

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

February, 2008

"Love Friendly"

I miss the road signs formerly posted at busy and hazardous intersections around the Metromess that read: "Drive Friendly." Though they were frequently ignored by the primary target audience, they were still a pleasant reminder of how we ought to be.

Friendly is good. Makes me wonder why so many well-intentioned folks ignore its power and influence. Few dispositions pack the social wallop of friendly.

I've been watching some old Andy Griffin *Mayberry RFD* television shows lately in preparation for a class featuring grace. Though the producers of this classic series (best sitcom ever?) never considered the critical review that would follow forty years later, they clearly did understand the universal appeal of friendly. We gush over the characters of *Mayberry* because they generate a warm, fuzzy, nostalgic sense of a better time and place where friendliness ultimately displayed itself as the primary virtue. We wish Aunt Bee lived next door and delivered hot, fresh apple pie every Saturday afternoon. We would feel much safer if Andy patrolled our block and rescued wayward cats from the old hickory tree. We'd like to stroll along the shady sidewalks of a town where men tipped their caps, where women pushed their strollers, and where teenagers respected their elders. We would trade all our Super Centers for a corner variety store where Barney was supervisor of customer service, and we could exchange toasters with a smile and a handshake.

Friendliness pays.

Why is Wal-Mart, despite its well-documented troubles and abuses, the largest retailer in the world? It's because Aunt Bee and her gentle peers greet you at the door with a smile that has you reaching for your VISA. Wal-Mart has grown rich beyond our wildest imaginations because good ole Sam understood the power of "Shop Friendly."

Have you noticed that the bigger and faster we evolve the less friendly we become? We have fashioned a culture that prizes technology and individuality over relationship. In so doing, we insulate, isolate, and

alienate. We have become so fascinated and dulled by user-friendly, we have neglected people friendly. And in my observation, we're worse for it.

I'm calling for a friendly renaissance! I'm asking you to recommit to a spirit of personal friendliness. It's time to smile again! Show those synthetic pearly whites! Meet and greet your neighbors with a pleasant salutation. Act genuine – even if you have to fake it initially. Pay attention to the needs and interests of others.

Beg, buy, borrow, or build a front porch. Sit on it. Wave like crazy to passing motorists. Provide free lemonade to joggers and the occasional kid that rambles by looking for his parents who recently moved and left no forwarding address. Buy an old rocking chair – make that two – and invite the next old sour puss you encounter to come and sit a spell.

The next time you go to the store, go a few minutes early and hang around the produce section. Chat with new local folks about the weather. Compliment the manager regarding his choice of grapefruit. Give the stock boy a pat on the back. Avoid the self-checkout no-line and engage a random clerk in a friendly conversation. Tip the carry-out teen and return the basket yourself.

Enjoy the brief vacation from your own little world of worry, gloom, and self-absorption. If you can't seem to sustain friendly, at least designate one day a week where you pledge to act unnaturally. How about beginning with Friendly Thursday (Monday is too stressed. Tuesday is too fat. Wednesday is too busy...)?

Wear a "smiley button" – preferably yellow. If you can't go that far, how about a nametag: "Hi, my name is Ron!" Turn off your cell phone, headphones, and phony efforts to avoid your neighbors. Walk, talk, and drive friendly, all day.

(Continued)



American Baptist Women's Ministries

Blanket Sundays–Disaster Relief

Blanket Sundays will be February 10th and February 17th. In natural disasters (tornado, hurricane, flood, fire, mudslide, earthquake, etc.) many people are left with little or nothing. Church World Service furnishes initial emergency service with blankets, mattresses, tents, etc. Suggested donation for a blanket is \$8.00. Checks should be made payable to American Baptist Women.

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

Baby Kit (Layette)

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

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

February Missionary of the Month:

Democratic Republic of the Congo
Wayne & Katherine Niles

Bible Book of the Month Esther

“. . . my wish is that I may live and that my people may live.”

Esther 7:3 (TEV)

After the Jews had been carried captive into Babylonia, they were always in possible danger, even though some of them were treated well and grew prosperous. The Book of Esther is a vivid and exciting story: of the fearless Mordecai whom nobody could make cringe because of being a Jew; of a king who nearly got caught in his own stupidity; of the beautiful young queen who risked her life to save her people;

and of Haman, the villain, who built a gallows for the Jew he hated and then was hanged on it himself.

PRAY for National Ministries, especially for those carrying out ministries at the grass roots level.

