

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

April, 2008

Free Speech Has A Price

The brilliant founders of the American republic set in place the explicit provision for freedom of speech with the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Against the restrictive laws of England, they were determined to allow free and unfettered public discourse about government, public policy, and the officials in charge of the general welfare.

From that beginning point, we have evolved a shallow concept of free speech that is invoked for the most worthless of causes. Pornography, religious hucksterism, racist literature, homophobic web sites—all appeal to their freedom of speech to malign, exploit, and dehumanize people made in God's image.

Yet the stark and honest truth is that our freedom of speech has been purchased at a very high price. There was not only the blood of early patriots but that of their heirs as well. That is a high price to pay! Those of us still alive to enjoy a gift purchased at so great a cost have payments to make yet.

Civility is not too much to ask of politicians and their supporters during the current presidential campaign. Make your case. Give the reasons why your party or proposal is better. But mud-slinging and "going negative" are the accepted means of campaigning. Better not to win the office than to gain it that way.

Good sportsmanship used to be part of the justification our educational institutions gave for the huge outlay of money necessary to put teams on fields and courts. Sports Illustrated recently commented that the current college basketball season has been "the ugliest season in years" for rude, boorish, and nasty fan behavior. The article cited an incident where a woman attending her grandson's game was reduced to tears when students turned from taunting the player on the floor to chanting "whores" at his family members.

Reason demands better of us. But the restraint of reason seems to vanish pretty quickly after a few beers. In baseball parks, more and more teams are creating sections where alcohol is not served. Those sections will never be very large, however, because of

the revenue generated from booze. Obscenities seem to come more easily and frequently from throats lubricated by it.

Respect for basic human dignity is sacrificed when the honorable title "free speech" is pronounced over churlish people who are using their mouths for sexual harassment, racist slurs, or other abusive language.

So long as others of us fail to use our free speech to challenge theirs, we are making the problem worse. Thus my thanks to a coach who takes the floor to say he will pull the team and forfeit a game if the student section or other fans don't stop their over-the-line rowdiness. Hurray for the parent who won't put up with it from her own kid. And three cheers for you at the self-control you model.

The price of free speech is
voluntary restraint and dignity.
It is a critical element in
treating others the way you
want to be treated.

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen" (Ephesians 4:29 TNIV).

—Rubel Shelly
Heartlight



Upcoming Activities for ABW

April is Love Gift month.

The Spring Rally is May 3rd at Kirkwood.

The ABW State Convention is June 5-7 at Heartland Conference Center in Marengo, OH.

Joint Circle Dinner at First Baptist - Tuesday, June 10th at 6:00 p.m. May 5th.

Our circles will meet together for dinner on May 8th.

–Nancy Whipple

April Missionaries of the Month:

Mexico

Timothy & Patricia Long

Nicaragua

Kristina Gutierrez

Bible Book of the Month . . . Jeremiah

“But I will bless the person who puts his trust in me”
Jeremiah 17:7 (TEV)

During his long ministry, Jeremiah warned God’s people of the catastrophe that was to fall upon the nation because of their idolatry and sin. He lived to see this prediction come true with the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar; the destruction of the city and the temple; and the exile to Babylonia of Judah’s king and many of the people. He also foretold the eventual return of the people from exile and the restoration of the nation.

PRAY for campus ministries in colleges and universities around the country where American Baptists are touching the lives of students.

–Madge Walters

Young Women of Hope

Service In His name. That was the focus of our March 16th meeting. After a delicious lunch provided by Katie Ford and her parents, the AB Girls put layettes together and assembled treat bags for our toddler-kindergarten Sunday School students.

The next meeting will be on Sunday, April 20th, at noon. We will be going out to eat with one of our favorite ladies, Thelma Ditmyer. We will also collect

Love Gift offering at this meeting.

A small group of us were able to attend the live simulcast *Girls of Grace Conference* on February 23rd, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Florence, KY. Megan Miller, Amy Wallace, Lauren Schwartz and her friend, and Nancy Whipple enjoyed the music and the relevant teen topics that were addressed by the speakers.

