

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

January, 2008

Requests For The New Year

What shall I ask for the coming year
What shall my watchword be
What should thou do for me, dear Lord
What can I do for thee?

Lord, I would ask for a holy year
Spent in thy perfect will
Help me to walk in thy very steps
Help me to please thee still.

Lord, I would ask for a trustful year
Give me thy faith divine
Taking my full inheritance
Making thy fulness mine!

Lord, I would ask for a year of love
O let me love thee best
Give me the love that faileth not
Beneath the hardest test.

Lord, I would ask for a year of prayer
Teach me to walk with thee
Breathe in my heart the Spirit's prayer
Pray thou thy prayer in me!

Lord, I would ask for the dying world
Stretch forth thy mighty hand
Thy truth proclaim, thy power display
This year in every land.

Lord, I would ask for a year of joy
Thy peace, thy joy divine
Springing undimmed through all the days
Be thy days of shade or shine.

Lord, I ask for a year of hope
Looking for thee to come
And hastening on that year of years
That brings us Christ and Home.

—Unknown

Submitted by Jewell Bowling

A Hymn For The New Year

Washington Gladden, a prolific Congregationalist pastor during the early 20th century, became well known for his stands on social issues. His hymn "*O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*," partially quoted below, appeals to Christ for his companionship, guidance, inner peace, and hope. It's an ideal hymn for beginning a new year.

O Master, let me walk with thee
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me thy secret; help me bear,
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way,
In peace that only thou canst give,
With thee, O Master, let me live.

—Selected

Advisory Board Meeting

The Advisory Board is made up of all elected officers of our church. The first meeting of this board will be on Sunday, January 13th, at 5:00. We will hear from boards and committees regarding their ministries and take care of any business items which should be presented to the church membership in the annual business meeting.

Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the church will be on Wednesday, January 16th, at 6:45 p.m. Your hearts will be encouraged as you hear how the Lord has worked among us in 2007 and the vision of the boards and committees for 2008.



American Baptist Women's Ministries

Missionary for the Month of **January**:

Dwight & Kari Davidson
Japan

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

Bible Book of the Month . . . Proverbs

"You may make your plans, but God directs your actions."

Proverbs 16:9 (TEV)

The Book of Proverbs is a collection of moral and religious teachings in the form of sayings and proverbs. Much of it has to do with practical, everyday concerns. It begins with the reminder that to have knowledge, you must first fear the Lord, and then goes on to deal with matters not only of religious morality, but also of common sense and good manners.

PRAY that American Baptist Women will be challenged to greater commitment to God's purpose.

—Madge Walters

Upcoming Dates: Blanket Sundays—February 4 & 11

Young Women Of Hope

Laughter could be heard throughout the store as the AB Girls shopped for a family at Christmas. They had lots of fun picking out clothes and toys for two children. Eating lunch and then wrapping the gifts were also part of our time together.

The January meeting will be on Sunday, January 13, at noon. Amy Wallace will be providing the lunch.

—Nancy Whipple, Marilyn Bowling,
& Mindy Hazelwood

KeenAger Outings

KeenAger outings for 2008 are in the planning stage. Please watch the weekly bulletin for details.

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



Free Tax Service

Provided by IRS approved tax preparers under the supervision of AARP Tax Aide. Bring last years Income Tax returns to Senior Citizen's, C and Ross Avenue between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Our own **Naomi Hoskins** has served as a counselor in the program for about seven years, and this year is a local coordinator. For further information see Naomi Hoskins (863-1873).



We will be making our monthly trip down to Matthew 25: Ministries for a wonderful day of fellowship, fun, and **WORKING FOR THE LORD** Thursday, January 24th. We will leave the church at 8:30 a.m. returning at about 3:00 p.m. Come dressed to **WORK** and bring a sack lunch and a beverage. Remember - this is **NOT** just for the KeenAgers. Everyone is welcome to be a part of this ministry.

—Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham



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The Vision Continues

At the time of this writing, we have just completed the celebration of the Christmas season. Hopefully, this was a significant time for your family to contemplate the amazing plan of the Father to bring all of creation into reconciliation with Himself. It was a bold plan. A costly vision. An unexpected move of the Almighty God. The plan would find its focus in the incarnation of the Son; and ultimately, in His sacrificial death on the cross and His astounding victory over sin and death. But between the manger and the cross, the human Jesus set His sights on the process that would bring God's audacious plan into reality.

At the age of thirty, Jesus took off His carpenter's apron, placed his tools in the storage box, and swept up the shop for the last time. He paused, then took a deep breath as He closed the door behind Him. Before Him the voice of the Baptizer echoed in the wilderness, and the lonely and challenging days of temptation-to-come loomed heavy on his heart. It was the good doctor Luke who picked up the storyline in his gospel:

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Luke 4:14-22.