–Madge Walters

Young Women of Hope

The January 13th meeting of the AB Girls began with a delicious lunch served by Amy Wallace, with the help of her mom and sister, Anna. Their chili soup was wonderful! At the business meeting, the girls planned activities for the rest of the year. Our program was entitled "Stewardship of Time," which talked about the pitfalls of "time wasters" and the benefits of keeping a calendar and other time management ideas. The girls then made favors for our shut-ins and two "no-sew" blankets that they wanted to give to Steve Lewis and Thelma Ditmyer.

The next meeting will be on Sunday, February 17, at noon. Heather and Lauren Keith will provide lunch.

–Nancy Whipple, Marilyn Bowling,
& Mindy Hazelwood



The next scheduled Work Day at Matthew 25 will be Thursday, February 28th. As usual, we would like to have a good working group to go. We will leave the church at the usual time, 8:30 a.m. Bring your sack lunch and beverage and be prepared for a good day of work and fellowship. Thank you.

–Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham

KeenAger February Meeting

Our February meeting will be Monday, February 18th. We will meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. for a devotional and then enjoy a light lunch together at 11:30. Please sign the list on the bulletin board. Watch the weekly bulletin for further details.

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

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Making Vision Stick

Pay the price. Embrace the vision. And do whatever it takes to make your vision stick!" That was the last sentence in a small book written by Andy Stanley, founding and senior pastor of the North Point Community Church in Atlanta (and the son of Charles Stanley). The book, entitled *Making Vision Stick*, was a gift from our friend and former pastor of First Baptist, George Scripture. He shared it with me before our leadership conference in mid-January. We had been discussing the format of our conference and I had shared with him my interest and passion in seeing the seven strategies of our Design for Ministry effort become more fully expressed in our church ministry.

As I read through Stanley's book, I began to reflect on what we have called **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..."

As Paul Harvey is fond of saying, "And now, page 2." At the presentation of our Sunday evening leadership series video on January 12, we viewed challenging messages from three of God's choice servants: Mark Mittelberg, Phil Hotsenpiller, and David Horner. The title of the presentation was "Knowing Truth in the Shadow of Doubt." The focus was apologetics—giving a reasoned defense of Christianity in response to the instruction of the Apostle in 1Peter 3:15:

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

These men expressed three ways we could do this effectively:

- be prepared with adequate information to pass on to those who are looking for answers to faith questions (or know where to find such answers—"The Case for Christ" (Strobel); and "Jesus Under Fire," (Moreland) as examples of many resources available);
- build relationships with those outside the Christian community, and in the context of friendship, win an opportunity to speak words of grace;
- give people an example by our lives of the "goodness" of God.

Two challenges lie before us: to embrace the Cause of Christ, and to be prepared to give an answer for the faith we profess. I have been reading in the Gospel of John, paying attention to how Jesus developed relationships with others—the disciples; a Samaritan woman at a well; strangers on a mountain side; a ruler of the Jews coming to Jesus in secrecy by night for fear of being discovered by his peers. They all had at least two things in common—they were people who came to the Lord with questions, and they desired to know the Lord more deeply.

Days come and go. The work before me stands as a constant opportunity. The family has grown up before my eyes, and another generation is emerging, with all its challenges. I wonder to myself, "How much time do I have left in this world? Five, ten, twenty years? Perhaps less!" What will I do with the time that stretches out before me?

I know that my deepest desire is to make the "cause of Christ" my own cause. To prepare myself informationally and relationally in order to give an answer for the faith that lies within me. I pray for opportunities to make a difference in the lives of people; for the wisdom and courage to be faithful to the challenge; and to apply myself each morning to that thinking and behavior that will "make the vision stick."

I think this is a goal worthy of the Lord whom I love and serve. And I wonder if there are others who would personally commit to such a vision for themselves. I hope so! I think the Lord is counting on it.

Loving you through my vision of Him,
Pastor

(Continued from front page)

After you master Friendly Thursday, move on to Sunday. Start the new week with a sunny outlook. Take a break from the daily grind and concentrate on bringing a little sunshine into the life of others. Make someone else's day a better place.

Be happy, and you'll have a better chance at becoming happy. Be friendly, and you'll have a better chance of making friends. Be fully alive, and you'll have a better chance of living.

And what better venue to exercise your new-found friendliness than the Christian assembly? Keep in mind the church gathers every Sunday morning to celebrate the greatest event in human history – the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

It was a Sunday morning, two thousand years ago, that the Son of God offered His life in exchange for yours and mine. He purposefully took the condemnation, judgment, and wrath for our sin upon Himself, and in so doing, bought our pardon and secured our eternities.

The sacrifice of Jesus remains the ultimate act of friendship. He acted on our behalf; He lived and died and lived again because He has our best interests at heart. "What a friend we have in Jesus!"