–Marilyn Bowling, Nancy Whipple,
Mindy Hazelwood

Spring Trip To Oneida, KY

Ken Hendricks and Jerry Hampton will be making the spring pilgrimage to Oneida Baptist Institute on Monday, April 14th. The campus has approximately 450 teens grades 6 through 12 and are in need of all help possible. Please bring any good used clothing, coats, shoes, toys, etc. that you would like to donate to the building and place them in the coat room after March 31st. Please put the items in plastic trash bags and mark them for Oneida. (Please, because of storage problems - NO donations after Sunday, April 13th.) **Anyone** is welcome to ride along with them on April 14th.



The next scheduled Work Day at Matthew 25 will be Thursday, April 24th. 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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Thinking About Missions

I continue to be impressed by the commitment of those who serve as our American Baptist missionaries in all parts of the world. Over the years, many of us have had the opportunity and joy of meeting them personally and becoming more familiar with the challenges they have accepted as they find their niche in God's Kingdom work. Members of the American Baptist Churches of our area have been invited to attend a conference of our International Missions work at the Montgomery Community Church on the weekend of May 16-18. This gathering is one of several American Baptist International Missions Conferences scheduled regionally in 2008, replacing the annual national missions gathering at Green Lake.

In anticipation of this regional conference, we have invited two of our American Baptist "mission-servants" to join us for worship here at First Baptist. The first is **Dr. Patrick Pang**. Pat is the Director of Development and Church Relations for Rainbow Acres, a ranch-style community for adults with developmental disabilities, located in Camp Verde, Arizona. This is an American Baptist home mission project, the goal of which is to empower adults with developmental disabilities with hope, health, and happiness. This is a total-life concept to foster a sense of self-worth in each rancher through positive qualities of family-style living in a loving and accepting community. Not only is Patrick a spokesperson for this ministry, but is also a passionate, evangelistic voice calling men and women into a deeper walk of faith. Dr. Pang will join us on **April 20th**.

Our second guest is **Dr. Walter White** (at this writing, still awaiting confirmation for **May 18th**). I met Walt half-a-dozen years ago at Green Lake, and was deeply moved by some of the stories he told about working with Muslims in Bangladesh. Walt now carries a broader responsibility with our ABC/International Ministries as a Global Mission Consultant, whose vision is to see people come to know God in all his fullness through Jesus Christ, and to live in obedience to Him in a way that is faithful to God, while respecting their culture. He seeks to engage in effective and sustainable evangelism in places all over the world.

These two servants of God are among the scores of American Baptist missionaries we support world-wide. International Ministries, organized in 1814, is the oldest Baptist Mission

agency formed in North America. We serve more than 2,500 short-term missionaries annually, bringing U.S. and Puerto Rico churches together with partners in 76 countries in cutting-edge ministries that tell the good news of Jesus Christ, while meeting human needs. I am deeply thankful for their spiritual leadership as they minister to people of their areas and as they call them to a deep walk of faith in Christ Jesus.

PRAY...

- *for those who are on the front lines*
- *for encouragement in their lives*
- *for faithful financial support during these days of the declining dollar*
- *for a mighty movement of the Spirit upon the peoples of our world*

One of God's choice missionary servants has home-grown Hamilton roots. He grew up as a friend of Mike Braun, attended First Baptist with Mike, and as a teenager accepted Christ as his Savior. God had His mighty hand on Alan Baker and called him to serve Him in the challenging work in Europe. He and his family serve with the Assemblies of God World Missions, and have been assigned for over fourteen years in Belgium. First Baptist supports the ministry of **Alan and Trisha Baker** through our missions budget.

In their recent newsletter, *GapNotes*, Alan describes some of the challenges of working in a developing Muslim culture. He writes that Europe is in the midst of incredible change brought on by a migration of many different peoples. Europe is now *the* global village. And

Continued, From The Pastor's Heart

the most startling change is the dominance of Europe's fastest growing religion—Islam.

In Europe now, only one city in ten has a Bible-believing church; and there are even fewer pastors with formal training. The culture of the region has been consumed by an anti-church mind-set so strong that Western Europe is the region of the world most resistant to the Gospel. In twenty-two European nations, fewer than 1% of the people claim a personal walk with Christ. The result of that resistance is that the Muslim population in Europe has doubled since 1998. In some European cities, the Muslim population has risen to over 40%. The *London Times* reports that in the United Kingdom, one church closes every day, while one mosque opens every four days—often in closed churches.

