</sup> - No Club - Christmas Holiday

### **Christmas Theme Night**

Plans are underway for Cubbies and Sparks will go caroling at a nursing home on December 12th. Parents will get more details soon. Plans are also underway but not finalized for T&T activities that night.

### **Inclement Weather Cancellation**

Just a reminder—if Hamilton City Schools are closed due to weather and it is an Awana Club night, our Awana club will also be cancelled.

### **Special Christmas Love Offering**

We are collecting money for a Christmas Love Offering for a new Awana missionary in our area, Mr. Ken Rohrer. Mr. Rohrer has been involved in Awana for many years, but has just recently become an Awana missionary. The structure and responsibilities of the Awana missionaries in Ohio has changed in the past year. We will still see Mr. Steve Schenk on occasion, but he is responsible for new club development, and Mr. Rohrer is responsible for supporting churches with their ongoing needs after the club has been established. There will be a collection jar in Room 109/110 at the front of the room. This is separate from dues, which is 25¢ per clubber per club night.

### **Looking ahead to January...**

January 2 is **Funny Socks Night**, so search your socks drawer for your funniest socks (or ask for some for Christmas!).

Emily Metzger  
Awana Commander

## **Family Fun Fall Festival**

The family festival was held in October, and oh, what a nice evening it was! Items donated by the Garver Family Farm fabulously decorated the room. There were gourds, pumpkins, Indian corn, corn shocks, straw bales, mums, and more! Chris and Claire arranged some directions for a wonderful background for photos. The Couples Small Group helped with table setup and decorating the night before. Emily and Linda Cain helped with setup, takedown, and everything in between! Fun was had by all when playing a variety of games, donated by the Motzers. Everyone enjoyed the delectable dinner prepared by the deaconesses. Music was impromptu (is that a word? ☺) provided by Jeremy's I-Phone, and faces were painted by our clown team. We were so thrilled that we had some new visitors, who came because of invitations delivered by Rod and Lois Anderson, Jeremy, Linda Davis, Chris and Claire, Alex Wallace and Darin Chamberlain to our area neighborhoods. We were so glad to see some new faces, and one family even came to church with us the next day! Many thanks are in order for the families who donated candy to be distributed and helped with the games. We're thankful for our kitchen and food helpers Linda Cain, Jan Smith and Dale Braun. There are so many others to thank, and we are grateful for them all. As a busy person myself, I am always appreciative of those who are able to step away from their own busy schedules, to attend our events, and to help in any way possible. Thanks again to all who helped with this occasion!

### **Appreciation Luncheon**

Stay tuned for details regarding our next event, our yummy Appreciation Luncheon! This is for those who have served in childcare this year. We will let you know the date soon, but we are looking at a Sunday in February, immediately following morning service.

### **Junior Jam**

Save the date for Junior Jam, which will be Saturday, April 12, 2008. This activity is for students and their friends in grades 3 through 6. Plan now to attend and whom you would like to bring with you!

—Brandi Emenaker  
Co-Director Children's Ministry



## From The Heart Of Marilyn

College Corner

E-Mail From God

### Come See The Light

*“Everything was created through him . . . What came into the existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Light-Life out of the darkness; the darkness couldn’t put it out.”*

– John 1:3-5, The Message

My Child,

My Son, Jesus, came into your world as Life itself—powerful, dynamic Life—full of energy and hope. He came into your world as Light, blazing out of the darkness, pushing back the shadows.

All of this Life and Light was contained in a human being, so people didn’t understand who they were dealing with when they met Him. He looked like an ordinary person. But He was with Me when the world was made. Every single thing in creation was created through Him. So no wonder people didn’t quite “see the Light” when they met Him.

Although they stood in darkness and didn’t understand the Light, they could never put it out? He’s still shining! Let Him shine in you.

The Father of Light,  
God

### College Student’s Christmas Brunch

Sunday, December 23rd  
9:30 a.m.

Family Center  
First Baptist Church

The Parenting Class and TNT Class will help with the breakfast. Hope to see you there!

–In His name,  
Marilyn Bowling  
College Coordinator



## Congratulations To Some Of Our Youth!

Congratulations to **Joey Braun and Rachel Harris** who were inducted into the Edgewood High School chapter of the National Honor Society on November 1st.

**Amy Wallace** was featured in the Hamilton Journal News recently as the “Student of the Week”. **Amy** is in the 10th grade at Fairfield High School. Congratulations, **Amy!**

Congratulations also to **Taylor and Kalynne Schuermann** whose teams won first place in a soccer tournament at Joyce Park recently. **Taylor’s** team won the Boy’s Wing Division and **Kalynne’s** team won the Girl’s Passer Division.