Thank God that He is a "friend to sinners."

Church ought to be the friendliest spot on earth. Church folks ought to be the friendliest folks in town. The Golden Rule demands nothing less. The joy of salvation should translate into a communal experience hallmarked by sense of blessedness unavailable anywhere else.

Friends, there is power and influence in friendliness. You can change lives – your own and your neighbors – by living friendly. Take a clue from our ultimate Friend, Jesus Himself, and be about the business of making friends of the gospel.

Friendliness is contagious, and it begins with you. "Love Friendly."

–Ron Carlson
Ron's Place



LEAP YEAR

Budget Status Report

The Month of December, 2007

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$48,221
Offerings	<u>89,820</u>
Over (Under) Budget	\$41,599

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$57,462
Offerings	<u>89,820</u>
Over (Under) Actual	\$32,358

The Year Through December, 2007

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$716,830
Offerings	<u>633,737</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$ 83,093)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$691,780
Offerings	<u>633,737</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$58,043)

–The Board Of Trustees



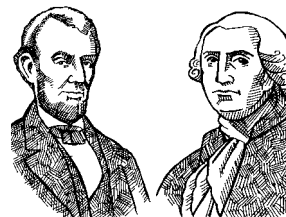
**Order Easter
Flowers Now**



It's an early Easter this year–March 23rd–and the deadline for ordering Easter flowers is upon us already! Would you like to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter in recognition of Jesus' resurrection and in honor or memory of a loved one? The cost per plant is \$ 14.00 for hydrangeas, \$9.00 for lilies and \$8.00 for hyacinths and tulips. Checks should be made payable to First Baptist Church. Order envelopes are available in the connector or office and must be returned to Marilyn Bowling or Lois Anderson no later than February 20th.

**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.



President's Day, February 18th

**Upcoming Women's Events
OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP,
ENCOURAGEMENT,
SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND SERVICE**

February 5: "Make and Take" card crafting—sign up at the "table in the connector"

February 29: We are hosting a dinner for Serve City. We need ladies to volunteer to serve, prepare parts of the meal, or provide financial support. Get more information at the "table in the connector" beginning February 3.

March 17: Movie Night--*Love's Enduring Promise*, the sequel to *Love Comes Softly*. More information will come later.

April 18-19: You are cordially invited to have "Dinner with the Perfect Stranger"—a retreat for the ladies of our church. We will meet for "dinner with the perfect stranger" on Friday evening and will gather on Saturday morning for a continental breakfast and much *more*—we don't want to reveal too much information just yet (and our plans aren't complete!). Formal invitations will be extended at a later date but mark your calendars now!!

The Healthy Lifestyles program has been canceled due to lack of interest.

**Serve City Dinner
February 29th
5:30-7:30 PM**

We need volunteers to serve, provide parts of the meal or help with costs by providing financial support. We will be serving pork roast, scalloped potatoes or potato casserole, cold slaw, applesauce, green beans, rolls, brownies or chocolate chip cookies and soft drinks. You can help by providing the following:

Serving from 5:30-7:30

_____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____

Help to prepare pork roast

_____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____

Prepare a 13"x9" potato casserole or scalloped potatoes

_____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____

Supply 2 dozen rolls

_____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____

Supply (2) 2-liter soft drinks

_____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____

Supply 2 dozen brownies or chocolate chip cookies

_____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____
 _____ Phone # _____

If you would like to make a financial contribution please see one of the Women's Ministry representatives. We need cash to purchase serving dishes, cold slaw and applesauce.

Serve City Volunteers!!!

Jesus said, "But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteousness." Luke 14:13

If you have volunteered to help with the dinner for Serve City, please prepare your food item in a throw-away container and have it at church by 5:00 PM on Friday, February 29. If you are helping to serve please be at church by 5:00 PM and we will carpool to Serve City.



**From The Heart Of
Marilyn
College Corner**

E-Mail From God

Go After Love

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

Dear Child of Mine,

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

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

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

Your Loving Guide,
God

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

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| Amber Allen (Miami University)
5297 Layhigh Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013 | Birthday
6/12 |
| Chad Allen (Wright State University)
1239 Springwood Lane Rm 406 B LAH
Fairborn, Ohio 45324 | 11/2 |
| Joe Arnold (Ohio State University)
1996 Indianola
Columbus, Ohio 43210 | 10/23 |