60% of all babies born in Brussels, Europe's capital, are born to Muslim families. Public funds are now being used in many European nations to provide a Muslim education to children and for training for imams. A European judge has ruled that Muslim law supersedes national laws in cases involving Muslims. More Europeans are converting to Islam than to Christ, and four out of five of these converts are women. In his article, Alan comments:

"We are convinced that God is bringing the nations to Europe that we might reach them with the Gospel, and that the most effective way to do this is through international ministry—churches tailor-made to reach international peoples...It is vital that every church have a Spirit-led and equipped pastor and leadership team to direct its efforts in this mission...We are able to be here for such a time as this because of friends like you. Thank you. Please continue to pray for us as together we build His church...."

I often find myself praying for Alan and his family. I hope you will join me.

On Sunday evening, **April 13**, we have rescheduled our March 13th service (canceled because of snow), a Leadership Video Presentation entitled "*Escape From Darkness.*" featuring **Dr. Daniel Shayesteh**. Shayesteh is a former radical Muslim, who reveals the foundation of modern Islamic beliefs and actions.

Shayesteh, was born in Iran near the Caspian Sea. By the age of nine he was able to recite the entire Quran in Arabic. As a young man he was totally committed to Islam and co-founded the Iranian Revolutionary Army (Hezbollah). He inspired other Muslims to hate and kill Americans and Jews.

After falling out of favor with the Ayatollah Khomeini, he was kidnaped and sentenced to death. His cellmates were executed, but by the grace of God Shayesteh escaped to Turkey. There he met a group of Iranian Christians and soon came to know Christ as his personal Savior. He was also able to lead his wife and three daughters to faith in the Lord Jesus. He now travels the world to provide insight into the beliefs of Muslims and to share with them the love of Jesus. In today's global political climate, we have a genuine interest in understanding the Muslim influence upon our world. **I hope that you will plan to join us on Sunday evening, April 13 for this informative presentation.**

As you can see, missions is an important part of the heartbeat of First Baptist. You may want to check out the website for the ABC mission work of International Ministries at www.internationalministries.org. (Steven Click has also provided a link to that site located on our church webpage (www.FirstBaptistHamilton.org). Click on the missions tab, then click on the Global Missions menu.) There is a wealth of information about what we are doing all around the world in our service for Christ.

Please pray for those who are on the front lines of mission. Pray for encouragement in their lives. Pray for faithful financial support in these days of the declining dollar. Pray for a mighty movement of the Spirit upon the peoples of our world. That is the reason why Jesus offered His life—to bring men and women to himself.

Thinking and praying for missions, and inviting you to do the same, Pastor

Budget Status Report

The Month of February, 2008

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$62,248
Offerings	<u>45,452</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$1,796)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$64,778
Offerings	<u>45,452</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$ 4,924)

The Year Through February, 2008

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$127,968
Offerings	<u>91,587</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$36,381)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$126,045
Offerings	<u>91,587</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$34,458)

—The Board Of Trustees



Awana Club

Awana April Calendar

- 2 Awana Store Night
- 9 Missions Night with Evon Laubenstein (Sparks & T&T)
- 16 Regular Club Night
- 23 Regular Club Night
- 30 Lifesaver Night

Awana Grand Prix Trophy Winners

1st Place Design: car # 6 Cory Gabbard
 2nd Place Design: car # 88 Heidi Martin
 3rd Place Design: car # 123 Will George

1st Place Speed: car # 55 Tyler Veira
 2nd Place Speed: car # 11 Emily Miller
 3rd Place Speed: car # 8 Lauryn Emenaker

Awana Grand Prix Design Certificates

Pure and Natural: #15 Taylor Schuermann
 Most Artistic: #24 Anna Wallace
 Tidiest Paint Job: #25 Mitchell Inloes
 Most Polka Dotty: #22 Noelle Wilson
 Fabulously Fruity: #11 Emily Miller
 Most Patriotic: #6 Cory Gabbard
 Most Colorful: #88 Heidi Martin
 Most Aerodynamic: #55 Tyler Vieira
 Most Abundant Use of Paint: #84 Alexander Sprague
 Looks Most Like a Car: #36 Blake Hendrickson
 Fastest-Looking: #8 Lauryn Emenaker
 Best Use of Imagination: #123 Will George
 Best Non-Car Design: #35 Alex Hendrickson
 Best Corporate Sponsorship: #20 Justin Van Meter

Coin Drive

Beginning Wednesday, April 2, bring in loose change for our Coin Drive for our Awana Missionaries Steve Schenk and Ken Rorher. Cubbies will have a special collection container in their classroom. Sparks and T&T will have a collection container in Room 109/110 where we have Opening. Our goal is to fill the containers up to their marked lines. We will have an Ice Cream Party if we meet our goal.

