

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

March, 2008

Who Killed Jesus?

Who killed Jesus
So many years ago?
Who killed the sinless Son of God -
Pure as the driven snow?

Was it the tired disciples
Who could not watch and pray,
But dozed off in the garden
At the close of that sad day?

Was it Peter, who denied Him
While promising devotion?
Was it Caiaphas, the high priest,
Who set the plot in motion?

Was it Judas, who betrayed Him
In His agonizing hour?
Or the pompous Pharisees,
Coveting their power?

Was it the false accusers
Who spoke out at His trial?
Was it Pilate, who washed his hands -
Completely in denial?

Was it the Roman soldiers
With their flogging, clubs, and spears?
Or was it the angry mob
With their taunting and their jeers?

Was it Barabbas, the condemned one,
Who was freed in Jesus' place?
Or was it the angry soldiers
Who mocked and spit in Jesus' face?

Was it the spikes through wrists and feet
That held Him on that tree?
No - He looked down through the ages
And His eyes found me.

Who killed Jesus?
The blame is mine alone.
Because He saw me clothed in sin,
He left His Heavenly throne

To come to earth to die for me,
To free me from my sin,
So I could live eternally
One day in Heaven with Him,

All careless deeds that I have done,
All unkind words I've spoken,
By Him were cancelled - PAID IN FULL -
Sin's hold on me was broken.

How can I ever thank Him
For such a sacrifice?
He gave His life, my life to save!
I marvel at the price!

—By Florence Jones

(Inspired by the Good Friday message given at Tri-County Extended Care by Walter Petry)



Don't Miss These Important Events!

March 16th - Palm Sunday Morning - Chancel Choir
and Orchestra Cantata *The Passion Of His Love*

March 20th - Maundy Thursday Communion Service
In Perfect Love, He Dies
A Tenebrae Service

March 23rd - Resurrection Sunday Morning Worship
Service - No Evening Service





American Baptist Women's

Ministries

March Missionaries of the Month:

Mabudiga & Kihomi Nzunga
Haiti
Philip & Corenne Smith
Brazil

Mabudiga teaches theology at the Christian University of Northern Haiti, trains assistant professors in teaching and writing books, administers a scholarship program, and visits and preachers in churches. **Kihomi** works with families in the areas of counseling, family planning, and women's health issues. She also coordinates and advises the Women's Association of the Haitian Baptist Convention.

Corenne and Phil Smith minister to children through a residential program called Hope Unlimited for Children that rescues homeless street children and youth ranging in age from 8 to 18. Hope Unlimited provides guidance, education, and training for future employment. All students have completed a paid internship and are employed before they leave the program. After experiencing day-to-day living in a safe, caring Christian environment, most of these children make decisions to follow Christ. Hope Unlimited has recently planted a new church comprised largely of these young Christians.

Bible Book of the Month I & II Peter & Jude

"Cast all your anxieties on Him, for He cares about you."

I Peter 5:7 (RSV)

The main purpose of this letter is to encourage the Christians in Asia Minor, who were facing persecution and suffering for their faith. They are to accept and endure their suffering, confident that it is a test of the genuineness of their faith and that they will be rewarded on "the Day when Christ is revealed." They are urged to live as people who belong to Christ.

PRAISE God for those faithful people in our churches who have a real sense of what the mission of the church is and who see themselves as part of that mission.

—Madge Walters

AB Girls

The Young Women of Hope met on Sunday, February 17th in the Family Center. Six young ladies were present. We were treated to a great lunch by Heather and Lauren Keith. We had several guests to join us. Pastor and Ruth Metzger, Jan Smith, Barb Keith, Carolyn and Dennis Dudley, and Mindy Hazelwood. Carolyn Dudley presented a wonderful program entitled "*Time With Grandmother.*" She brought a quilt, doll, and doll clothes that her two grandmothers made. She also shared about their lives and how important their faith was to them. She challenged the girls to keep believing that the Lord will take care of them even in difficult times. We then put craft foam crosses that we had decorated into bats for the deaconesses to take to our shut-ins as they visit with Easter communion.

The March meeting will be held Sunday, March 16th. We will put together baby layettes.

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



The next scheduled Work Day at Matthew 25 will be Thursday, March 27th. As usual, we would like to have a good working group to go. We will leave the church at the usual time, 8:30 a.m. Bring your sack lunch and beverage and be prepared for a good day of work and fellowship. Your reward for this ministry will be recorded in heaven. Thank you.

—Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham



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“All Creation Groans”

All creation groans!” I had to stop for awhile and let that simple phrase from John MacArthur’s book, the *Murder of Jesus*, sink in. All creation recoiled in the realization of what was about to happen on that day so long ago. All, that is, except for the humanity that God had created with His amazing love and abiding interest. For them, it was just another day. In fact, even in a small country on the eastern edge of the Mediterranean, no one had the slightest awareness that God was poised to accomplish the most significant event in the history of the cosmos.