- | | |
|--|-------|
| Josh Braun (Ashland University)
621 Bruce Street
Ashland, Ohio 44805 | 3/29 |
| Mark Braun (University of Toledo)
1848 Meadowlark Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43614 | 4/11 |
| Rachael Davis (Miami University)
2483 Sir Martin Drive
Hamilton, Ohio 45013 | 10/17 |
| Thomas Ellison (Miami University)
1273 Oakmont Avenue
Hamilton, Ohio 45013 | 10/8 |
| Daniel French (Miami University)
1646 Morman Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013 | 12/10 |
| Joey Fryer (Miami University Hamilton)
3019 Eaton Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013 | 4/4 |
| Martha Helton (Miami University)
918 Greenwood Court
Trenton, Ohio 45067 | 9/16 |
| Rachel Keller (Miami University-Hamilton)
4176 Bedford Avenue
Hamilton, Ohio 45015 | 6/21 |
| Mara Krall (Miami University)
5198 Westgate Drive
Oxford, Ohio 45056 | 11/17 |
| Nancy McAllister
3770 Southpointe Parkway
Oxford, Ohio 45056 | 11/21 |
| Daniel McKee (Ohio State University)
100 East Woodruff Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43201 | 9/24 |
| Jennifer McKee (Evansville University)
1700 East Walnut Street Rm. # 206
Evansville, Indiana 47714 | 5/15 |
| Scott McRoberts (ITT Tech)
326 N 7 th Street
Hamilton, Ohio 45011 | 12/1 |
| Daniel Morris (Eastern Kentucky University)
1071 West Barker Lane
Berea, Kentucky 40403 | 5/27 |
| Lauren Schwab (Miami University)
3280 Frazee Road
Somerville, Ohio 45064 | 3/14 |

Benji Stanger (Eastern Kentucky University) 11/18
424 Garden City Drive Apt. # 38
Richmond, Kentucky 40459

Bo Stanger (University of California-Pittsburgh) 4/3
670 Park Street
California, Pennsylvania 15419

Alex Thiel (Ohio State University) 6/15
Park Hall Room 707
110 W. 11th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Andrew Thiel (Ohio State University) 1/17
33 E. 17th Avenue Apt. E
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Libby Thomas (UC-Raymond Walters) 4/18
7130 Plainfield Road # 11
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

Susan Thomas (University of Kentucky) 1/10
510 Woodland Ave. # 202
Lexington, Kentucky 40508

Jay Wallace (Eastern Kentucky University) 7/28
Box 83 Martin Hall
Richmond, Kentucky 40475

Jennifer Wallace (Ohio State University) 12/11
378 Naiche Court
Columbus, Ohio 43213

Ashley Wilson (Miami University) 5/17
1401 Eaton Avenue
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Nick Wilson (Miami University) 3/25
1401 Eaton Avenue
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Trisha Zeek (Eastern Kentucky University) 10/20
412 Sarah Leigh Drive Apt. 2
Richmond, Kentucky 40475

Justin Zeek (Sinclair University) 8/7
112 W. Dayton-Yellowsprings Road Apt. 22
Fairborn, Ohio 45324

-Marilyn Bowling
College Coordinator

Rotary Revels Present Music Man

March 13, 14 & 15 at 8:00 p.m.
March 15 & 16 at 2:00 p.m.

At Parrish Auditorium
Miami University Hamilton

Tickets are \$15.00
Contact Karen Buchanan
863-1472

Tisha Patton - Rehearsal Pianist
Iris Patton - Chorus
Karen Buchanan - Chorus
Denise Cox - Mayor Shin's wife
Herb Cox - Director

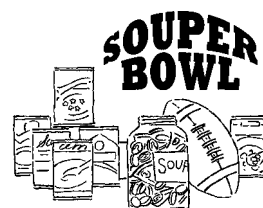
Attention: KeenAgers! KeenAgers are going to Rotary Presents *The Music Man* on Thursday, March 13th. There are **only 24 tickets** available. Please sign the list on the bulletin board ASAP. All money is due Sunday, March 2nd. They will be having dinner together at the Golden Corral at 6:00 p.m.

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Winter Reminder!

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



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

-Jeremy Spence

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 February 18th, men of our congregation will gather for the first of four sessions on 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.

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. **It's not too late to join us. But you need to act fast. Call the church office immediately to register and to order your material for the sessions.**

(You may also want to explore the excellent website www.LettersFromDad.com) – Pastor



Carpenter's Hands
Signs Of Love



Happy Birthday!



February 11 Jack Wyant

Interpreter Schedule for February

Feb. 3	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
Feb. 10	Maria Miller	Jo Manson
Feb. 17	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
Feb. 24	Maria Miller	

The next **Silent Dinner** will be held on Friday evening, February 1st at Northgate Mall. See you there!