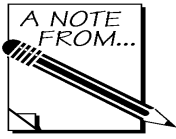
Congratulations to **Megan Miller** who will be marching with the Lakota West Band in the Pasadena, California Rose Bowl Parade on New Years Day. You may have watched news broadcasts on Lakota being selected for this high honor of performing in front of 1 million live people and 4 million TV viewers. Watch for **Lairy, Debbie and Emily** in the audience as the entire family will be traveling with the 300 band members for 8 days. **Megan** has devoted 20 hours per week after school for 6 months practicing for the long 9 mile parade. **Megan** is first chair of the clarinets in regular band. She maintained a 4.03 GPA as well as participating in several other extra curricular activities at Lakota West. The ability to march is an answered prayer as you may remember **Megan’s** serious foot surgery a year ago.

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



### Wedding Bells

Don and Julie Hines are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Johanna to Aaron Mackey on Monday, October 15, 2007 in Fountain Hills, AZ. The couple is living in Chandler, AZ.



## Jewell Bowling Funeral Committee

I wanted to let everyone know that I have stepped down from being chairman of the Funeral Committee. As of Thursday, November 8, 2007, Nancy Follmer is the chairman. She is in the process of getting her committee together and she will be passing sheets of paper in classes, boards, etc., to get a new list of names to bring covered dishes. I want to thank each one who always brought covered dishes when I called you and the wonderful Committee I had who never failed to come and work and always brought covered dishes to every funeral meal. I always reminded them "Thank You" seemed so simple but their reward would be when they stand before "HIM" and he says, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of thy LORD". I want especially to thank Bert Brantingham who was co-chairman and was ready, willing and able to take over when I couldn't be there. None of us could not have accomplished anything without all of you, "our church family, helping and I have assured Nancy you will do no less for HIM through her service. We have the best hearted people that I have ever encountered, always ready to serve the LORD. People Change. The LORD never does!! I have told our pastor that I have no intention of sitting down and doing nothing. I will serve Him until the day He says come up hither in the clouds or when my last breath goes out wherever He leads and He knows how far 80 year olds can go! I believe with all my heart He is coming soon. We have so little time to get our loved ones in the fold. "Brethren I count not myself to have apprehended but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before I press toward the mark of the high calling of GOD in Christ Jesus." GOD has us all in the palm of HIS hand. "Thank You-Thank You-Thank You!"

In HIS Name, Jewell

## Corrections And Additions To The Courier

Please update your directory with these additions or changes. Call the church office with additions or changes to your address, phone number, or e-mail address.

**Holmes, Alma**  
1151 N.W. Washington Blvd. # 15  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

## The Birth

The star shone bright, the Word was born  
A babe in swaddling clothes  
A humble start for God's own Son  
It was the path He chose.

An angel brought the news that night  
He promised peace and joy  
A multitude joined in to praise  
God's tiny baby boy.

His plan was still a mystery  
No-one could understand  
Why God would let His Son leave home  
To save a foreign land.

The child grew up, He taught God's word  
But some refused to hear  
He trained twelve men, to carry on  
The message He held dear.

He had to leave them one dark day  
His foes refused to yield  
Jesus Christ died on the cross  
Alone in Calvary's field.

He came again to see His friends  
Before He went back home  
Christ lived, He died, He rose again  
God's plan was finally known.

God sent His Son, a virgin birth  
To save the soul of man  
We look upon the miracle  
With joy, for great I AM!