It was the day of Passover. And on a Roman execution site outside the city of Jerusalem, three men had been affixed to crosses, suffering in agony in the mid-day heat. Arms outstretched and tied to the horizontal timber, their hands were barbarically nailed to increase the pain. Their feet had also been impaled by iron spikes to the vertical post anchored in the rocks below. In agony and in shock, they suffered the indignity of nakedness. As insects tormented, the gawking humanity scoffed as they read the record of their crimes posted above their heads on the crosses. A crown of thorns had been beaten into the brow of Jesus of Nazareth, mocking the sign which labeled Him, “the King of the Jews.”

It was at that moment, that the “groan of creation” could no longer be held back. Creation’s sun darkened—a testimony of God’s cataclysmic doom upon the sins of the world. At that very moment, Christ stood in our place as the wrath and judgment of the Creator God fell upon His very own Son. In horror at the terribleness of it all, those listening to His voice heard Him cry out, “*My God, why have you forsaken me?*” (Mat27:46).

In the gathering darkness, the soldiers on duty took their heavy sledges, and with mighty swings, crushed the legs of the criminals on either side of Jesus. Unable to support their abused bodies, they could no longer force air into and out of their weary lungs. Within minutes, both died of asphyxiation. But when the executioners came to Jesus, they discovered Him already dead, proving their point by piercing His heart with a spear. Jesus died at the very hour when, in the Temple, the Passover lamb was slain as a sacrifice for the sins of the people.

At the moment of His death, creation could not contain itself as it witnessed the rending of veil in the temple. The heavy blue curtain separated the people from the holy presence of God, who revealed His own glory in the Holy of Holies. No one except the high priest was

permitted behind this veil, and even then, only on the Day of Atonement when sacrifice was made for the sins of the people. God Himself, by His power and sovereignty, ripped the curtain from the top to the bottom. In essence He said, “*The death of my Son has removed this veil and eliminated the need for it once for all by His one perfect sacrifice.*”

But creation continued its grief. At the moment of Jesus’ death, an earthquake, powerful enough to split rock, was felt by the people of Jerusalem. In the Scripture, such quakes were often connected with the judgment of God. Revelation indicates that the final judgment of the earth will commence with a global earthquake more powerful than any yet experienced or imagined (Rev6:14-15).

Still, the groaning of creation continued, as at the very moment Jesus took His last breath, the earth opened up the graves of many of the saints, their bodies filling with life once again. After the resurrection these went into the city and appeared to many (Mat27:52-53).

Even yet, God was not finished. With the “groans of creation,” echoing in his ears, the centurion who supervised the execution of these “criminals” came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. “*Truly, this was the Son of God.*” (Mat27:54). In his role as execution overseer, never before had he witnessed such a death. It was a death that brought him to faith.

It was Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea who removed the beaten, bloodied, and disfigured body of Jesus from the cross that day. And as they quickly placed Him in the borrowed garden tomb, securing the stone door until after the Sabbath, once more creation waited with bated breath, anticipating the final judgment over death itself that was to be sealed by the glorious resurrection of the Lord. And in that wait, there was the promise of victory and celebration.

With all of Creation, praising and honoring God...Pastor

Submitted by Pastor Bill

In our first year at First Baptist Church, just before Easter, I wrote an article entitled: "When God's Timing Brought an Atheist to Jesus". Since it relates to experiences at that time of the year, it seemed an appropriate time to share it. We have many new people who have joined us since then, so I have asked for a "reprint" in the Courier this Easter Season.

Since that article first appeared, I have had communication with a member of that congregation, and I inquired about this former atheist. I baptized that lady into the membership of the Winnipeg Church, and learned that she actively attended the church well into her 90's! She is no longer able to attend services, but the man I e-mail frequently says that he visits her in her home every week!

Pastor Bill

When God's Timing Brought An Atheist To Jesus!

On April 15, 1965, we were awakened very early with a telephone call. The call was to relay the sad news that my father had been called Home to be with the Lord about an hour or so before.

We were pastoring a church in Winnipeg, Canada at that time, and I was in my eighth year as a pastor; not a "rookie" in the pastorate, but certainly not yet a "veteran" either! I knew I had to consider the fact that I had a funeral to conduct that afternoon. The lady whose funeral I was conducting was a fine Christian woman, and her daughter was our church organist. We decided that family could NOT be informed of Dad's death until after the funeral.

A couple of days before, I was called to the home of this Christian lady; to attempt to bring comfort to her two daughters. They had just received the news about their mother, that I would receive concerning my father on the 15th. The organist accepted the news of her mother's death, as believers should; NOT *"to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope."* (I Thessalonians 5:13) Her trust was in the Lord, and the promise of His Word, which continues in verse 14: "We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him."

The organist's sister, on the other hand; would not, could not, be comforted. She was an atheist; and since there was no God, there was NOTHING that would bring comfort to her soul - which she did not believe she had. It was one of the most frustrating experiences the young pastor had - trying to bring God's comfort to a person who did not believe in the existence of God. This was the week before Easter; and I tried to

give her the message of hope of the resurrection; but it was all falling on deaf ears. I recall leaving that home with a splitting headache; the stress was so great.