–Emily Metzger
 Awana Commander

Corrections and Additions To The Directory

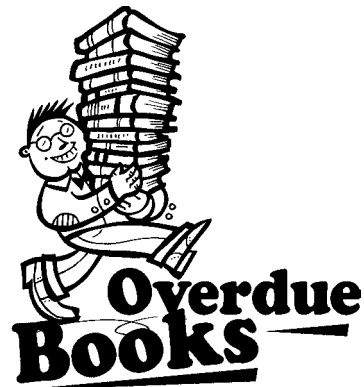
Please call the church office with additions or changes to your address, phone number, or e-mail address.

Manson, Jo
 227 Harter Avenue
 Springdale, OH 45246
 Phone # 709-6921
 E-mail: Mnsjmn@aol.com

Schwab, Carl & Jeanette
 E-mail: carljeanetteschwab@cinci.rr.com

Sizemore, Sandra Sue
 Phone # 894-4445

Wyant, Jack
 2050 Montgomery Road
 Cincinnati, OH 45249



Redemption Book Series

Whoever borrowed the Redemption book series from the Adult Library, **please** return them as soon as possible. They've been gone since November and were **not** checked out, so there is no way to track them down. There are others wanting to read them! Thanks!!

–Cathi Thomas
 Adult Librarian



From The Heart Of Marilyn

College Corner

E-Mail From God

Let It Go

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”
–Matthew 5:44

Dear Child,

When you cut yourself or get a bruise, your body eventually heals. Your body doesn't say, "I hate you, sticker bush! You injured me, and I'll never forgive you. I'll carry this cut around with me forever to remind me of how evil you are!" Your body knows that type of unforgiving behavior just hurts itself. Staying cut is not going to affect the sticker bush one way or another.

Likewise, if someone cuts you down with mean words, don't carry those words around. You're only hurting yourself. One of the best ways to heal from an emotional wound is to pray a blessing on the person who hurt you. I know it sounds crazy, but praying for your enemies keeps their mean words from controlling you. I want you to love everybody. I'll help you do it.

Your Healer,
God

–Serving in His name,
Marilyn Bowling
College Coordinator



Help Needed!

HELP! Calling all Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Friends, Neighbors and Diaper Experts! The Children's Directors need your help in filling dates to volunteer in the nursery and toddler rooms. If all able-bodied people would pick just ONE DATE, then we would be set for a long time! The list of dates is on the table in the connector. Please stop by and see which date would work best for you. Thanks so much for your help!



Summer Softball

Softball begins the week of April 14! If you would like to play on the men's Blue team (games on Monday nights), the men's Gray team (games on Tuesday nights), or the co-ed White team (subject to interest, games on Friday nights), please see Josh Metzger or Rob Van Meter in the connector to sign up by Sunday, April 13, or call Josh at 907-0774. The co-ed team also needs a coach. All games are played at North End (Ford's Field).

–Josh Metzger
Director of Sports and Recreation

Vacation Bible School

Believe it or not, VBS is just around the corner! It will be July before we know it! The Children's Directors and a few others have begun planning for VBS, and have selected our theme, *“God's Big Backyard”*. We are excited about the opportunities it presents to our church. It promises to be just as fun as our other themes, and we are going to need another great crew of leaders and helpers to make this year a success. We will be checking with those who have helped in the past, as well as recruiting some new faces to volunteer on our team. We will have our VBS roster out to see what positions need to be filled. Please see Claire or Brandi if you would like to participate in any way with this year's VBS. Besides the traditional teachers and helpers, we will need a photographer, van driver(s), decorators, publicity people, and prayer warriors. There can never be too many helpers, and we will find a spot for whoever would like to participate. Our goal is to grow in a mighty way, and to reach new neighborhoods with our program. Please be sure to see Claire or Brandi if you would like to help us reach those goals! Thanks in advance for your prayers and your help! Stay tuned for a meeting in May to work on the details.

–In His Work,
Brandi Emenaker & Claire Metzger
Co-Directors of Children's Ministries



Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



The next **Silent Dinner** will be held on Friday evening, April 4th, at Tri County Mall. See you there!