Jesus began His ministry with the end in mind. He knew what He wanted to accomplish. And so, He set out to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to demonstrate what life would look like with God's will being realized among His people.

As a people called First Baptist Church, there is still a vision for ministry that is lies before us. We developed the vision in the

months of 2006, and worked parts of the vision in the days since. It is just as relevant now as it was in the days it first found its way from a dream in our hearts to clearly expressed print on the page. **A vision is a method to express the hope that is in our hearts as we invite our God to make Himself known among us.** It is the desire of our spirits to say to our Lord, "We want to make a difference in the world." This church business is more than a focus on what makes our families happy and fulfilled as we choose from the many options available to us in this busy and abundant culture. It is more than just hanging on to what makes us comfortable. It is seeing the passion of Jesus lived out in the world of sin, darkness, and need.

In 2008, it is my intention to call us back to those valuable strategies that will enable us to make a difference. So, I invite you to read the rest of this article. To discover a strategy that will move your heart with passion and energy. And to commit your life to exciting new challenges and possibilities in the year ahead.

Our Cause

Our cause is the Great Commission of Jesus Christ: *namely, that the gospel is to be taken everywhere, that everything Jesus taught we are to teach, and that we should remember that Jesus is with us always* (Matthew 28:19, 20). No one else has been charged by God with this

From the Pastor's Heart (cont)

task. It is the church only that God has called to introduce His love and power to a lost world.

Our Purpose

In our work together, we reaffirmed the value of our current 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.*

This statement is printed on all of our printed materials. We also discovered that it is important to link the statement to our community--what Mark Vincent described as "contextualizing the vision." That led us to the issue of Vision.

Our Vision

This vision required that we ask several questions:

- Who are we as we sit on this hill, overlooking the the river flowing through our city?
- Why do we exist as a people called First Baptist Church of Hamilton, Ohio?
- Who is our target audience?
- How do we become more responsive to the needs of our community?

We worked with these questions, then expressed our vision with this simple statement expressed in "Strategy #1" below.

Our Core Values

Then we explored some of the practices we currently value as a people. These will continue to be key qualities that will identify us as a people who desire to serve the Lord in 2008 and beyond:

First Baptist Church will be...

- Word-centered, with strong preaching/teaching
- Christ-centered
- A people of prayer
- Motivated by missions, evangelism, discipleship
- Committed to relationships and fellowship
- Open to people who do not have a Baptist heritage
- Led by leaders who are committed to integrity
- A worshiping congregation
- A unified congregation
- A congregation that shows love and compassion
- A congregation that appreciates its heritage
- A congregation that makes good use of its organizational structure.

Utilizing the unifying categories of Cause, Purpose,

Vision, and Core Values, we then developed seven specific strategies that address key areas we identified as important to our continued ministry. The development of these strategies began with two underlying questions:

To become to people of God at First Baptist Church, who are effective in our service to the Lord and His ministry:

- What do we **need** to do as a church ministry? and secondly,
- What are we **willing** to do?"

Here are the seven strategies:

Strategy #1: We have, use, and are motivated by a vision for ministry in our current context.

We will develop a vision that describes the context for ministry without sounding exclusive. The Advisory Board affirmed the work of the Vision task force which describes us as:

A multi-generational, multi-community church family that ministers to all, and provides an opportunity for all to minister.

This means that in all of our efforts of ministry, we will attempt to remember that members of every generation are important--that every person has a place among us. That includes the respected, long-time members, who enabled us to become who we are as a church family, through years of their sacrifice and labor, as well as the younger children among us--and every generation between--will be the target of ministry. Every generation will have an opportunity to serve, to find a place to worship in ways that are meaningful, and who will find something here to meet their emotional, physical, and spiritual lives.

Strategy #2: The definition and measurement of attendance and participation in worship is broadened so that attendance and participation can be strengthened.

We will form a task force for the attraction, retention, and assimilation of worshipers.

We all have **preferences** in the kind of worship that is meaningful for us as individuals. But because we have affirmed that we are a "Multi-generational, multi-community church family" each of us must be willing to permit/allow for parts of worship that may not fit into our particular preference on that particular Sunday,

From the Pastor's Heart (continued)

but will speak to someone else. Because our intention is to provide for meaningful worship experiences for every generation, we know that we will be able to enjoy our own preference later on in that worship, or in the worship in the week that follows.

The key phrase should be: "Even though worship is not all about me, I will find some point of connection with my Lord on that morning." I will trust our worship leaders to remember to minister cross-generationally.