–Maria Miller
Director of Deaf Ministries

Corrections and Additions To The Directory

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

Davis, Linda
Phone # 513-368-7020

Johnson, Marilyn (Mrs. Milan)
3122 N. 42nd Street
Phoenix, AZ 85018
Phone # 602-441-5991

Jones, Ralph & Florence Feb. - March
Riverside Club
1900 Clifford Street (701-A)
Ft. Myers, FL 33901
Phone # 239-334-7245

Wilson, Lil Feb. - March 15
7085 Bayou West Pl.
Pinellas Park, FL 33782
Phone cell # 513-284-6584



We Are Looking For You In Sunday School!

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."
Psalm 122:1

Congratulations to those who had perfect Sunday School attendance for October, November, and December, 2007.

Nursery

Jill O'Hara

Toddlers

Marsha Henton

TNT

Chris Metzger

Homebuilders

Jerry Wallace

Brian Begley

Carpenter's Hands

Robert Williams

FOCUS

Ruth Gaskins

Pat Gingrich

Barb Hendricks

Ken Hendricks

Bill Roberts

Keystone

Bettie Carmack

Parenting

Mike Braun

Office

Linda Gibbs

Carol Howard

—Linda Gibbs



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



It's hard to believe that it is already February. We are over half way thru our MOPS year! Thus far we have seen many new moms come to our group and have enjoyed a variety of speakers and topics. This month we will enjoy our annual Pamper Fair. This is always a big hit with all of the ladies. In case you are unfamiliar with the event, local hair salons come and donate their time; services and talent to provided all of our moms with a new haircut, manicure or eyebrow waxing free of charge! What lady wouldn't enjoy to be pampered? Especially those moms whom are running after preschoolers! We will also be able to do several crafts and enjoy a yummy breakfast! More importantly this "relaxed" meeting setting will allow us to get to know the other mom's in the group on a more personal level. More importantly it will allow us to share the love that Christ has for all of us. Please be in prayer for all of us on steering as we continue to share Christ with so many moms in our group whom are seeking Him and those who maybe lost.

There were twenty-four moms in attendance at our January meeting. We welcomed speaker Dave Brown a licensed Christian counselor shared with us How to Have a Great Marriage. Not only did we learn that marriage takes commitment, love, patience and forgiveness but most importantly communication. We also enjoyed a mom's only outing to Panera Bread and to Northgate Mall for a scavenger hunt.

Hope to see you there!

Elise Martin, Coordinator

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! Reservations can be made on the sign up sheet at the tables in the connector. Childcare will be provided. Thanks again to all who have served in these important positions!

Opportunities to volunteer for childcare--dates and sign up sheet is available at the tables in the connector.



Awana Club

Awana February Calendar

- 6th - Funny Socks Night
- 13th - Valentine's Day Theme Night
- 17th - Awana Leader/Helper Meeting
- 20th - T&T Grand Prix Workshop (Game Time)
- 27th - T&T Grand Prix Workshop (Game Time)

Awana Leader/Helper Meeting

We will have an Awana Leader/Helper meeting on Sunday, February 17, at 4:30 p.m. We will meet downstairs in Room 113/114. Refreshments will be provided. Childcare will be available if you let me know in advance. We will be discussing upcoming theme nights, contest/incentive possibilities, the T&T Grand Prix, the Cubbies & Sparks Matchbox Race and the "One Solution". And you won't want to miss "A Child's Bible in a Nutshell"!!

Funny Socks Night

Since Funny Sock Night was cancelled due to snow last month, it has been rescheduled. Wear your funniest socks to club on Wednesday, February 6!

Awana Missionary, Mr. Ken Rohrer

There is a special collection can for Mr. Rohrer on the table at the front of the room where we have Sparks and T&T Opening (Room 110). Bring in some spare change (in addition to your 25¢ dues), and we will send it to him in a couple of weeks, along with a card that all the clubbers can sign.

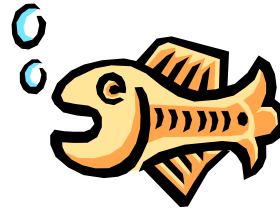
Awana Grand Prix

The T&T Awana Grand Prix will be Wednesday, March 5. Family members, friends & neighbors are all invited to attend. Grand Prix car kits are now available for purchase for \$2.50. If you need someone to cut out your car for you, draw your car shape on the block of wood that comes in the kit, write your name on the bottom of the block, and bring it to club. We will have it cut out for you and will have it back to you by the next week, at the latest.