Interpreter Schedule for April

April 6	Maria Miller	Jo Manson
April 11	Maria Miller	Jo Manson
April 20	Maria Miller	Jo Manson
April 27	Maria Miller	Jo Manson

Happy Birthday



April 7 Nicole Taylor Monhollen

We have transportation issues with two people who would like to come to church but need a ride:

1) **Joey Janutolo** lives in Colerain (right off Colerain Ave) and is willing to pay for gas to anyone, hearing or deaf, who would be willing to help transport him on Wednesday nights for bible study and Sunday mornings for church. If you are interested/willing to help, please contact Maria Miller at 513-856-7607.

2) **Jack Wyant** has moved out of CCH and is now living at the Lodge Retirement Center on Montgomery Rd. in the Mason/Montgomery area. He is an 83 (84?) year old wonderful gentleman who is very used to hearing people and a pleasure to be around. I will get more information for all who want to VP (video phone) him, along with his apartment number. The address is: 2050 Montgomery Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45249. Please feel free to visit Jack Wyant and/or VP him; he moved back to Cincinnati so he can be closer to his friends and family. The same situation applies with Jack as with Joey; if anyone lives near that retirement home and is willing to help out, please call Maria Miller.

—Maria Miller
Director of Deaf Ministries

Upcoming Women's Ministry Opportunities

Join us for lunch and shopping in Waynesville on Friday, May 2. More information will be given and registration will occur during the middle of April.

Several community events are taking place this month. Though not sponsored by the Women's Ministry Council, these might be of interest to the women of our church, so we wanted to provide the information in case you want to obtain tickets.

Chonda Pierce will be at Landmark Church in Cincinnati, on April 12. For tickets call 800-965-9324 or go to www.itickets.com.

The Women of Faith Conference will be held April 25-26 at Nationwide Arena in Columbus. Rhonda Ballinger from First Church of God on Princeton Road has contacted us about extra tickets that they have for sale. They are \$65.00 (premium seating). You can call First Church of God to obtain tickets at 867-9961. Or you can register on line at womenoffaith.com or call 888-49-FAITH.

Serve City Dinner Report

The Women's Ministry Council would like to say thanks for the enormous participation in providing dinner at Serve City on February 29th. We were overwhelmed by the number of volunteers to serve, cook, and provide monetary donations. We were blessed by being able to serve.

—The Women's Ministry Council



Free Violin, Piano And Vocal Music Program



At 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29th, at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main Street in Oxford, the Midday Music in Oxford Series presents a program of music by Franz Schubert performed by Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra violinist Gerald Itzkoff, Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra keyboardist Joshua Nemith, and soprano Alma Jean Smith. Call 523-6969 for information about this last program of the 2007-08 season.

—The Women's Ministry Council

Congratulations To Some Of Our Youth!



Edgewood Dinner Theater

“Lovin’ The Music” will be the theme for Edgewood High School's annual dinner theater on **Friday, April 25, and Saturday, April 26**, at Edgewood High School, featuring the Edgewood High School Choraliers with their award-winning “Love” competition show. Dinner will be served each evening at 6:00 p.m., followed by the show at 7:30 p.m.

This year the Choraliers placed in the evening Over-All Finals at all of their competitions as well as earning numerous trophies in their class. Their trophies from the finals included **Second-Runner-Up** at **Beavercreek**, **Fifth-Runner-Up** at **Charleston, West Virginia**, and **Third-Runner-Up** at both **Cuyahoga Falls** and **Grove City, Ohio**. **Drew Helton** won the **Male Vocalist Trophy** in the separate Vocal Solo Competition at Charleston.

Tickets for dinner theater may be reserved by contacting Mike & Dale Braun @ 726-4000, Bruce & Marsha Helton @ 988-6814, or Linda Gibbs @ 894-2476. Show only tickets will also be available at the door. Ticket prices are:

- \$17 - Adult Dinner & Show
- \$12 - Sr. Citizens over 60/Students K-12 Dinner & Show
- \$10 - Adult Show Only
- \$ 5 - Sr. Citizens over 60/Students K-12 Show Only
- \$ 2 - Printed Program

The dinner entree is a choice of roast beef or turkey. All dinners include mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans, garden salad with dressing, rolls, coffee or soft drinks, and a dessert choice of chocolate eclairs or cherry cobbler.