Merry Christmas!  
Teri Horsley



## Winter Reminder!

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

-The Board of Trustees



## Christmas Poinsettias 2007

### In Loving Memory Of

Willie W. Baker . . . . . Jim & Maggie Baker  
 Bob Belew . . . . . Nancy Follmer  
 Duke & Eleanor Belew . . . . . Nancy Follmer  
 Cora Blankenship Krall Family & Dorothy Withrow  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Borden . . . . . Bob Borden  
 Wade Ezekiel Bowling . . Marilyn & Larry Bowling  
 . . . . . Brent & Deron Bowling  
 Mr. & Mrs. C.W. Brantingham . . . . .  
 . . . . . Bill & Bert Brantingham  
 Violet Buck . . . . . Pat & Don Gingrich  
 Ed Cappelli . . . . . Eris Cappelli & Family  
 Peggy Chamberlain . . . . . Chamberlain Family  
 Roger Day . . . . . Janet & Josh Day  
 Amy Edgerton . . . . . Charlie & Madge Walters  
 Jon Follmer . . . . . Nancy Follmer  
 Bob & Pinia Gabbard . . . . Carolyn & Earl Gabbard  
 Bob & Pinia Gabbard . . . . . Oakley Wardlow  
 Alice & Walter Gibbs . . . . . Mag & Jim Baker  
 Raleigh Gipson . . . . . Michael Gipson  
 Donna Faye Gowen . . . . . Barry & Verna Pickett  
 Dale Grollmus . . . . . His Family  
 Toni B. Grubbs . . . . . Merle & Lois Grubbs  
 Charles & Phillip Hampton Jerry & Loretta Hampton  
 Harold Hartley . . . . . Mike & Diane Wallick  
 Oris Hazelwood . . . . . Dave & Janet Hazelwood  
 Rev. Charles D. & Alice W. Hering . . . . .  
 . . . . . Mag & Jim Baker  
 Hank Hoskins . . . . . Katie Hoskins  
 Mary Lou Hoskins . . . . . Everett Hoskins  
 Gene Howard . . . . . Carol Howard  
 Gene Howard . . . . . John & Jean Riczko  
 Kenneth & Lillian Jackson. Carolyn & Earl Gabbard  
 Nellie Johnson . . . . . Mary & Mollie Johnson  
 Mr. & Mrs. H.H. Jingst . . Bill & Bert Brantingham  
 James & Virginia Lakes . . Dave & Janet Hazelwood  
 Don Metzger . . . . . Pastor Den & Ruth Metzger  
 Elizabeth Miller . . . . . Jeff Miller  
 Audrey Moore . . . . . Rebecca Scripture  
 Eric Pals . . . . . Pastor Den & Ruth Metzger  
 Our parents . . . . . Jerry & Carole Busch  
 Our parents . . . . . Ron & LaVerne Gerth  
 Our parents . . . . . John & Jean Riczko  
 Geneva Perry . . . Oakley Wardlow & Earl Gabbard  
 Al & Flo Potter . . . . . Larry & Marilyn Bowling  
 . . . . . Brent & Deron Bowling  
 Courtney C. Profitt . . . . . Anna Profitt

Courtney C. Profitt . . . . . Lois & Rod Anderson  
 Wayne & Ruby Reynolds Bob & Thelma Stanger  
 Kathy Roberts . . . . . Nellie & Bill Roberts  
 Rudy Rutherford . . . . . Gerry Retherford  
 Clifford & Paul Scarborough Todd Keith Family  
 Robert W. & Leona Shawver . Mag & Jim Baker  
 Herman & Eunice Simpson . . . . .  
 . . . . . Dick Winkler & Wayne Simpson Families  
 Joyce Simpson . . . . . Dave & Janet Hazelwood  
 Linda Simpson . . . . .  
 . . . . . Dick Winkler & Wayne Simpson Families  
 Earle & Esther Stanger . . Bob & Thelma Stanger  
 Kelly Stanger . . . . . Bob & Thelma Stanger  
 Adrian & Etta Stricker . . Eris Cappelli & Family  
 Velma Avey Stricker . . . . Dick & Peggy Avey  
 Virgil Darius Tenney . . . Barry & Verna Pickett  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Tyra Jerry & Loretta Hampton  
 Erdine & Dick Wallick . Mike & Diane Wallick  
 Paul Wardlow . . . . . Oakley Wardlow  
 Virgil Wardlow . . . . . Nellie & Bill Roberts  
 Ruth & Marion Williams . . Dick & Peggy Avey  
 Merle & Kim Withrow . . . . .  
 . . . . . Krall Family & Dorothy Withrow

### In Honor Of

Jane & Elden Anderson . . Lois & Rod Anderson  
 Alivia & Alexis Ankrum . . . Mag & Jim Baker  
 A.J. Baker . . . . . Mag & Jim Baker  
 Jewell & Zeke Bowling . . . . .  
 . . . . . Larry, Marilyn, Brent & Deron Bowling  
 William Brantingham . . . . . Michael Gipson  
 Frank & Bev Diedrichs . John Diedrichs Family  
 Thelma Ditmyer . . . . . Chamberlain Family  
 Dorothy Glynn . . . . . Diana Bueker  
 Grissoms, Keiths, & Washams . . . . .  
 . . . . . Todd Keith Family  
 Juanita Hazelwood Ann Brown & Cathi Thomas  
 Mary Ella Hudson . . . . . Jeff Miller  
 Jo Manson . . . . . Jeff Miller  
 Ellie Meder . . . . . Jeff Miller  
 Dennis Metzger & Family . . . . Michael Gipson  
 Maria Miller . . . . . Jeff Miller  
 Ruth Pals . . . . . Pastor Den & Ruth Metzger  
 Anna Profitt . . . . . Lois & Rod Anderson  
 Bernie & John Raber . . . . .  
 . . . . . Pastor Den & Ruth Metzger  
 Kathleen Reynolds . . . . Zeke & Jewell Bowling  
 George & Ruth Scripture . . . . Rebecca Scripture  
 Fran Stang . . . . . Jeff Miller  
 Frank Stimetz Jr. . . . . John Diedrichs Family  
 Frank Stimetz Sr. . . . . John Diedrichs Family  
 Woodrow Talbert. . . . . John Diedrichs Family  
 Jerry Wallace & Family . . . . . Michael Gipson  
 Adam & Nathan . . . . . J.K. & Mary Walker  
 Celia & Heather . . . . . Ina (Flo) Gill  
 Bill, Bert & First Baptist Matthew 25 Crew . . . . .  
 . . . . . Verna Pickett