Strategy #3: We will develop a more loving, welcoming, and encouraging community so that there is greater mutuality and interaction within the congregation.

Target areas for this effort include Wednesday night dinners, small groups, Sunday School classes and interaction before and after our worship services and other gatherings. We want people to discover that we are a welcoming people, and that our genuineness goes beyond just smiling at each other. We truly want to be a loving, welcoming, and encouraging community.

Strategy #4: We will have greater awareness of our current outreach efforts, and we will expand them to be more effective.

We will expand and publicize our outreach efforts into our community and the world, increasing our level of participation within the congregation. Many people in our congregation are involved in ministries beyond these walls; but most of us are unaware of those efforts. Those who are out there feel alone; that only they are involved. So, we want to be an encouragement to those who minister in these ways. And we want to discover ways that others of us can find our place in being used in our community in the name of Christ.

Strategy #5: We will develop leaders and communicate effectively.

Our goal in this area is to develop more effective written, electronic, and face to face communication strategies for our church ministry. This includes greater communication among our leadership, from our leadership to the congregation, and from the congregation back to the boards and staff. Effective communication is essential, but we have not always done a good job in this area. We mean to improve this area of need.

It is also our hope to develop a mentoring program as a means to intentionally develop leaders from among rest of the congregation. Many are willing to serve the body on boards or committees, but they need instruction; and they need to discover if the commitment of time required is something they are willing to give to these ministries.

Strategy #6: We educate and develop generous Christians.

We will develop a specific stewardship education program. The intent is that people in the congregation will respond to the Lord's leadership to adjust their generosity with time, talent and treasure.

Strategy #7. We are a people of prayer.

Develop an organized prayer ministry. This includes the reorganization of our prayer chain ministry, and the invitation to the congregation to become more "prayer involved" during our worship services, leadership meetings and church family gatherings.

Seven Strategies. These strategies were reviewed and approved by our Advisory Board which met at a special meeting on March 5th, 2006. Some of the strategies required the formation of focus groups to refine key issues and develop ways to implement the particular strategy. These groups worked throughout 2006 and portions of 2007. **Through our work, we discovered the good news that First Baptist has a heart to becoming more effective in the role God has placed before us as we serve Him in Hamilton.**

Working on these strategies has required a two year commitment from all of us, **and there is still much work to be addressed in 2008.** After a gathering of our Board Chairs in January to review the material, each of our boards will be asked to reapproach several of the strategies. Even though there is much work still before us, it is a good place to be as we enter into 2008. I am convinced that the Lord will mightily bless our work in the year before us. I hope you are filled with a similar expectation.

Standing with you at the beginning of a new year, and serving the Lord with all our hearts, 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. Previously

announced dates for the four sessions have been changed. Revised dates are on Monday evenings of February through May (Feb 18, Mar 10; April 7, and May 5). Subsidized cost for the seminars \$50.

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) – Pastor

Winter Leadership Video Series

The Leadership Video presentation for January is entitled Knowing the Truth in the Shadow of Doubt. This June 2007 video seminar, sponsored by the Christian Communication Network (who brought us the Beth Moore series), is geared to equip the congregation with the truth we can cling to when we face the inevitable doubts that are a part of a life of faith. Featured speakers include Mark Mittelberg, Phil Hotsenpiller, John Mark Reynolds, David Horner, and J.P. Moreland. The presentation is scheduled for Sunday evening, January 13th at 6:00 PM. Don't miss being a part of the challenge. Invite your friends to be a part of this presentation.

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.

The Curio Cabinets

Many of you have commented favorably on the displays in the curio cabinets during the fall and Christmas seasons. But as "time marches on", those items will have to be removed and either the shelves will remain empty or they can be refilled with your contributions. This time I'm looking for your hand-crafted artwork, any medium. Many of you have artistic talents that need to be brought to light. So call me if you have wood crafts, ceramic, oils or watercolors, fabric crafts, dolls, needlework, etc.--whatever you do that will fit into the curio cabinets. Remember the guidelines--put your name on each item, and it shouldn't be taller than 12-13 inches. I will display your artwork and identify it so we can all enjoy your God-given talents.

Carol Howard-887-9415.



All annual reports are due in the office **on disk** (Word Perfect, Word, or generic text file, if possible) by Wednesday, January 2nd. Preparation time is needed to compile and print this valuable report.



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.



Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



Silent Dinner

The **Silent Dinner** for **January** will be Friday, January 4th, at Eastgate Mall. See you there!