Now it is Maundy Thursday morning, the day I was to preach the funeral. I have received the same news that those two ladies had received. My first thought was, 'How in the world can I preach a funeral this afternoon, knowing that my father had just passed away?' Just as quickly, I felt that *"peace that passes all understanding"* as the Lord quieted my heart with the challenge - "You say you believe in the hope of the resurrection -- prove it!" In my effort to comfort that dear lady, I had explained the hope the person who trusts Christ has; because Jesus had died on the cross for our sins, was buried, and rose again victorious over the grave. She looked at me as though she thought I was crazy. Now my own words came back to me! It was easy to say it to another person; but would the same thought bring comfort to me?

That afternoon I brought the funeral message on the text: *"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints"* (Psalm 116:15). I must admit, my thoughts were as much on the dedicated, spiritual life of my father, as it was on the life of the dear lady whose body was right there beside me. There was complete victory in that service, and I just prayed that the Lord would speak to each person through it -- especially to the one who denied His very existence.

Following the burial, I made every effort to get next to those two daughters; but the mass of people around them prevented my doing so, and I left the cemetery. We had a 1,500 mile trip to make, beginning immediately.

Somehow, those two ladies did not learn about my father's death. On Easter Sunday morning; the atheist told her Christian sister that she'd like to go to church with her, since the pastor had been so kind to them in their great loss. When they arrived in church, took their place, and opened the bulletin; they learned then that I had the same experience they'd had - just a few hours before I conducted their mother's funeral. My words had not gotten through to the atheist, but this DID!

Following Dad's funeral, in Western New York, we made the 1,500 mile journey back to Winnipeg. As I opened the door, I heard the telephone ringing. I answered and heard the voice of the atheist daughter. She simply said, "I must talk to you RIGHT NOW. Can you come over?" The urgency was evident; I just left my wife and children at home, and drove over (in the still-loaded car) to see what was so urgent.

When I went into that home, this lady said to me: "You tried to comfort me when my mother died; but nothing you said was helping me. Then, when I found out on Easter Sunday, that your father had died the

morning you preached my mother's funeral, I realized then that whatever it is you Christians have, I WANT IT! And, in those glorious moments which followed, I was able to show an atheist the plan of salvation; and the soul she didn't believe she had, opened, as she welcomed the One she would not previously believe existed! Revelation 3:20-22 is so true.

As I drove home, and we reflected on this experience; I realized how vital God's timing is. He called Home a man who we all thought was in perfect health (just four months beyond his 70th birthday); on precisely the day that was necessary, in order for that atheist's eyes to be opened to the Word. If Dad had died a day earlier; she would have assumed that I had time to recover from my sorrow. If he had died the next day, or even later on that day, it would have been too late. Because Dad entered heaven on the morning of April 15, 1965; an atheist became a believer! If I get there before she does; I want to see the meeting of those two as I introduce them to each other!

Every Easter brings this experience back to me! Whenever a child of God is called into His presence; remember, God has a reason for that death occurring at that time. HIS TIMING IS PERFECT! My father's death and my life (which had been guided by Dad, through his word and his example) were both used to bring an atheist to Jesus!!!

--Bill Brantingham

Scripture on Creation Conference

We have invited Dr. Ben Scripture to be with us March 29 & 30. Scripture on Creation emphasizes the glory of the Creator as it is displayed in Creation. These informative sessions will take you through the Genesis account of Creation, while considering several of the issues involved in the conflict between the Evolution and Creations models for origins. The harmony of current scientific findings with the Creation account is presented. Ben is a gifted speaker who has a knack for making complicated issues easy to understand.

Basic Topics Include:

- Creation vs. Evolution: What is the Conflict?
- How Time Began
- The Creator of the Plants & Planets
- Man: Made in the Maker's Image
- The Genetics of Genesis
- Where Did the Dinosaurs Go?

Please make plans to attend the Saturday morning session, March 29th 9:00 a.m. until 12 Noon. Dr. Scripture will also be speaking at both the Sunday School Hour (adult classes) and the Morning Worship Service on March 30th.

–Jerry Wallace
Chairman of Deacons



Additional Thank You Notes!

From Janet & Steve Lewis

On December 20th our lives were changed. Steve fell and suffered a subdural hematoma. He was at Mercy for a week and at Berkeley for four more weeks. We are still going back three times weekly for therapy. We have been blessed by the faithfulness of family, friends, and our wonderful First Baptist family in their prayers, calls, cards and visits. We are so grateful for all of these and thank you from our hearts. We aren't sure what the future holds, but we know who holds the future. II Timothy 1:7.

From Wisdom's Gate Home Education Cooperative

On behalf of Wisdom's Gate, we would like to thank you for making our ministry a reality by generously opening your doors.



Thanks!