CE2 Andrew D. Young  
NMCB One, Det Four  
Unit 60382  
FPO AA 34099-4904

We will have an address Philip Dudley when he receives one. Please call the church office after December 1st.

It's that time of year again! The holidays are upon us. It's funny how as soon as October 31st hits the days just fly by. I'm sure that you are just as busy as I am with preparation for the holidays. The baking, decorating, shopping and gift buying, but in the midst of all this preparation and business do we take the time to reflect on what December 25th really is? Do our children know that it is far more than a day of gifts, seeing extended family and a tremendous amount of food? December 25th – the birthday of our Lord and Savior! It is hard for me to imagine what my life would be like without His birth. There are so many ways to honor and praise Him during this holiday season. Join us this month as we learn how to keep Christ in Christmas as Pastor Den serves as our guest speaker.

## Women's Ministry Council News



We have had an awesome first half of our MOPS year! We have seen many new faces at all of our meetings. Last month we welcomed one new mom to our group and had a total of 29 moms in attendance. The Wednesday before Thanksgiving we held a mother/child outing at Pump It Up where 36 children "bounced" on over to play.

The Christmas bells are ringing, shopping has begun, meals are being planned, and cookies are the favorite fare of the season. To help you kick off your holiday on a sweet note, the Women's Ministry Council is hosting a Christmas Cookie Exchange on December 6th. It's your chance to bring a **eight** dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies, so you can trade them for even more sweet delights to take home. The fun begins at 7 p.m. at Karen Buchanan's house which is located at 1067 Southern Hills Blvd. in Hamilton. Be sure to dress in holiday attire, as there will be prizes for the most Christmassy outfit, and plenty of snacks and games to keep you entertained. The evening promises to be VERY MERRY for all who attend.

I do want to take this opportunity to say Thank You to all the ladies and gents who volunteer every month for the MOPS program (childcare, gym time, music, substitutes and of course the staff of FBC). Please know that you are a vital part of this ministry and without your dedication, love and support we would not exist. All of us involved in MOPS – steering and the moms who come to the meeting thank you and wish you a very Merry Christmas!

The Women's Council will also participate in the Living Water Christmas shop at the First United Methodist Church, on Ludlow Street in Hamilton. This is one of many service projects we have planned throughout the year.

At Home with Him-  
Elise Martin, Coordinator

### January 2008 Events:



**Healthy Lifestyles** –Weight loss group to help you shed those extra holiday pounds–details to follow.

When making out your Christmas card list this year, also include one for the following address:

**Women's Christian Book Club** –Open to 15 ladies who would like to discuss Christian Literature on the second Monday of each month beginning January 14. The book club will meet at the Fairfield Lane Library from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Contact Nancy Follmer at 863-3816 or Judy Farris at 777-0139 for more information.

Recovering American Soldier  
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

**John Engle Christian Counseling Center Mission Luncheon** - January 13. Details to follow.



# KingsKids Presentation

??

The Mystery of the Manger - It's the Gospel Truth!

Sunday, December 2nd  
6:00 PM  
in the Family Center

There may be people coming to our church at Christmas time that don't believe that Christ came to earth as a baby, grew up, died for our sins and was resurrected. We're going to reveal how much evidence there really is about Jesus that show that Jesus was indeed all He claimed to be. Isn't it great that we get to be a part of unraveling that mystery to people who don't believe?



Ruth Metzger, Debbie Allen, Lauren Schwartz

---

---



## Focus Class Christmas Party

Focus Class members will gather for a covered dish dinner and Christmas party on Saturday, December 8th, at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Eris Cappelli, 2225 Fern Lane. Please see Carol Howard for suggestions of what to bring. Visitors looking for a class are welcome to attend.

-Carol Howard



THERE IS

# *peace in the world*

TONIGHT

## *A Cantata For Christmas*

Presented by  
First Baptist Chancel Choir & Orchestra  
Directed by Mike Wallick

Sunday Morning  
December 16, 2007  
10:30 a.m.