Interpreter Schedule for January

January 6	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
January 13	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
January 20	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
January 27	Jo Manson	Maria Miller

Happy Birthday



January 2 - Tina Monhollen
January 19 - Sandra Williams
January 31 - Robert Williams

—Maria Miller
Director of Deaf Ministries

Budget Status Report

The Month of November, 2007

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$57,954
Offerings	44,687
Over (Under) Budget	(\$13,267)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$55,950
Offerings	44,687
Over (Under) Actual	(\$11,263)

The Year Through November, 2007

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$668,609
Offerings	543,917
Over (Under) Budget	(\$124,692)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$634,317
Offerings	543,917
Over (Under) Actual	(\$90,400)

—The Board Of Trustees

**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

Reminder: All articles for the monthly newsletter, The Courier, are due in the church office by the 15th of the month. They can be emailed to Ellie at ellie.dinger@fuse.net or elliedinger@juno.com. Articles received after the 20th may not be in that month's newsletter.



Awana Club

Awana January Calendar Update

2rd - Funny Socks Night
 9th - Regular Club Night
 16th - Missions Night with Evon Laubenstein
 23rd - Regular Club Night
 30th - Awana Store Night

Special Christmas Love Offering

You still have a few days to contribute to the Christmas Love Offering for our new Awana missionary, Mr. Ken Rohrer (see the December Courier for details-Mr. Schenk is still around). 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

Funny Socks Night

Wear your funniest socks to club on Wednesday, January 2nd!

Awana Store Night

We've waited a long time, but our second store night will finally arrive on January 30! There will be some good stuff there, so you don't want to miss it!

–Emily Metzger
 Awana Commander



Kirkwood 2008 Summer Camp

June 15-20 Jr. High Multi-Cultural (Ken Atchison and Portia Blanks)
 June 29-July 4 Jr. High Camp (Linda Miller)
 July 6-July 11 Sr. High Camp (Director TBA)
 July 20-July 25 Junior Missions Camp (Denise Franke)
 July 20-25 New Adventure I Camp (Tim Lee)
 August 3-August 8 New Adventure II Camp (TBA)
 August 3-August 8 Extreme Camp (Jeremy Spence)
 July 19 Miami Baptist Association Summer Fun Day

--Loretta Hampton, Camp Coordinator

Sunday School Observation

We are beginning a New Year - 2008 WOW! Your Sunday School staff has noticed a disturbing trend of lateness among many of our attendees. We are aware that there is often a good excuse for late arrival, but sometimes its just habit. Therefore, several people devised these observations and offer you an opportunity to "turn over a new leaf" or to make a New Year's Resolution.

Ten reasons why teachers and students should arrive in their Sunday School classroom on time or, better yet, early:

10. Because children need an example that Sunday School and punctuality are important.
9. Because teachers and students can have pre-lesson interaction, especially important with children.
8. Because there will be time to fellowship with visitors or class members you may not know well. (Some classrooms offer coffee, also.)
7. Because teachers won't have to repeat valuable lesson truths for the late comers.
6. Because you won't disturb a classroom already in session.
5. Because you will earn a positive reputation and will be proud of yourself.
4. Because it honors God and teachers who take time to study.
3. Because a full hour of S.S. gives time for Q. & A., map study, prayer and completion of the lesson.
2. Because there will be time for planning class activities, projects, etc.
1. Because you'll reveal how organized you are and that you are not a Sunday morning slowpoke or sleepyhead.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Alexander Sprague**, representing Adams Elementary School, who was the first runner-up in the Hamilton City School District's Gifted Students' chess tournament.

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

 **Free Guitar Ensemble Concert** 

At 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 23rd, at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main Street in Oxford, the Midday Music series presents a free program performed by seven guitarists from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music Classical Guitar Ensemble. For information call Jack Daugherty - 523-6969.



Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 3rd, is Souper Bowl Sunday. Please bring to church with you a can of soup or any other food item and \$1. Members of CREW and JV CREW will be collecting these items at the doors. All items will be donated to the New Life Baptist Mission. Thanks for your participation!

-Deaconess Relief Committee

Annual Pro Life Prayer March

All churches in the Butler County area are invited and urged to participate in the 19th Annual Butler County "Prayer March For Life", taking place on Monday, January 21st, around the Butler County Courthouse from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. All churches, individuals, and families are encouraged to attend and pray together for an end to abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. If each church community would send just "12 disciples" or more, willing to pray together for an end to the killing of our modern day "Holy Innocents", we would have the largest diverse prayer gathering that butler county has ever seen! Signs and church banners are welcome. The Prayer March will take place regardless of the weather!

-Mike Mignery
Butler County Right To Life



Women's Ministry Council News

The New Year is upon us, which means it's time for the Women's Ministry Council to kick off another year of fun and fellowship. The following activities are scheduled and we hope all ladies of our church will take the opportunity to join us as we glorify our Lord.