From The Christian Ed Board

A belated and humble thank you to our wonderful church family for the generous donations to our Annual Mitten Christmas Tree. The gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves were given to the New Life Baptist Mission and Serve City.

Corrections and Additions To The Directory

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

Fields, Earl
5200 Camelot Drive # 413
Fairfield, OH 45014

Lakes, Fred & Lil
5251 Dixie Hwy. # 1113
Fairfield, OH 45014
Phone # 645-9083

Jenkins, Miyoshie & Lee
1119 Chestnut Street
Hamilton, OH 45011
Phone # 874-0059

Jordon, Tiffany & Steve
2897 Hamilton-Cleves Road
Hamilton, OH 45013
Phone # 737-1324

Perry, Don & Martha
1200 Stephanie Drive # 4
Hamilton, OH 45013

Budget Status Report

The Month of January, 2008

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$65,718
Offerings	<u>46,134</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$19,584)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$61,267
Offerings	<u>46,134</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$15,133)

The Year Through January, 2008

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$65,718
Offerings	<u>46,134</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$19,584)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$61,267
Offerings	<u>46,134</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$15,133)

-The Board Of Trustees

KeenAger Schedule 2008

February 15 - Friday - "*Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*" at Hamilton High School

March 13 - Thursday - "*Music Man*" (Rotary Revels Show) at Miami University Hamilton Parrish Auditorium

May 19 - Monday - Trip to Berea, KY

July 21 - Monday - Picnic at Winton Woods

September 15 - Monday - Trip to Nashville, IN (Including Joybell Theater)

October 16 - Thursday - Boggstown, IN (Dinner and Show)

November 17 - Monday - Thanksgiving Fellowship & Program at the Church

December 8 - Monday - Viewing of Christmas Lights

As always, the above plans are subject to change, if necessary. Our thanks to Bertha Campbell, Betty Powell, and Lil Senior for their faithfulness and hard work in setting up our many activities and to Ken Hendricks and Bud Braun for driving the vehicles.

--Pastor Bill

KeenAger March Outing

Our March outing will be to Parrish Auditorium to see Rotary Revel's "*Music Man*" Thursday, March 13th. We are eating together at The Golden Dragon before the show. For those needing a ride, meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. .

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



March 9th



Easter Flowers 2008

In Loving Memory Of

By

Elden Anderson Lois & Rod Anderson
 Bob Belew Nancy Follmer
 Eleanor & Duke Belew Nancy Follmer
 Velma Bitter Norma & Glenn Winkler
 Robert & Mary G. Borden Bob Borden
 Wade Ezekiel Bowling . . Marilyn & Larry Bowling
 Wilmer & Abby Brantingham
 Pastor Bill & Bert Brantingham
 Violet Buck Pat & Don Gingrich
 Eileen Campbell Carol Howard
 Ed Cappelli Eris Cappelli & Family
 Rick Coltharp Evelyn & Myron Mesler
 Roger Day Janet & Josh Day
 Amy Edgerton Charles & Madge Walters
 Jon Follmer Nancy Follmer
 Pinia & Bob Gabbard Carolyn & Earl Gabbard
 Pinia & Bob Gabbard Oakley Wardlow
 Dee & Betty Gilbert Emenaker Family
 Our Grandparents Todd Keith Family
 Our Great Grandson Zeke & Jewell Bowling
 Toni Grubbs Merle & Lois Grubbs
 Oris Hazelwood David & Janet Hazelwood
 Mary Lou Hoskins Everett Hoskins
 Lloyd Houser Dolly Houser
 Gene Howard Carol Howard
 Lillian & Kenneth Jackson
 Carolyn & Earl Gabbard
 Harlan & Hulda Jingst
 Pastor Bill & Bert Brantingham
 Nellie Johnson Mollie & Mary Johnson
 Edna Kuhl Norma & Glenn Winkler
 James & Virginia Lakes . David & Janet Hazelwood
 Lee Lipscomb Dolly Houser
 Robert & Grace Mayes Carol Howard
 Don Metzger Pastor Den & Ruth Metzger
 Nathan & Maxine Miller Betty Emenaker
 Eric Pals Pastor Den & Ruth Metzger
 Our Parents John & Jean Riczko
 Geneva Perry Oakley Wardlow
 Geneva Perry Earl Gabbard
 Albert & Flo Potter Marilyn & Larry Bowling
 Courtney C. Profitt Lois & Rod Anderson
 Wayne & Ruby Reynolds . Bob & Thelma Stanger
 Herman & Eunice Simpson
 Simpson & Winkler Families

Joyce Simpson David & Janet Hazelwood
 Linda Simpson Simpson & Winkler Families
 Earle & Esther Stanger Bob & Thelma Stanger
 Kelly Stanger Bob & Thelma Stanger
 Adrian & Etta Stricker Eris Cappelli & Family
 John & Jane Tyra Jerry & Loretta Hampton
 Paul Wardlow Oakley Wardlow
 Clarence & Pearl Winkler Norma & Glenn Winkler