Sparks & T&T Clubbers

I'm working on my Sparks Skipper book, but I need your help! If you can recite a verse to me (a verse from a section you're working on, or from a section you just completed the previous week), you can listen to my verses and sign my handbook. If I finish my handbook by the end of the year, before the Awana Fair (with your help!), we will have a pizza & ice cream party.

–Emily Metzger
Awana Commander



Junior Jam 2008

Saturday April 12th

9:00am - 4:00pm

Cedarville

Junior Jam is a one-day, high-energy event that includes music, videos, games, hands-on activities, lunch, and one-on-one time with University students. For Students in 3rd through 6th grade and their Sunday School teachers or sponsors!

As in previous years, children will learn important spiritual lessons and make a new friendship with their Cedarville student counselor through creative presentations, hands-on activities, and exciting worship.

This year's theme, **Sink'n Scallywags: Follow the Cap'n to Stay Afloat**, will dare young buccaneers to obey and respect those in authority over them - not because they have to but because they want to. They will learn that there is long lasting treasure to those that obey the ultimate Cap'n, Jesus Christ.

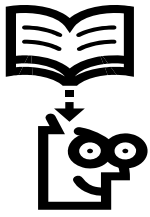
"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:8-9

Your kids will take home memories, practical lessons, and Bible promises that we pray will make a difference in their lives for years to come!

\$20 per person includes lunch and all activities. Training seminars for leaders are available throughout the day. Add \$5 for a Junior Jam T-shirt.

We will be giving out more information closer to the event!

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



Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

The Fireplace

One of the parts of my house I love best is sitting by the fireplace in my living room. It is a wood burning fireplace. Many of days and nights, I have sat by it while reading, watching tv, relaxing, and sometimes just doing nothing. With the cold weather we have been getting accustomed to nothing warms me up better than a cup of tea next to a roaring fire. As I write I long to go home and start a fire and enjoy it, what about you? Yet, I have noticed something about the fire that I am sure most of you will agree with me. The closer you are to the fire the warmer it gets. I know not a new idea or realization for most of us but it begs another question: Do you and I enjoy fires but only from a distance?

I wonder if this could be a parable to what we do with God and our spiritual lives. Sometimes we like things to be warm but only to an extent that we are comfortable and able to handle it. We don't want extremes, of either temperature, so that we can get by in life. However, maybe what I need most, maybe you as well, is to be thrown into the fire.

You see the fire isn't a bad thing. Yes it may be hot but maybe it is something desirable. Zechariah 13:9 gives us this word: "This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people' and they will say, 'The Lord is our God.'" The reason for God to put anyone, including us, in the fire is to purify us. The fire serves as a way to get all the impurities out and make us more useful to him.

Later on Malachi picks up on being refined by God and states that because the Levites will be refined by fire the offerings they present on behalf of the people will be acceptable to him. Maybe what you and I need is not to enjoy the fire of God from the other side of the room but jump right in and be refined like gold and silver. We may not like the heat, but we will love knowing it will purify us in the process. I'm praying for the refiners fire for me, what about you?

Jumping into the fire,
Jeremy

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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. The funds will be split between two organizations this year that help serve people in Hamilton. There is information elsewhere in the Courier for you to find out more.

3rd: CREW Super Bowl Party at Walter and Maxine Hillman's house. Things will start around 6pm. Guys need to bring a snack/dessert item and the ladies need to bring a pop/drink to share with all. Hot dogs, chili, skyline chili dip, and all the toppings will be provided for you. The party will wrap up around 9pm or whenever your parents pick you up.

8th and 9th: Senior High Ski Outing to Perfect North Slopes. Cost will be \$25 per person. We will leave around 9:00pm and return early morning. It is important that you are ready to go by 9:00pm to allow ample ski time at Perfect North. Pick up or leave from church will be around 8am.

10th: If you have helped out with our Children's Ministry in the Nursery or Kinder Church time, then you are invited to a luncheon in your honor to say thanks for all you do. See elsewhere in the Courier or talk with Brandi or Claire for more information.

10th: Small Groups will begin. There will be a 7th-8th grade group, 9th-10th, and 11th and 12th. Get ready to join us for this great time or discussing how the Bible is vital for our everyday life.

23rd: Girls of Grace Conference Live Simulcast. Judy Wallace and Nancy Whipple will be taking a group to Lexington, KY for this event. Cost is \$15 per person and you need to RSVP by February 3rd.

24th: Immediately following the morning service there will be an all church Watchcare Dinner. Please plan on attending with your whole family. Because of the dinner there will not be any activities that evening at church. Check with your small group leaders to see if you may do something outside of the church.