January:

Healthy Lifestyles weight loss group in planning stages. Check Sunday bulletins for information.

14th - Women's Book Club begins.

17th - Ladies Bible Study at 9 a.m. "The Temple-Glorifying God in Your Everyday Life" by Laurie Cole. Room 113 at church.

24th - Ladies Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. "The Temple-Glorifying God in Your Everyday Life" by Laurie Cole. Room 113 at church.

*Note-The John Engle Mission Luncheon previously scheduled for January 13th, has been postponed. The council will be helping with the *Letters From Dad* project set to begin in late January.

February

5th - Craft Night- Card making. You will make a set of cards for yourself, and a set for our shut-ins. Sign up begins in January. Cost for materials - \$10.

29th - Serve City Outreach Meal - We'll need help cooking, preparing and serving food for 50 people at the shelter which is located at 622 East Ave. This will be for the evening meal. Will also need volunteers for fellowship on site. Exact times TBA.

March

17th - Movie Night. Watch Courier and Sunday bulletins for time and place

*Note -- The Women's Retreat **has been changed** to April 18-19. Details to follow in February Courier.

We want to thank all of the women at our church for helping to make 2007 a great year! We look forward to serving God, and fellowshiping with each other in 2008.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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



Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

January 6 - Kim & Erin Gingrich
January 13 - Rob & Jenny VanMeter
January 20 -
January 27 - Linda Cain & Jan Smith

One & Two Year Olds

January 6 - Chris & Claire Metzger
January 13 -
January 20 -
January 27 - Emily Metzger & teen helper

Kinderchurch

January 6 - Brandi Emenaker & teen helper
January 13 - Brandi Emenaker & teen helper
January 20 - Brandi Emenaker & teen helper
January 27 - 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!

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



Wednesday Family Dinners

January 2

Menu: Turkey Tetrizzini, Honey Glazed Carrots, Applesauce, Rolls, Dessert
Hosts: Keystone I

January 9

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

January 16

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

January 23

Menu: Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert
Hosts: Deaconesses

January 30

Menu: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Corn, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Dessert
Hosts: Keystone II

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

Reminder: Anyone desiring to borrow items, such as, chairs, tables, coffee pots, etc. are now required to fill out a sheet in the office with name, date, item, and number borrowed and then the date, item, and number returned. Please see Ellie.

January Greeters

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



Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

2008: A Year of Choice

What came first the chicken or the egg? An age old question that I have been pondering as I sat down to write this article. There is actually an exception to the above question for me: What came first the sermon topic or the Courier Article?

Now I can tell you why I believe the chicken came first and willing to share my thoughts on that over a coke or something of the like but as for the second question, well it just depends. Chronologically speaking, the Courier Article came before the sermon. Ideologically speaking, one could argue the sermon was the first place I planned on using this theme and the Courier Article just happened to be on the same theme. In the end, as with both questions, it doesn't matter because God has orchestrated it all.

I actually just had one of those "God moments" happen to me while watching *Spider Man 3* with my neighbor Rick. You know, one of those moments where a lot of your thoughts from the past couple weeks, months, or even year comes into a new light and everything is all the sudden crystal clear. If you have not seen *Spider Man 3* I encourage you to possibly check it out. The movie is a pretty clean movie with just a couple scenes that may not have needed to be part of it. (For more of an experts view on this movie and others please check out www.pluggedinonline.com.) Even though in the end I thought the movie needed more action and less drama it started to bring into light some of the struggles, thoughts, and meanderings that have been taking place inside my head this past year. Lucky for you, and yes it really is a good thing, I will share the over all theme with you. At one point in time during the movie we have Peter Parker, also known as Spider Man, talking about a friend of his that makes a great sacrifice for him in the movie. As Peter is remembering one of the lessons he comes to say something like this, and I am paraphrasing at this point: Regardless of what happens to us we, whether on the inside or from without, we each have a choice. We can choose to do what is best for others or ourselves. We can choose to give into our desires or fight the evil withing. My friend taught me that. Regardless of what we may think at the time, we all have a choice in deciding what we do.

Great thought isn't it? I thought so and it brought to light what 2007 has been for me, and what 2008 also may be. This has been a year of choices for me. I have chosen to ask myself hard questions and seek answers in the process. I have chosen to trust God's Word and what He has for me. I have chosen to continue my education starting in the Fall of 2008, and many others along the way. What about you, what have you chosen this past year? What will you choose this upcoming year? I

realize that you may not know what may come but just remember the words of Spider Man "We each have the choice." How true it is.