In Honor Of

By

Jane Anderson Lois & Rod Anderson
 Brent, Kristen, Conner Bowling
 Marilyn & Larry Bowling
 Monica & Deron Bowling
 Marilyn & Larry Bowling
 Glenna Corbin Eris Cappelli
 Beulah Hampton Jerry & Loretta Hampton
 Ruth Pals Pastor Den & Ruth Metzger
 Our Parents Todd Keith Family
 Anna Profitt Lois & Rod Anderson
 Bernice & John Raber . Pastor Den & Ruth Metzger

UPCOMING WOMEN EVENTS

Opportunities for Fellowship, Encouragement, Spiritual Growth and Service

March 10: Book Club - Tony Dungy's "*Quiet Strength*"

March 17: Movie Night - *Love's Enduring Promise*, the sequel to *Love Comes Softly*. Watch the bulletin and check at the table in the connector for more information.

April 14: Book Club - Randy Alcorn's "*Safely Home*"

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. Formal invitations are now being extended.

May 12: Book Club - Francine River's "*The Scarlet Thread*"

May 2: A Spring Outing - we will be going to visit "The Secret Garden" near Waynesville. Afterwards we will lunch and shop in Waynesville - known as "the antique capital of Ohio". More information will be provided as this date draws nearer.

-Women's Council



Awana Club

Awana March Calendar Update

- 5 - T&T Grand Prix
(Sparks dismiss from Room 109/110)
- 12 - Cubbies & Sparks Matchbox Race
- 19 - No Club
- 26 - No Club - Spring Break

Awana Grand Prix

The T&T Awana Grand Prix will be Wednesday, March 5th. Family members, friends & neighbors are all invited to attend. We'd also like to invite anyone from our church congregation who would like to be a spectator. Awana missionary Steve Schenk will be visiting us for our Race, and will also be sharing the gospel message with us.

Cubbies & Sparks Matchbox Race

The Cubbies & Sparks Matchbox Race will be March 12th. Parents are welcome to attend. Each group will meet in their own rooms for Opening and Handbook Time. Sparks will then join Cubbies in the Cubbies room about 7:00 p.m. to begin the races. The clubbers will be divided into 4 groups and rotate through 4 activity stations: Racing, Craft, Snack and Games. Near the end of the night, we will all meet back together at the track for the final races. Sparks may leave with their parents from the Cubbies room-otherwise, they will be taken upstairs to meet their parents in the gym.

35 Minutes A Week

Do you have 35 minutes to spare? Would you like to help us with some paperwork on Wednesday nights, from 6:30-7:05 p.m.? Our Sparks Handbook Leaders (and myself) would really appreciate your assistance. I am looking for someone who can help with attendance, recording handbook achievements and giving out Awana bucks and blue tickets earned during Sparks Handbook Time. This would give our Sparks Handbook Leaders more time to work on verses with the Sparks clubbers. If you are interested, please see Emily Metzger (or call me at 892-1453, or email: ameliabedelia@cinci.rr.com).

Details Coming Soon...

We are planning a Coin Drive for our Awana

Missionaries with an Ice Cream Party if we meet our goal. We're also going to do TruthScripts (formerly Take It to Heart), a Bible memory program for kids and adults. This year's passages are 6 verses each: Psalm 1 and Psalm 23.

Looking forward to April...

April 2 - Awana Store Night

–Emily Metzger
Awana Commander

Congratulations, Lauren Schwab!

Schwab Named 2008 Ohio Pork Industry Queen

COLUMBUS, OH - Lauren Schwab of Butler County was crowned the 2008 Ohio Pork Industry Queen at the recent Ohio Pork Congress in Columbus. Schwab is the daughter of Jeff and Tony Schwab of Somerville. This year's queen program had seven contestants competing for the title.

Schwab is a freshman at Miami University where she is majoring in Journalism. She is active in her 4-H club where she has held different offices and participates in community service events. She is also active with her church, First Baptist Church of Hamilton, where she is involved with her youth group, choir and has participated in several mission trips.

Seven contestants gave a speech on a pork related topic, answered an impromptu question from the panel of judges and interviewed with the judges. The selection of the queen is based on beauty, personality, neatness, presentation, poise and knowledge of the pork industry.

Schwab will represent Ohio's pork industry in the coming year at numerous promotional events and activities around the state.

–From Ohio Pork Producers Council



Vacation Bible School - 2008
God's BIG Backyard
July 14th - 18th

Get ready for an outdoor adventure that starts in our church backyard! Our theme this year is serving Jesus. We have five completely packed sessions where everyone will learn how to serve others and get involved in God's BIG Plan for us. There are so many great things that we are going to get to do this summer and we are looking forward to starting all the preparation.

We will have Clothesline Creations, a Community Corner, Backyard Bash (this is music, not any bashing of animals!), Backyard Food (yummy) and Fun (I'm sure I read that these games will involve water...) and our Backyard Bible Club. Throughout all these sessions we will learn how to serve friends, family, neighbors, our community and, more importantly, Jesus.