February 29th-March 1st: Jr High Tubing Outing at Perfect North Slopes. Cost will be \$15 per person. We leave in the evening and return to the church around 2am on Saturday. Pick up will be at 8am for parents.

Passion08: Just a reminder that we are looking to take a group of students to Passion08 **May 23-26**. This is Memorial Day weekend. The cost would be around \$100 at the most depending on transportation. You would be responsible for food on the way out and back if you come. This is a one-time worship service in the middle of the country for students and leaders. Visit www.paradise08.com for more information. Please let Jeremy know if you are interested in attending soon. Final details will be made available before Easter.



THE CHALLENGE

Written by Florence Jones
Inspired by Rev. George Scripture,
FBC Leadership Conference: January 19, 2008

Between the manger and the cross
God stepped into history
In the human form of Jesus:
"God With Us" - for all to see.

He preached love for God, the Father,
And love for one's fellow man,
But those who heard, heard not.
This did not fit their plan.

Although He walked on water
And turned water into wine,
Although He raised the dead
And gave sight to the blind,

There were many who still doubted -
Even His own family.
Outside of His disciples
There were few who chose to see.

So they hung Him on a cross.
"That will end it all," they said,
But they didn't count on God's plan:
Jesus rising from the dead!

At the time of Resurrection
Eyes were opened, hearts retrieved.
Those who'd scoffed and turned their backs
On Jesus now believed.

That was two thousand years ago.
Where do we stand today?
Do our hearts burn within us
Each time we bow to pray?

Do we hunger for God's truth?
Do we thirst for righteousness?
Do we long to tell the whole wide world
Of our Lord's faithfulness?

This, then, is our challenge.
What will we choose to do?
Will we just stay comfortable
In our Sunday pew?

Or will we leave our comfort zone
And reach out to the lost?
Will we choose God's work to do
No matter what the cost?

*"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the*

*Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I
have commanded you."*

Matthew 28: 19-20

Have You Caught The Aroma?

*But thanks be to God! For through what Christ has
done, He has triumphed over us so that now wherever
we go, He uses us to tell others about the Lord and to
spread the Gospel like a sweet perfume. As far as God
is concerned there is a sweet wholesome fragrance in
our lives. It is the fragrance of Christ within us, an
aroma to both the saved and unsaved all around us.*

(2 Corinthians 2:14-15 LB)

In February our thoughts turn to love as Valentine's
Day approaches!

Can't you smell the aroma of perfume and the
fragrance of the roses that will be in abundance?
Beautifully decorated boxes of sweet chocolates will
be given to our cherished ones. Hearts of every color
and size will be splashed across those gifts so carefully
selected in love.

We can be grateful for these delicacies God has given
us to enjoy, but the aroma that pleases Him most is the
fragrance of Christ within us. That is the sweet
perfume that He desires we spread to those all around.
He loves us and wants us as his children.

This year as that special day of love arrives again, I
pray that our lives will send forth the pleasing aroma
of Christ to both the saved and unsaved. May these
hearts that beat deep within us be full of the sweet
wholesome fragrance of Christ, as we allow Him to
use us to help spread the good news of Jesus around
the world.

—Melva Cooper
Heartlight

Vacation Bible School

VBS will be the week of July 14th. Soon there will
be a sign up sheet for those who are interested in
serving this year. Stay tuned!

See Claire or Brandi for more information.

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



Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

February 3 - Betty Emenaker, Lauryn & Taylor
February 10 - Linda Davis
February 17 - Chris & Claire Metzger
February 24 - Judy Wallace, Amy & Anna

One & Two Year Olds

February 3 - Emily Metzger & Teen Helper
February 10 - Steve & Elise Martin
February 17 - Marilyn Bowling & Lisa Sprague
February 24 - Nick & Brandi Emenaker

Kinderchurch

February 3 - Chris & Claire Metzger
February 10 - Brian & Barb Begley
February 17 - Brian & Barb Begley
February 24 - Chris & Claire Metzger



Attention All Morning Worship Child Care Workers

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

Claire Metzger - (642-0434)
Brandi Emenaker - (738-2439)

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

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



Wednesday Family Dinners

February 6 - Jeremy’s Birthday Dinner

Menu: Spaghetti Casserole, Tossed Salad, Bread Sticks, Peach Cobbler
Hosts: TNT

February 13

Menu: Beef Stew over Hot Buttered Noodles, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Cherry Crunch
Hosts: FOCUS

February 20

Menu: Chicken and Dumplings, Peas and Carrots, Fruit Jello, Rolls, Loretta’s Texas Sheet Cake
Hosts: Keystone I

February 27

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

Reminder: Adults should contribute \$4.00 per person for the meal; the cost for children under 12 years old who eat at the “Hot Dog” table is \$1.25. If they chose to eat from the main table, the cost is \$2.00. Be sure to make your reservation on the Friendship Folder each Sunday.