Choraliers from First Baptist include **Drew Helton, Senior**, and **Joey Braun, Junior**. **Sue Combs** is the director, assisted by **Ben Schneider** and **Libby Wolf**.

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

Cougar Delegates Earn Honors At MUMUNC 2008

Six Edgewood High School Students earned recognition for their outstanding performance at the Miami University Model United Nations Conference over President’s Day weekend. Andrew Gantt and Cameron Brown won the Best Delegate award for their performance as Japan on the Economic and Social Council at this United nations simulation. Beth Schallip and Kyle Norquist earned Honorable Mention for their portrayal of Russia on the Human Rights Commission. **Malynda Messer** and **Joey Braun** were presented with the gavel used during their Economic and Social Council meetings in appreciation of their efforts.

Model United Nations is a student simulation of the United Nations. Various conferences are held around the country for middle school, high school, and university students. MUMUNC 2008 was Miami University’s initial conference for high school students. The 12 Edgewood High School delegates spent time researching their nation’s positions prior to the conference. Once at the conference, each committee spent a full 12 hours in session, drafting and debating resolutions. Other activities included the opening and closing ceremonies.

Fairfield High Sports Banquet

Congratulations to **Amy Wallace** who was named the Most Improved Swimmer in Girls' Swimming and Diving at the Fairfield High School Sports Banquet.

Hamilton High Sports Banquet

Congratulations to these First Baptist athletes who were honored at the Hamilton High School winter sports banquet: **Blair Rasnick** - Most Improved in Girls' Swimming and Diving, and **Sara Cain** - Most Valuable Diver in Girls' Swimming and Diving.

First Quarter Business Meetings

The Advisory Board will meet on Sunday, April 13th, at 5:30 p.m. All elected officers of the church are members of the Advisory board and are urged to be in attendance at this meeting. In addition to items of business on which recommendations will be made to the church, reports will be heard from the boards and staff.

The First Quarter Business Meeting will be Wednesday, April 16th at 6:45 p.m. Reports will be heard from the boards and staff.

"Let the Little Children Come..."

That was the beginning of a statement Jesus made to His disciples when they tried to keep the children away from Him in the midst of a very busy day. Jesus loved the little children—*"Let the little come unto me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these."* (Mark 10:14). One of the most moving scenes I have seen in a film of Jesus' life was one in which Jesus and the children are splashing in the water along the shore of the Sea of Galilee. One sees the great smile of Jesus, and in the background the laughter of the little children. Jesus absolutely loves the little children. We have recently set in place a new addition to our children's playground. It is a statue of Jesus with children sitting on His lap. The statue is a gift of Becky Scripture. She has dedicated it to the children among us. Thank you, Becky!!

"Once On This Island"

...a musical

Presented by Greater Hamilton Civic Theater
Parrish Auditorium
Miami University Hamilton

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday - May 1, 2, & 3 - 8:00 p.m.

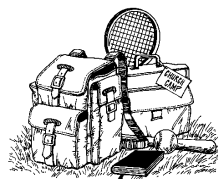
Sunday, May 4 - 2:00 p.m.

Cast Members: **Katie Buchanan**
Drew Helton
Martha Helton

Music Director: **Tisha Patton**
Keyboard: **Bob Borden**

Tickets: call 737-PLAY

Adults - \$15, Sr. Citizens/Students - \$14



Help Wanted! Kirkwood Camp & Conference Center

Trade Professionals Needed!

Plumbing, electric, HVAC, painting, and carpentry. Have you wanted to use your talents and skills to help us in our ministry and further the Kingdom of God?

- Cabin remodeling
- New electric service in lodge
- Furnace repair/replacement
- Roofing

Camp Kirkwood needs you! Call us today to schedule a work day for your family, youth group, service team, or missions committee . . . (937-3535)

Junior Jam At Cedarville

Saturday April 12th—9:00 - 4:00

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

God's LOVE has
been poured
into our
HEARTS
through
the
HOLY SPIRIT
that has been
given to us.

A black and white line drawing of a hand pouring water into a shell. The hand is on the right, with fingers spread, and water is being poured into a shell-shaped container. The water is represented by several wavy lines that flow downwards and to the left.