Last year's VBS "Take the Plunge" was such a blessing and a hit. Thank you again for all of you who gave time to help in different ways-- we really do appreciate you! If you would like to help this summer (no previous experience is needed - we heard about a 14 year old who ran VBS!) we will have sign up sheets in the connector. We really want to build on the good things that were started last year. We would like to continue the bus service to pick up families during VBS week so if you can drive a vehicle and don't mind children singing, you're perfect for the job!

Something that has really been on our hearts is prayer before, during, and after VBS. We would like to set up a group of people that would pour out prayers to God about VBS. Alongside prayer is reaching out to our church community about Jesus. A community is a living, growing group of people. We have always tried in the past to reach out to friends and neighbors inviting them to come to church. With the a focus on children, we have gone out into Sharon Park and other areas to pass out leaflets and invite people for VBS. We would like to continue to do that this year, but we are also thinking about joining the Hamilton Fourth of July Parade. If you feel you would like to get involved let us know!

So get ready for God's BIG Backyard, dig out your shorts, your tent and your shoes for climbing that tree house!

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

Kiddie Korner

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

Junior Jam At Cedarville
Saturday April 12th
9:00 - 4:00

We will be sending our letters to children in our church that are in 3rd through 6th grade soon, to invite them to this yearly event. Junior Jam is an energetic day, filled with heartfelt music, games, and videos, plenty of interactions with other Christians. There are many opportunities to learn about God's will for us and how to stay afloat in the Bible and live like a Christian today!

The focus this year at Junior Jam is that Jesus is our Cap'n and how we should learn to follow Him in order to stay Ship Shape and Onboard! The cost for the whole day is \$20, t-shirts are an extra \$5, but lunch is included!!! We need to know if you are planning to come, the DEADLINE date is April 3rd. So pop us a message in a bottle and float it over to either of us or to the lovely Cheryl Motzer.

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



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).



**From The Heart Of
Marilyn**

College Corner

E-Mail From God

Take A Chill Pill

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

Dear Child,

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

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

Your Peace,
God

—Serving in His name,
Marilyn Bowling,
College Coordinator

**A Special
Thanks From
New Life Baptist Mission**

Thank you for the food donations every week. We appreciate it so much and are able to use it for the lunches we serve that day or the next. In-kind donations such as this help decrease our overhead costs, and more importantly, meets the physical needs of our clients.

Thank you once again for the continued support. We would not be able to exist without these special partnerships. God Bless You!



**Chancel Choir And Orchestra
Easter Cantata Presentation
Palm Sunday, March 16th
10:30 a.m.**

The Passion Of His Love
(an Easter praise and worship experience)

Created by
Tom Fettke & Randy Vader

Arranged by
Tom Fettke

Come hear the story of Passion Week retold in a moving musical presentation which also includes the testimonies of Nicodemus and the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment and was healed. This musical inspiration incorporates some of today's great songs of worship and praise including: *Think About His Love*, *What The Lord Has Done In Me*, *Worthy Is The Lamb*, and *Never Be The Same*. So please join us for a Sunday morning of music devoted to focusing our attention on the Risen Savior and our personal preparation for Passion Week.

—Mike Wallack
Chancel Choir and Orchestra Director

35 Minutes A Week

Do you have 35 minutes to spare? Would you like to help us with some paperwork on Wednesday nights, from 6:30-7:05 p.m.? Our Sparks Handbook Leaders (and myself) would really appreciate your assistance. I am looking for someone who can help with attendance, recording handbook achievements and giving out Awana bucks and blue tickets earned during Sparks Handbook Time. This would give our Sparks Handbook Leaders more time to work on verses with the Sparks clubbers. If you are interested, please see Emily Metzger (or call me at 892-1453, or email: ameliabedelia@cinci.rr.com).



Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



The next Silent Dinner will be held on Friday evening, March 7th, at Kenwood Mall. See you there!

Interpreter Schedule for March

March 2	Maria Miller	Jo Manson
March 9	Maria Miller	Jo Manson
March 16	Maria Miller	Jo Manson
March 23	Maria Miller	Jo Manson
March 30	Maria Miller	Jo Manson

—Maria Miller
Director of Deaf Ministries



Free Jazz Concert In Oxford



On Wednesday, March 19 the Midday Music in Oxford series presents a free jazz concert by The Dan Karlsberg Group from Cincinnati. This lively combo is made up of pianist Dan Karlsberg, along with an upright bass player and drummer. The program will begin at 12:00 p.m. at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main Street in Oxford. For information call Jack Daugherty - 523-6969.



Right in between the snow-days our February MOPS meeting was held. Everyone always looks forward to this months meeting for we hold our annual Pamper Fair. This was our fourth year hosting the event for all of our MOPS moms. Shelley's Unique Hair Design from Ross and Shear Genius located in Fairfield donated their time and hairstyling talents as each mom was able to receive a new hairstyle or just a trim free of charge! Other services offered to the moms were mini massages by Therapeutic Massage and Associates, Mary Kay consultations, manicures provided by Shelley's and paraffin hand dips. On top of all of the pampering we also had a chocolate fountain, delicious breakfast foods and a great craft! There were approximately twenty-five moms in attendance - two moms were brand new to our group, which allowed the moms to enjoy more than one free service. This also allowed them time to relax and socialize with all the other members of MOPS. What an awesome day!