Words by  
Randy Vader

Music by  
Jay Rouse

**Peace is not  
the absence of conflict**

**Peace is  
the presence of God**

*"I will give you peace in the land  
and you will be able to sleep with no cause to fear."*  
Leviticus 26:6

---

---



## Mitten Tree

The Board of Christian Education will once again be sponsoring the Mitten Tree. We encourage you to bring scarves, gloves, hats, and mittens for both children and adults to decorate the tree. The items will be donated to local missions. The tree will be located in the narthex of our educational building.

-Linda Davis

 **Free Christmas Movie  
And Concert** 

On Wednesday, December 5th, the Midday Music in Oxford series will be partnering with the Oxford Lane Library for a viewing of the rarely shown "A Christmas Memory" by Truman Capote. This memorable 1966 TV production of 51 minutes won a Peabody award, three Emmys and stars the Oscar, Tony, and Emmy winner Geraldine Page. On December 19th Midday Music presents the awarding winning Canterbury Brass Quintet for its third annual program of Christmas music. Both free programs are at 12:10 p.m. at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main Street in Oxford. For information call Jack Daugherty - 523-6969.

---

---



### Christmas Caroling

This year, plans are to meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 16th, and enjoy light snacks, coffee, and cider served by the Family Life Committee, a little fellowship with one another, and divide into teams to receive assignments for this very special mission. We will leave promptly at 4:30 p.m. to deliver tins of homemade cookies and sing carols to our shut-ins. It is guaranteed that you will receive the greater blessing as you bring Christmas cheer into the homes of our shut-ins. Bring your little ones as they love to have the children visit them. Please sign the list on the KeenAger bulletin board if you plan to join us for caroling.



### Cookies and Candies Needed!

As the carolers go out, they take a tin filled with homemade Christmas goodies to leave at each home visited. We are in need of cookies and candies to fill these tins. You may bring the goodies and place them on a table outside the Family Center on Sunday, December 9th or on Wednesday, December 12th. We will be filling the containers on Friday, December 14th at 9:30 a.m. We need ladies to assist in this project.



### Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24 6 o'clock

*We will meet together as a church family to praise and worship the One whom God provided for our redemption! Join us and share in the singing of carols, a devotional message from the pastor, Christmas communion service, and a candle lighting service. Bring your entire family, your out-of-town guests, and friends for this hour which will prepare your heart for Christmas day, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

---

---



### Christmas Banquet Wednesday, December 19th 6 o'clock

Enjoy an evening of Christian fellowship as we celebrate the joy of the season with a wonderful meal prepared by our chef, Tim Swicegood. The beautifully decorated tables, each one different as each one is decorated by a different lady, the delicious meal, and a wonderful evening of music presented by Edgewood High School's Choraliers directed by Sue Combs. Joey Braun and Drew Helton are members of the Edgewood Choraliers. Join us and receive a blessing!

The menu for the evening is Turkey and Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Rolls, Beverage, and a variety of pies. The cost for the dinner will be \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under the age of 12; \$15 for **immediate family living in the same household**. Make your reservation on the green sheet in the Fellowship Folder. You won't want to miss out on the joy of receiving an evening of blessings for the entire family!





## Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



### Silent Dinners

The **Silent Dinner** for **December** will be held on Friday evening, December 7th, at Tri-County. See you there!

---

### Interpreter Schedule for December

<b>December 2</b>	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
<b>December 9</b>	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
<b>December 16</b>	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
<b>December 23</b>	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
<b>December 24</b>	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
<b>December 30</b>	Jo Manson	Maria Miller

### Happy Birthday



December 17 - Bart Reed  
 December 22 - Joe Janutolo  
 -Maria Miller  
 Director of Deaf Ministries

---

### “Leader Of The Pack”

Presented by Greater Hamilton Civic Theater  
 Parrish Auditorium, Miami University Hamilton  
 Thursday, Friday, Saturday - December 6, 7, & 8 at  
 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 9 at 2:00 p.m.

**Katie Buchanan** - Young Ellie Greenwich  
**Drew Helton** - Keith

Journey back to a time when life was simple and the bee-hive hairdo was all the rage, a time when rock and roll was still at its beginning. This musical revue offers a chance to remember the songs made popular by groups like The Shangri-Las, The Ronettes, and The Shirelles. Whether you grew up in the '60's or were only born 20 years ago, you will know these songs.

Tickets: call 737-PLAY  
 Adults - \$15, Sr. Citizens/Students - \$14



(Addresses of those who have served us over the years.)