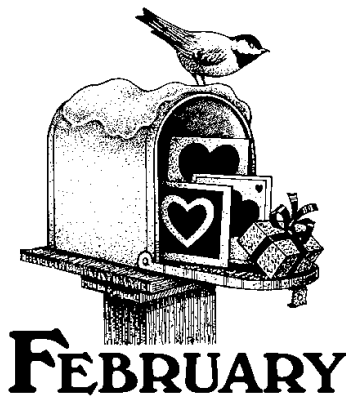
Reminder: Anyone desiring to borrow items, such as, chairs, tables, coffee pots, etc. are now required to fill out a sheet in the office with name, date, item, and number borrowed and then the date, item, and number returned. Please see Ellie.

February Greeters

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2008</h1>						
					1	2 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering
3 Souper Bowl Sunday 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:45 Women's Council 5:15 Youth of Praise 6:00 CREW Super Bowl 6:00 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 Small Groups	4	5 9:30 MOPS Steering 7:00 WMC - Make & Take	6 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	7 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Music & Worship 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	8 9:00 Sr. CREW Skiing to Perfect North	9
10 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Childcare Dinner 4:30 Board of Missions 5:15 Youth of Praise 6:00 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration	11	12 10:00 Holloway Circle 7:00 Abell Circle 7:00 Smith Circle	13 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana-Valentine 6:30 Lifeline 6:30 Celebration Ringers 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	14 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Board of Trustees 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	15	16
17 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 AB Girls 4:30 Diaconate 4:30 Awana Leaders Helpers Mtg 5:15 Youth of Praise 6:00 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration	18 <i>7:00 Letters From Dad</i>	19 9:30 MOPS-Pamper Fair	20 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana-Grand Prix Workshop 6:30 Lifeline 6:30 Celebration Ringers 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	21 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	22	23 Girls of Grace Conference in Lexington, KY
24 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 WatchCare Dinner 4:00 CE Board 5:15 Youth Choir 6:00 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration	25	26	27 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana-Grand Prix Workshop 6:30 Lifeline 6:30 Celebration Ringers 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	28 8:30 Matthew 25 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:00 WMC - Serve City 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	29 2:00 Jr. High CREW to Perfect North Tubing	



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

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 Bernie Griesinger

Everything that happens in the world happens at the time God chooses. Ecclesiastes 3:1

God chose to take Pat home on December 16, 2007 at 8:40 a.m., but He also chose to wait til I arrived in her room at 8:30 a.m. The past 15 years were not pleasant ones for her—fighting the cancer, broken hip, back surgery, teeth implants, etc. But you people made it much easier for her with your calls, cards, prayers, the two pastors many visits, and Shirley Wade's daily telephone calls. I could always tell without knowing who Pat was talking to because of all the laughter going on. Laughter was great therapy for her. She's gone now, but better off being at peace, free of pain, and with the Lord.

From Marilyn Johnson, Michael, Fred, & Tasha

The years have passed but the saints of Hamilton First Baptist have never been forgotten by Dr. Johnson and the family. We have often talked with fond memories of the church and it's people. Thank you for your words of encouragement, our prayers, and the beautiful flowers during our grief over the loss of Milan.

From Todd, Ambryn, & Erich Laubenstein

Our heartfelt thanks for the prayers and support as we welcome our son Erich Laubenstein into our lives. As of January 13th, he is still in the Special Care nursery at Christ Hospital. He is doing very well and we hope to have him home by the end of this week. We are grateful for your continued prayers. God's Blessings,

From Sue Neiman

I wish to express my deepest gratitude and thanks to my church family for all the prayers, visits, and cards during my recovery from hip surgery. God's blessings to all.

From Darryl & Clete Paragin

We would once again like thank everyone for their prayers, cards, calls, and compassion on our recent surgeries and illnesses. Special thanks to Rod Anderson & Dwain & Sharon Brewer for their help in cleaning up water in our basement. Special thanks also to Pastors Den & Bill for their prayers and compassion. God Bless Everyone.

From Susan Thomas

Thank you so much for all the thoughts and prayers for my surgery. I am doing very well now and know that I have a wonderful church behind me. Also thank you for the college breakfast gifts. I'm sorry that I couldn't make it! I appreciate everything that first Baptist has done for me and am proud to call it my home church!



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 Thursdays. 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).

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

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