Next month we will be addressing the issue of clutter as our theme for the month is *The Office, How To Be Organized*. Make sure you mark your calendars for March 18th!

At Home With Him-
Elise Martin, Co-Coordinator



Maundy Thursday

The day before Good Friday is called Maundy Thursday. The word "maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means "commandment." In the gospel of John, Jesus makes this statement during the Last Supper: "I am with you only a little longer. . . I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:33-35, NRSV).

Maundy Thursday should always be a time of sharing with others, showing loving concern for one another, and partaking of Holy Communion in remembrance of Him.

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Winter Reminder!

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



Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

Clutter

Well as most of you know I am about ready to get married, 115 days and counting (from the time you are probably reading this article). One of the changes I am getting ready for is making space for Aleesha in my home.

With that comes a task I really don't like to do but am trying to stay on top of: de-cluttering my "stuff". I am sure you can only imagine the "stuff" I have stored in closets, the basement, and generally hidden away that I have not dealt with in a while. After all when you have lived by yourself for about five years in the same place lots of things start to accumulate.

Slowly but steadily I am going through and deciding what is necessary to keep and what can be thrown away, donated, or kept. It is amazing how much I have taken out of my house through this process. Then it hit me.

I wonder what I may have as far as clutter when it comes to my spiritual life? I started to think on it for awhile and asked the Lord to reveal to me areas in my life that were cluttering up space He was not able to use. I realize that I had past hurts, sins, and also just the proverbial "stuff" I was holding on to.

The next question was harder to answer: What are you going to do with all that stuff? Now was the moment of decision; would I keep things or get rid of them? Would I re-file them or deal with them? See my de-cluttering is not just about identifying what stuff I have but also doing something about it. My spiritual life is the same.

Fortunately for me, I decided to deal with those things in my life that kept piling up and cluttering up some space God wanted to fill with Himself. It hasn't been an easy process but definitely been worth it. Now each time I go around my house getting rid of the clutter I ask myself, is there any clutter in me God wants to get rid of? I am hoping you will do the same.

De-Cluttering for the Lord,
Jeremy

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday Nights 6:00pm: CREW small groups will be meeting throughout the building. The 11th-12th grade group will be in the library studying Case for a Creator by Lee Strobel. Please see John Wallace for more information or questions concerning your small group.

The 9th and 10th grade group will be looking at the book The Five Love Languages of Teenagers each week. You will be meeting downstairs in rooms 113-114 with Mike and Dale Braun leading your times

together. Please see Mike or Dale with any questions you may have.

Our 7th-8th grade small group is led by Jeremy Spence and Linda Davis each week. We will be discussing what is going on in our life and then applying the Bible to our lives. We meet in room 116 and see either Jeremy or Linda with any questions.

March 19th: There is NO Lifeline this evening due to our Maundy Thursday service. I hope you will join us on Thursday for a reflective service on the death of Christ and the meaning of Easter.

March 23rd: Easter Sunday morning. Please be here for a great service as we celebrate the life Christ has extended to all of us by his resurrecting from the grave. There will be NO CREW small groups this evening so that families may spend time together.

March 26th 6:30pm: We will be playing some games in the CREW room, painting blocks if you need to, and watching a Nooma video for the evening. A laid back night with it being Spring Break and enjoying our time together.

March 30th Small Groups: Double check with your small group leader to make sure you are getting together in the evening to continue or start a new series.

30 Hour Famine: In April we will be having our 30 Hour Famine this year. An exact date has not been set but hopefully we will be joining another church or two for the famine. Details will be available soon but start gearing up now for another great 30 Hour Famine.

Paradise 08: A couple of Wednesday nights ago I showed a video for Paradise 08 and the vision of joining other students in the middle of Kansas for a day of worshiping around the throne of God. This is going to happen May 25, 2008 30 minutes south of Kansas City, Kansas. The cost of the trip will be \$80 per person and include everything except food on the way out and back. We will be staying overnight somewhere on the way out and back. We will leave around Noon or so on May 24th and return around 5pm on May 26th. Let Jeremy know if you are interested in going. I will be collecting the money and registering for the event by the end of March/beginning of April. Also I will be needing some adults who may be willing to go as well and help with driving and so on. If you are interested please let Jeremy know very soon.

Spirit Song Tickets: Once again we will be heading out to King's Island for Spirit Song this July 11th and 12th. I am waiting to find out how much tickets will cost but expect it to be around \$40 for both days. Money will be due soon so start saving now for this great time.



Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

March 2 - Kim & Erin Gingrich
March 9 - Betty Emenaker
March 16 - Vickie Baker
March 23 - Chris & Claire Metzger
March 30 - Brad & Jerri Begley

One & Two Year Olds

March 2 - John & Cheryl Motzer
March 9 - Chris & Claire Metzger
March 16 -
March 23 -
March 30 - Emily Metzger & Teen

Kinderchurch

March 2 - Brandi Emenaker & Teen
March 9 - Brandi Emenaker & Teen
March 16 - Brandi Emenaker & Teen
March 23 - Brandi Emenaker & Teen
March 30 - Brandi Emenaker & Teen



Attention All Morning Worship Child Care Workers

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

Kim Schuermann - (674-7321)
Brandi Emenaker - (738-2439)

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



Wednesday Family Dinners

March 5

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

March 12 - Pastor Bill's Birthday Dinner

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

March 19

No Wednesday Dinner - No Evening Programs

March 26

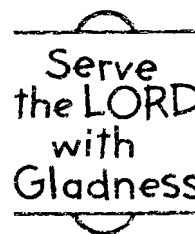
Menu: No Wednesday Dinner - No Evening Programs

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

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

March Greeters

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2008</h1>						1 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering
2 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Chancel Choir 4:45 Women's Council 5:15 Youth Choir 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration	3	4 9:30 MOPS Steering	5 5:00 ABW Meeting 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana T&T Grand Prix/Lifeline 6:30 Celebration Ringers 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	6 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	7	8
9 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Chancel Choir 4:30 Board of Missions 5:15 Youth Choir 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration	10	11 10:00 Holloway Circle 11:00 WMC Book Club 6:15 Moderator's Dinner @ Kenwood Baptist 7:00 Abell Circle 7:00 Smith Circle	12 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana - Cubbies & Sparks Matchbox Race 6:30 Lifeline 6:30 Celebration Ringers 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	13 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Music & Worship 5:30 Board of Trustees 5:30 KeenAgers to Golden Dragon & to <i>Music Man</i> 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	14	15 10:00 Chancel Choir & Orchestra
16 Palm Sunday 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Chancel Choir & Orchestra Cantata <i>The Passion Of His Love</i> 12:00 AB Girls 4:30 Diaconate 6:00 Evening Celebration	17 WMC Movie Night <i>Love's Enduring Promise</i>	18 9:30 MOPS	19 No Dinner/No Programs	20 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	21	22
23 Resurrection Sunday! 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	24	25	26 No Dinner/No Programs	27 8:30 Matthew 25	28	29 9:00 Scripture On Creation Conference
30 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship - Scripture On Creation 4:00 CE Board 5:15 Youth Choir 6:00 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration	31					



HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

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

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

Personal Notes



From Rod & Lois Anderson

Dealing with Dad's failing health and death these past several weeks has been difficult but the prayers of the First Baptist family have made it easier to bear. We are most grateful as well for all the cards, flowers, and visits. Your friendship has been a great blessing and the knowledge that Dad was a Christian a great comfort.

From Curtis Bradbury

Your kindness will never be forgotten. Your expressions of concern and prayers have certainly been heart warming.

From Eris Cappelli

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, gifts, food, cards, and concerned thoughts during my hospitalization and rehab. What a wonderful church family that we have at First Baptist. I am so blessed to be a part of it.

From Juanita Hazelwood

Having never given much thought to how much the church service tapes could mean to those unable to attend, I have really come to appreciate how much they mean. I have been receiving them for a month now and would like to thank all those involved in recording and making the tapes and whoever does the mailing. It is such a pleasure to feel you are still a part of the fellowship of the church, even to being able to participate in the communion service. It means so much to be a part of a church family that cares.

From Nancy & Cledith Humbuch

Thank you so much to Pastors Den and Bill for your expressions of sympathy on the death of my Uncle Earl. The phone calls, the visits to the funeral home were all greatly appreciated by the family. Being a part of a loving Christian family is a comfort always, but most especially at times that are so difficult. Thank you again.

From Jené & Jim Krall & family

We have been so blessed by our church family! I don't know what we would do without you! Thank you for every prayer, every kindness that you have shown during my brother Kim's untimely passing in November and my father-in-law, Dan Krall's passing in December. Your prayers have wrought miracles. Thank you for being Jesus' hands and feet! We love you!

From Jack Maddox

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, calls, and visits while I was having so much pain and having tests. All the tests were OK and the pain is better. We have a wonderful church family.

From Jeff, Toni, Lauren, & Ryan Schwab

Thank you for all the support we received, and continue to receive, since the passing of Jeff and Debbie's father. The cards, prayers, food, and work of the funeral committee have been a great blessing for all of us. A special thanks to the youth at FBC for praying and remembering Lauren and Ryan during this time. Words could never express enough how much we appreciate and need, and continue to need, our church family at this time.

From Joe & Mary Wade

Just a note to express our heartfelt thanks for your concern for Mary. Your note signed by your prayer group was such an encouragement to the both of us. Please express our thanks to the church. We thank you and ask your continued prayers.

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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