Rev. & Mrs. Branan Becknell  
 1 Waldo Avenue  
 Rockland, Maine 04841

Rev. & Mrs. Jim Bell  
 8664 Mt. Hope Road  
 Harrison, Ohio 45030

Rev. George Davidson  
 1506 Gaskill Avenue  
 Gloucester City, NJ 08030

Rev. & Mrs. James Flye  
 P.O. Box 6  
 Island Falls, Maine 04747

Dr. & Mrs. Milan Johnson  
 6828 E. Camellock Road  
 Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Martin  
 407 W. Walnut Street  
 Greencastle, Indiana 46135

Cherie Young Owens  
 109 Timberland Drive  
 Canton, Georgia 30114

Pastor Tim Schwartz  
 2921 Minnesota Avenue  
 Kansas City, Kansas 66102

Rev. & Mrs. George Scripture  
 1153 N. Arbutus Trail  
 Warsaw, Indiana 46580

Mr. & Mrs. Ted Soderholm  
 3110 E Linden Street  
 Tucson, Arizona 85716

Dr. & Mrs. Douglass Willey  
 Hoosier Village  
 5300 96<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Woodside # 17  
 Indianapolis, Indiana 46268



## Child Care Schedule

### Nursery (Morning)

December 2 - Jené, Noah, & Michael Krall  
December 9 - Janet & Mindy Hazelwood  
December 16 - Vickie & Rick Baker  
December 23 - Marilyn & Larry Bowling  
December 30 -

### One & Two Year Olds

December 2 - Rob & Anne Ruwe  
December 9 - Johnnie Wallace, Alex & Samuel  
December 16 - Jenny & Rob VanMeter  
December 23 -  
December 30 - Ruthie & John Wallace

### Kinderchurch

December 2 - Brandi Emenaker & Teen Helper  
December 9 - Cheryl & John Motzer  
December 16 - Brandi Emenaker & Teen Helper  
December 23 - Chris & Claire Metzger  
December 30 - Brandi Emenaker & Teen Helper



## Attention All Morning Worship Child Care Workers

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

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

### December 5

Menu: Beef Stew over Hot Buttered Noodles, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Dessert  
Hosts: TNT (Seekers)

### December 12

Menu: Sweet and Sour Chicken, Fried Rice, Jello Salad, Rolls, Dessert  
Hosts: FOCUS

### December 19

Menu: Turkey and Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Rolls, Variety of Pies  
Hosts: Trustees

### December 26

There will be no meal because of no service

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.

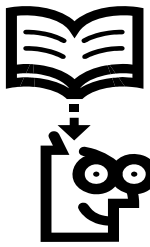
The cost for the Christmas Dinner, December 19th, will be \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under the age of 12; \$15 for **immediate family living in the same household**. Make your reservation on the green sheet in the Fellowship Folder.

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.

## December Greeters

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





## Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

*Pain and God's Plan*

For the past couple months, and still counting, I have been reading many books and doing research on God's plan for allowing pain in this world. It is a topic that has caused some pain to me as I have looked at my life and those around me. It has also caused me to have some times of rejoicing over pain. Nonetheless, I still don't think I understand it anymore than when I began.

I look around and see families and teens just surrounded by nothing but pain in their life. I see those who are doing everything right seem to encounter some of the greatest pain while those who I think "deserve" it get nothing. Is it just me or do you see it as well?

In fact, there isn't a week that goes by my that heart is not torn into pieces because of the pain I see around me. I go through each situation and come out asking, "Am I actually helping?" "Is this what God wants me to do in times of pain?" I believe that in all the situations I have encountered, I have shown God in the best way possible and hope to share that with our students.

For part of December and continuing into the New Year in Lifeline the CREW will be exploring the whole idea of pain and God's plan. I anticipate it should be an exciting time but also a time of more questions than answers. There will be times when we are frustrated by the lack of response from the Bible but also the joy of knowing God is in control. It will have us question our fundamental understanding of pain and also possibly God.

I pray, and ask you pray, that this time would be beneficial to all who participate. Please pray that I may be clear in our times of engagement of this question. The last thing I want is to be unclear on something as important as what I believe this topic could be. Pray that the hearts of students, leaders, and myself would be open to what we will discuss. Pray that Satan would not have a place as we engage the Word and what has been a stumbling block to accepting Christ by so many people.

Also, I ask you to think about whether or not you would be willing to share how Christ has brought you through times of pain in your life. In the church we need to hear each other's story and I would love to have you share your story with our students. Please deeply consider whether or not you will be willing to do this.

Together we can get through our times of pain, alone we will not survive. I believe this is part of what God teaches as our response to pain but ultimately His

response is: "Look at the cross!" For it is at the cross that all of the pain this world could ever inflict on someone was placed. God's answer, or at least part of His answer, is I am in the midst of your pain.