In fact God's Word says something similar. At the end of the book of Joshua we see the farewell speech of God's chosen man in leading the Israelites into the promise land. Here is a portion of his words; "If serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my household. We will serve the LORD."

What great and yet some of the most challenging words given to man. Today, and only today, can you and I choose whom we will serve, the Lord or something else. Each day we serve someone or something and we make the decision whether or not we are aware of it. I hope you will choose God with me, after all it is life as it was meant to be lived.

Be God's,
Jeremy

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 6th: CIA Project in the city of Hamilton. We will meet at the church at 6pm and then head out from there. The CIA project will be complete by 7pm.

January 13th 4:30-7:30pm: LaserWeb Outing. Join us for this great night of laser tag. Cost will be around \$5 per person so invite your friends. We will be at LaserWeb in Fairfield no later than 5pm and should be leaving there around 7:10pm

January 20th 4:00pm-10:00pm: Gameworks Outing. Since you don't have school the next day we will have an extended CREW Outing to Gameworks on Newport on the Levy. Cost will be \$15 per person and that will include everything you will need for the evening. Extra money may be brought for additional games. A permission slip will be passed out/available very soon.

January 27th Noon: Immediately following the morning service we will be having a luncheon for all individuals involved in any aspect of the CREW Student Ministries. If you are helping out with a small group, AB Young Women of Hope, Lifeline, going on events, and so on, then please stay after for a lunch just for you. Childcare will be provided for those needing to take advantage of it. See Jeremy for more details.

January 27th 5:30pm-7:00pm: Bowling Outing. Cost \$5 per person. Meet at the church.

February 3rd: After the morning service we will be collecting money for the Souper Bowl of Caring drive. Canned goods will be collected as well at that time. In the evening we will be having a Super Bowl Party. Watch for details.

Children's Ministry News

A new year means new resolutions, new opportunities to reach out and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. We always have open spaces for people to serve with our children, in Kinderchurch, childcare and Wednesday nights. You need not have an educational degree to work with our children--all you need are the following:

- Love for Jesus
- Smiles
- A heart to share
- Patience
- More patience
- Willingness to get mucky

There is nothing more satisfying then seeing a child talk about Jesus, retelling a story or singing "*Jesus Loves Me This I Know*". Even after a rather messy Kinderchurch lesson involving glitter, we rejoice because we are exposing the children to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Childcare Appreciation Luncheon

Claire and I will be hosting our annual Childcare Appreciation Luncheon immediately following the service on Sunday, February 10th. Anyone who has volunteered in the nursery, with our toddlers, or in kinderchurch is invited to attend. Lunch will be catered by Claire and me, featuring our homemade soups! Please see either of us if you would like to reserve a spot. Childcare will be provided. Thanks again to all who have served in these important positions!

Speaking of childcare, **WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS!** While our numbers can fluctuate, we currently have low enrollments in our nursery and toddler rooms. Often times, there are less than 3 in each room! So, don't be afraid! :) We also can grab people to help if the numbers would happen to be higher. So PLEASE, see Claire or myself to sign up. If all able-bodied people would just take ONE turn, we would be set for a long time! Thanks in advance for your help!

Looking forward to Junior Jam in March. More later!

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



Charlie Walters To Be Inducted In New Miami High School Sports Hall Of Fame

Charlie Walters will be inducted into the New Miami High School Sports Hall of Fame Saturday, January 26th. Charlie was the first basketball and baseball coach at New Miami when it became a high school. Tickets for the dinner are \$15 and can be obtained by calling New Miami High School (863-4917). Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. at the High School. Congratulations, Charlie!

Corrections and Additions To The Directory

Please call the church office with additions or changes to your address, phone number, or e-mail address.

Campbell, Gene
c/o Andrew Campbell
429 Creekside
Trinity, Texas 75862
Cell Phone: 936-615-5843

Dudley, 2 LT. Philip G.
500 S. Coronada Drive, # 712
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Harden, Steve & Kristy
663 Stafford Drive
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Schwab, Betty
1384 Cotswold Lane
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Schwab, Carl & Jeanette
E-mail: carljeanetteschwab@IAC.NET



Martin
Luther
King Jr.
Day

Personal Notes



From Barb Blevens

My sincere thanks for all of the prayers, cards, calls, and concerns following my surgery in September. A special thanks to Pastor Den and Pastor Bill for their visits. I'm confident that with continued prayers, the following weeks of treatments will be successful. God bless you all

From Margie, Nellie, Bonnie & Carol (sisters of Eileen Campbell)

To our church family: We are extremely grateful for all of you. Thank you for your cards and other expressions of concern when our sister, Eileen, passed away. As dearly as we shall miss her, we rejoice in the promise that she is in the Lord's presence walking tall and skipping down golden streets. We appreciate our pastoral staff, sound personnel, Linda at the organ, and Walter Hillman for their contributions to her memorial service. Thanks also to the lovely ladies who provided and served a delicious meal. We are so blessed to have a caring church family who encourages us and lifts us up in prayer. Thank you for the prayers, cards, and visits I received during my recent illness. They were greatly appreciated. We are truly blessed by being a part of such a wonderful church family.