Romans 5:5, NRSV



Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

Summer Dates

As you are going to see below, assuming you read the whole article, the CREW's summer calendar is starting to form and plans are being made. With the summer months come a week at camp, concerts to attend, the county fair, late nights and early mornings and many trips to Flubs. All in all summer is a great time of year and keeps me busy doing many things I love to do. This summer will be no different.

However, this summer will be even more exciting than any summer previous and I wanted to let you know now of a date I hope you all can make.

On June 21st I will be married and on June 29th Aleesha and I will have a reception/open house here at First Baptist. We realized that since the wedding was so far away that most would not be able to share that day with us so we decided to have a special time back home to share with the friends and loved ones who couldn't travel. I hope you will be able to make it that day from 3pm-5pm to share with us the love we have for each other and the excitement of what God is going to do in the future. More information will come as the day gets closer but please feel free to ask me about any specifics you would like to know. At this time I just wanted to give you, my beloved church family, enough notice on something special in my life.

Beyond that I hope you will pray as the CREW's summer schedule continues to fall into place. As always I will need help with events and the possibility of some Wednesday nights as we do things a little differently during the summer months.

Lastly, do you know of something neat and interesting that the CREW could do during the summer months? Do you have an idea to share about students and how to connect them to God and others? I am always looking for things to do and for new ideas to help us reach the goal of effectively discipling each and every student that comes through the doors of First Baptist.

With excitement 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 and you are 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 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 groups 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.

30 Hour Famine: April 18th and 19th we will be having our 30 Hour Famine this year. We will be having our Famine this year at St. Clair Ave Baptist Church with the weekend starting off around 6:30pm there. Please be picked up by 6pm on Saturday, also at St. Clair. You will start your fast after lunch on Friday. Please bring sleeping stuff, toiletries, money collected, extra clothes to change into, and juice with your name on it. If you have any questions please see Jeremy. I am in need of some adults to help out with the weekend as well.

Paradise 08: A couple 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 would 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 April 9th. A \$40 non refundable deposit is due at that time.. 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 to King's Island for Spirit Song this July 10th through 12th. The cost for the three days will be \$40 per person, regardless if you have a pass or not. Lineup for each day is as follows: **Thursday, July 10th** Newsboys, Kutless, Hawk Nelson, Sanctus Real, Dizmas, Guest Speaker: Matt Pitt. **Friday, July 11th;** Casting Crowns, Jeremy Camp, Skillet, BarlowGirl, Group 1 Crew, Guest Speaker: Mark Stuart. **Saturday, July 12th:** Toby Mac, David Crowder Band, Pillar, Red, Stellar Kart, Guest Speaker: Tom Richter. All \$40 will be due on April 23rd so we can get better seats than last year. Money will not be refunded unless we can find someone to go for you or in extreme cases. Please be thinking about whether or not you can attend and start saving. If any adults want to go as leaders please see me. We will be camping out on Friday night but you will go home Thursday evening. See Jeremy Spence for more information.



Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

April 6 - Linda Davis
April 13 - Rob & Jenny VanMeter
April 20 -
April 27 - Kim & Erin Gingrich

One & Two Year Olds

April 6 - Emily Metzger & Teen Helper
April 13 - Steve & Elise Martin
April 20 - John & Cheryl Motzer
April 27 -

Kinderchurch

April 6 - Claire Metzger & Teen Helper
April 13 - Brian & Barb Begley
April 20 - Brian & Barb Begley
April 27 - Claire Metzger & Teen Helper

Attention All Morning Worship Child Care Workers



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

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

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



Wednesday Family Dinners

April 2

Menu: Barbecued Chicken, Macaroni Salad, California Blend Vegetables, Rolls, Dessert
Hosts: Deaconesses

April 9

Menu: Beef and Noodles, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Carrot Cake
Hosts: Keystone II

April 16

Menu: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert
Hosts: TNT (Seekers)

April 23

Menu: Chicken Fingers with Honey/Honey Mustard, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Dessert
Hosts: FOCUS

April 30

Menu: Pork Roast, Au Gratin Potatoes, Corn, Applesauce, Rolls, Dessert
Hosts: Keystone I

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.