What a great hope that is for you and me! In fact that is the hope of this Christmas season. God saw our pain and decided to do something about it, so He sent His Son to show us the hope that this world, pain included, is not all there is.

Rejoicing in Pain (I think),  
Jeremy

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Small Groups:** Sunday nights in December and January there will be no small groups unless you talk with your leaders concerning it. Most have completed for the year and will start back up in February. We will be doing other activities on Sunday nights and I am sure you will enjoy the many activities that are being planned.

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>:** I need some teens to help out with the Upward Basketball Evaluation nights here at church. If you can help please let me know. The times are from 6:00pm until 9:00pm each evening. This would be a great opportunity to gain some community service hours if you need any.

**December 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>:** There will be NO regular Lifeline activities these evenings. Please make sure you are aware of this so you are not completely surprised when you show up and nothing is going on.

**December 16<sup>th</sup>:** Christmas Caroling and the CREW Christmas Party. Starting around 3:30pm we will be meeting with the rest of the church to carol. You will be put into groups that will visit different shut-ins of our church to brighten their day during this Christmas Season. After caroling, roughly 7pm, we will get together at the Braun's for the CREW Christmas Party.

For the CREW Christmas Party you will need to bring a gift of no more in value than \$5. This can be a "new" gift or something you have around the house you want someone else to enjoy. The party will end around 9pm. Keep listening for details as you never know what may change.

**December 31<sup>st</sup>:** Starting at 6pm and ending at 12:00am we will have a New Year's Eve Event at the church. Plans include pizza, bowling, roller skating, worship, short devotional, and watching the ball drop. We will be joined by St. Clair Avenue Youth group. Please bring \$10 to help with the cost and be ready to have some fun. Hope to see you start the New Year with the CREW and focusing on God.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2007</h1>						<b>1</b> 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering 5:00 KingsKids Rehearsal
<b>2</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 AB Girls 4:00 CE Board 4:30 Cantata Rehearsal 4:45 Women's Council 5:15 Youth Choir 6:00 KingsKids "Mystery of the Manger"	<b>3</b> 5:00 KeenAgers to Sharon Woods 6:00 Upward Basketball Evaluation	<b>4</b> 9:30 MOPS Steering Committee	<b>5</b> 5:00 ABW 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Club 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	<b>6</b> 6:00 Upward Basketball Evaluation 7:00 Women's Ministry Cookie Exchange @ Karen Buchanan's home	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 5:30 FOCUS Class Party @ Eris Cappelli's home
<b>9</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:00 Family Services Rep 5:00 Board of Missions 5:15 Youth Choir 5:00 Light Buffet 6:00 Musical Christmas Card	<b>10</b> 10:30 Matthew 25 Christmas Party for volunteers	<b>11</b> 10:00 Holloway Circle 6:00 Abell Circle Christmas Party in Room 200	<b>12</b> 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Club Christmas Activities 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Cantata Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 6:30 Trustee Christmas Gathering @ Berkeley	<b>14</b> 9:30 Ladies Packing Cookies	<b>15</b> 10:00 Chancel Choir/Orchestra Rehearsal 6:00 Diaconate Christmas Party @ Ryan Inloes' home
<b>16</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Chancel Choir & Orchestra Cantata "There Is Peace In The World Tonight" 4:00 Carolers gather for donuts & cider 4:30 Carol to shut-ins CREW Christmas Party @ Braun's	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:30 MOPS	<b>19</b> 6:00 Christmas Banquet w/Edgewood Choraliers	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 College Students Christmas Brunch 10:30 Worship 6:00 No Evening Service	<b>24</b> 6:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service	<b>25</b> Have A Blessed Christmas!!	<b>26</b> No Service or Evening Programs	<b>27</b> 8:30 Matthew 25	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:00 No Evening Service	<b>31</b> 6:00 CREW New Year's Eve Event					