From Evelyn Maddox

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and support at the time of my aunt's passing. Thanks to Pastor Bill for doing the service. It is so good to have such a caring church family.

From Clea Paragin

Again thanks for all the cards, visits, and prayers during my recent colon surgery. Thank you for being caring and loving. May God bless you all.

From Dick Winkler

I would like to thank the wonderful folks at First Baptist for their prayers for me during my two recent surgeries. A special thank you to Pastor Den and Pastor Brantingham for their visits and prayers with me, for the special prayers of the Wednesday prayer group. Thanks, too, to those who called, sent cards, and encouraged me every time I was at church. What a wonderful, caring church family you are.

Open Letter To Eileen & The First Baptist Church Family

Trumpets sounded, harps were playing and bells were ringing, angels were singing and dancing in the streets and He who sat at the right hand of God had a smile from ear to ear. God was busy picking out the precious jewels for a crown. All of this took place when St. Peter opened the gates of heaven and announced in a clear voice that could be heard all over heaven, that Eileen Campbell had arrived. Lord Jesus opened wide his arms and whispered to Eileen, "Welcome home, my child". The beauty of all this is that when St. Peter opens heavens gates and announces our arrival, Eileen will be there with open arms and will whisper to each of us, "Welcome home, welcome home!"

I dearly love you.

Your loving husband,
Gene

Thanks to everyone for their wonderful display of love. The many cards, flowers and church service were lovely. Thank you all.

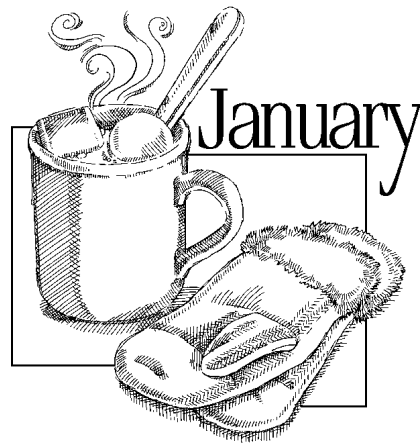
Gene Campbell

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

First Baptist Church
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Hamilton, Ohio 45013
Phone: 513-868-1412

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2008</h1>						
		1 Have a happy blessed New Year!	2 5:00 ABW 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Club-Funny Socks Night 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	3 9:30 MOPS Steering 5:30 Music & Worship	4	5 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering Upward Basketball Wedding of Deron Bowling and Monica McConnaughy in Mentor, Ohio
6 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:45 Women's Council 5:15 Youth of Praise 6:00 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 CREW CIA	7	8	9 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	10 5:30 Board of Trustees 6:00 Upward Basketball	11 6:00 Upward Basketball	12 6:00 Upward Basketball
13 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 AB Girls 4:30 CREW LaserWeb 5:00 Advisory Bd. Mtg. 5:15 Youth of Praise 6:00 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration	14 11:30 Women's Book Club at Fairfield Lane Library	15 9:30 MOPS 7:00 Abell Circle 7:00 Smith Circle	16 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana-Missions 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Annual Business Mtg. 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	17 9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Upward Basketball	18 6:00 Upward Basketball Church Leadership Weekend	19 6:00 Upward Basketball Church Leadership Weekend
20 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 AB Girls 4:00 CREW GameWorks 4:30 Diaconate 5:15 Youth of Praise 6:00 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration	21 7:00 <i>Prayer March For Life</i> at Butler County Courthouse	22	23 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	24 8:30 Matthew 25 9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Upward Basketball 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	25 6:00 Upward Basketball	26 6:00 Upward Basketball
27 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Youth Leaders Luncheon 4:00 CE Board 5:30 CREW Bowling 5:15 Youth of Praise 6:00 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration	28 <i>Letters From Dad</i> Informational Dinner	29	30 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Store Night 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	31 9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study		