# December

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1 - Melissa Geiss<br>Kristy Keller Harden<br>Scott McRoberts         | 12 - Larry Bowling<br>Betty Eicher<br>Walter Jackson<br>Abigail Jeanne Riczko   | 23 - Brad Hoover<br>Kris Simpson  |
| 2 - Teresa Patrick<br>Olive Belle Young                              | 13 - Kim Schuermann   | 24 - Marilyn Becknell   |
| 3 - Mike Braun<br>Jordan Brown<br>Arah Mae Williams                  | 14 - Brad Begley<br>Brandi Emenaker<br>Earl Gabbard<br>Leigh Anne Gribble<br>Amanda Scott<br>Alexander Sprague<br>Michael Stanger<br>J. K. Walker<br>Kim Wolter | 26 - Chelsea Dennison<br>Beth Grubbs Payne<br>Loretta Hampton   |
| 4 - John Campbell  | 15 - Dan Morrow   | 27 - John Haberthier<br>Steve Turner  |
| 5 - Dale Guynes<br>John Riczko<br>Sally Williamson                   | 16 - Jack W. Baker<br>Holly Graves  | 29 - Merritt Becknell<br>Thomas Farris<br>Karen Gerth<br>Shirley Henson<br>Chuck Riczko<br>Lil Wilson<br>Judy Young |
| 6 - Preston Harris<br>Virginia Tankersley                            | 17 - Bart Reed  | 30 - Judy Farris<br>Ralph Shearer   |
| 8 - Mike Click<br>Luella Lerch<br>Mary Lewis<br>Justin Van Meter     | 18 - Sharon French  | 31 - Darryl Paragin   |
| 10 - Amber Farmer<br>Daniel French<br>Barry Pickett<br>Linda Stanger | 20 - Lindsey Minnich<br>Joseph Wallace  |   |
| 11 - Juli Ford<br>Jennifer Wallace<br>Noelle Wilson                  | 21 - Brooke Begley<br>Dale French<br>Susan Zeek   |   |
|  | 22 - Paul "Bud" Braun   |   |

**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 Bert Brantingham

Thank you for the abundance of birthday cards for me. They help to forget the "older" age!

### From Charles & Teene Campbell

Words can't express our gratitude for all your prayers and support during our daughter, Andrea's pregnancy. Our newest granddaughter, Campbell Elise Thomas, was born on November 9th. Although she was a month early, she is perfect and proof that prayers are answered. So again, we want to praise God for His goodness and thank you for your love.

### From Bernie & Pat Griesinger

We would like to thank everyone for all your concern when Pat was in the hospital and Bernie had outpatient surgery. The cards, calls, visits from Pastors Den and Bill plus the prayers sure makes recuperation much easier. Thank you so much.

### From Fred Lakes

I want to thank much church family for all your cards, phone calls, and most of all for your prayers. Thanks to Pastor Den for his prayer with Fred and Pastor Bill for his hospital visit and home visits. Bless each and every one of you.

### From Ron & Kristina Miles

Ron and I want to thank you for your prayers and the flower that was presented on Sunday morning. God has blessed us with a healthy baby boy. Pastor Den and Pastor were so kind to visit and say a prayer with us. Our family is so thankful for our new arrival.

### From Barbara Perkins Salcido

I want to thank everyone for their phone calls, visits, cards, and the kindness that was shown to me during my husband, Manuel "Tino" Salcido's, illness and death. Pastor Den's words were very comforting during this difficult time in the loss of my husband.

## Church Leadership Weekend January 19-20, 2008 George Scripture-Guest Leader

Please keep Saturday, January 19th, open for Church Leadership Day. We have invited George Scripture to minister to us and challenge us regarding our opportunities for ministry and our responsibilities for service as members of Gods' Family at First Baptist Church. Pastor Scripture will also be speaking in our worship service on Sunday morning, January 20th. The theme for the weekend is *Unity in the Body of Christ*. Staff, members of all boards and committees, Sunday school teachers, leaders in the Men and Women's Ministries, and anyone desiring to find their place among First Baptist leadership team is invited to participate. Details forthcoming in the January Courier. But mark the weekend now on your calendar.



## Congratulations!

Beth Davis will graduate December 14 from Miami University with a degree in Middle Childhood Education with concentration in Science and Social Studies. Beth went back to school seven years ago at age 44. During those years she had a full time job for six years at a Library Clerk for Van Buren and for the last year she worked part time at Miami Culinary Support since all her classes were in Oxford. Beth received six scholarships. She was invited into 3 International Honor Societies and also 5 National Honor Societies because of her excellent grades. Beth will graduate Magna Cum Laude. Her family and friends applaud her diligence and hard work. Currently she is doing her student teaching at Wilson Jr. High and will soon be seeking a full time teaching position.

Proud Mom, Janet Lewis

---

The Courier is a monthly publication of The First Baptist Church of Hamilton, Ohio. Deadline for articles to be submitted is the fifteenth day of each month. The pastor: Dr. Dennis M. Metzger; Editor: Ellie Dinger. Our purpose statement: *We are believers in Jesus Christ, called of God, Gathering for Worship; Instruction and Fellowship...Scattering for Care, Evangelism and Transformation of the World for His Kingdom.*

---

First Baptist Church  
1501 Pyramid Hill Boulevard  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013  
Phone: 513-868-1412

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 29
--