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|---|---|
| 1 - | Janet Hetterich | 16 - | Jan Wade Griffin
Sheryl Morrow | 29 - | Verna Pickett
Charles Walters
Nancy Hoskins |
| 2 - | Pat Brown
Charlotte Day
Tina Monhollen | 18 - | Fred Isaacs
Logan Andrew Sapp
Margie VonStein | 30 - | Maggie Baker |
| 3 - | Fuz Buchanan | 19 - | Ed Dawson
Sandra Williams | 31 - | Robert F. Williams |
| 4 - | Felicity Hines | 20 - | Bob Tragesser
George Wade | <p>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.</p> | |
| 5 - | Alex Wallace | 21 - | Adam Metzger
Ted Soderholm | | |
| 6 - | Brian Begley
David Dawson | 22 - | Jeffrey D. Miller | | |
| 7 - | Brenda Roddy | 24 - | Zeke Bowling
Larry Wallace | | |
| 8 - | Florence Jones
Thelma Stanger | 25 - | Scott Dawson
Evelyn Maddox | | |
| 9 - | Robert Abney | 26 - | Ralph Lenehan
Bonnie Titus | | |
| 10 - | Mark Schumm
Susan Thomas | 27 - | Brittany Nesbitt
Candace Yates | | |
| 11 - | Ed Emerick
Hannah Ruwe | 28 - | Adrian Benzing
Lisa Rankey
Amy Wallace | | |
| 14 - | Jesse Brown
Nicole Campbell
Elyse Hendrickson | | | | |
| 15 - | Aubrey Jordon
Karl Metzler
Pat Griesinger | | | | |

Wake Up Call!

I woke this morn in wonder
Athe the world Your hand has made.
The sunrise was a backdrop
For a feathered serenade.

The sky, first tinged with purple,
Then rosy reds to gold
Was a gorgeous moving picture
My eyes were privileged to behold.

The brilliance of the flowers,
The blossoms on each tree--
A priceless masterpiece
No artist could achieve.

Father, we're so very blessed,
And we can't imagine why.
You spoke our world to life
And flung the stars across the sky.

You created our vast universe,
The earth and all within.
It was pure and beautiful,
And wholly free from sin.

But mankind, at Satan's prompting,
Has spoiled Your pure creation.
We need your grace and mercy, Lord,
To save our dying nation.

We plead for Your forgiveness.
We have walked our selfish ways,
Not heeding Your commandments;
Not cherishing our days.

We've banished You from classrooms,
From the workplace, and the home.
We've moved Your from your rightful place;
Ensnoced ourselves upon the throne.

Please don't forget Your childre.
We need You more each day.
We need guidance and protection
As we try to find our way.

Back to all Your precepts
Before The Garden; after The Flood.
Lord, we know that You have saved us
By the shedding of Your blood.

But we need a strong revival.
We need to rouse this land.
Will it take another "Wake Up Call"
To make us understand.

That You are Sovereign Lord of all?
Our lives are gifts from You.
We need to look to You for strength
And help in all we do.

We need to fall down on our knees
And pray with all our hearts
That You will guide us through this maze
Of self-inflicted darts.

Lord, we need You in our churches,
In our Congress, in our schools.
It shouldn't take 911
To bring us to The Golden Rule.

Help us see with eyes of Jesus.
Help us feel with hearts of love.
Let us be his hands and feet on earth.
Please guide us from above.

Amen.

--By Florence Jones



We are about to begin a new year and with that new year comes the hope of new beginnings, new commitments, and new relationships. sort of a "fresh start" you might say. I'm sure many of you have made New Year Resolutions and are striving to make some sort of change in your life for 2008. Even though these "resolutions" are in general good ideas, come about mid February they seem to fall by the way side, at least for me they seem to. Why should we wait until January 1st to commit to a certain area of improvement in our lives? why don't we all just ask our Father for His help with everything we need to improve on or are struggling with every day? He loves to hear from us, for us to ask Him for help for He already knows what we need even before we ask it. I pray that this year as you embark on a new year that you ask God to be a part of your life every step of the way.

Prior to last month's regular meeting we enjoyed a Moms Only Christmas party at the home of mentor, Marilyn Bowling. What a great time we had as 15 of us enjoyed good food, beautiful decor, great conversation and some fun games that both Marilyn and Lois "cooked" up for us. Our December meeting proved to be just as enjoyable! Even though our members were down (possibly due to illness or traveling) we enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere as Pastor Jeremy shared with us the importance of being a mom and compared the role we play in our children's lives to that of Mary's role with Jesus. The smaller numbers allowed us to meet together in one group and share our own traditions and thoughts on how to keep the true meaning of the season in our families.

Mark your calendars now to join us on Tuesday, January 15th, as our topic will be *The Bedroom--Making Our Marriage Great*. We will also resume Mom Only and Mother/Child outings in January.

--At Home With Him,
Elise Martin, Coordinator