April Greeters

Don Gingrich, Jerry Hampton and Nancy Follmer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April 2008</h1>						
		1 9:30 MOPS Steering	2 5:00 ABW 5:15 CREW Drama 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Club Store 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	3 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	4	5 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering
6 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:45 Women's Council 5:15 Youth of Praise 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 Small Groups	7 7:00 <i>Letters From Dad</i>	8 10:00 Holloway Circle 11:00 WMC Book Club 7:00 Abell Circle 7:00 Smith Circle	9 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Missions Night 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	10 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Board of Trustees 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	11	12 9:00 Junior Jam @ Cedarville
13 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:00 Board of Missions 5:15 Youth of Praise 5:30 1st Qtr. AdvisoryBd. 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 Small Groups	14 5:30 Spring Trip To Onieda	15	16 5:15 CREW Drama 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Club 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 1 st Qtr. Business Mtg. 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	17 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	18 6:30 Women's Council Retreat CREW 30 Hour Famine @ St. Clair Baptist	19 9:00 Women's Council Retreat CREW 30 Hour Famine @ St. Clair Baptist
20 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 AB Girls of Faith 4:30 Diaconate 5:15 Youth of Praise 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 Small Groups	21	22 9:30 MOPS 7:00 Hamilton City Schools Fine Arts Recital	23 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Club 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	24 8:30 Matthew 25 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	25	26 2:00 Wedding of Linda Davis & Larry Wallace
27 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:00 CE Board 5:15 Youth of Praise 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 Small Groups	28	29	30 5:15 CREW Drama 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Lifesaver Night 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir			



April

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 - Nancy Brown
Dorothy Glynn
Rosemary Thompson | 11 - Mark Braun
Drew Schramm | 25 - Gerry Davis
Allen Hampton
Kathy Inloes
Jon Whipple |
| 2 - Beulah Benzing
Eris Cappelli
Carolyn Dudley
Katie Scott
Ruth Turner
Jake Yates | 12 - Craig Rosenbaum | 26 - Becky Blanchard
Josh Farmer
Brittany Rogers
Alyson Rothenbusch |
| 3 - Bo Stanger | 14 - Diana Bueker
Katie Rankey
Krys Schramm | 27 - Carol Rose |
| 4 - Joey Fryer
Karen King
Savannah Yates | 15 - Ashley Inloes
Marcella Walter | 28 - Chris Campbell
Dale Thomas Dawson
Brad Gerth
Don Kellum |
| 5 - Marian Allen
Marie Sparks | 16 - David Gabbard
Jack Rupp | 29 - Linda Arnold |
| 6 - Valerie Ashcraft
Don Grimes | 18 - Michelle Owen
Libby Thomas | 30 - Nick Emenaker
Margie Mayes
Anna Wallace |
| 7 - Beth Hanna | 19 - Maxine Hornung | |
| 9 - Kim Gingrich
David Hollowell
Merle Kimble
Jim Powell
Jane Thiel | 20 - Dean Minnich
Jean Riczko | |
| 10 - Irene Schilling | 21 - Pauline Diesbach
Virginia Grollmus | |
| | 22 - Stan Brown | |
| | 23 - Linda Hoover | |
| | 24 - Kim Chow
Sharon Click
Ruth Metzger
Michael Titus | |

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 Brandi Emenaker & family

I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, or just "checked in" on my family after the unexpected passing of my grandfather, Raymond Bray. It has been a hard time for the family, as one is never quite ready to let go of such a key figure of the family. But, we take great comfort in the fact that he was a strong, Christian man, and that we will see him again! Thanks again for your thoughts, and please continue to pray for my family, as they continue to grieve.

From Bruce, Marsha, Martha, & Drew Helton

We want to thank the church for the cards and other expressions of sympathy with Dad's passing. Special thank you to Pastor Metzger and Pastor Brantingham for the beautiful funeral service and for their faithfulness.

From Ola Johnson

The family of Grant Johnson wishes to thank you for your kindness and sympathy. Thank you for the card with all the many names that were signed. It was very much appreciated. May God bless you all.

From Don & Mary Lewis

We want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and visits. Also we want to thank Pastor Bill for the visits and Pastor Bill and Bert for taking us to Cincinnati for doctor appointments. It means so much to be a part of a church family that cares.

From Marlene Warren

Dear First Baptist Church Prayer Group: I want to thank you all so very much for the card and prayers for me during my recent back surgery. They were appreciated, and I am recovering now—slowly, but steadily, and I'm getting anxious to get even better. Thank you all again.



With joy in our hearts we

Linda A. Davis

and

*Larry D.
Wallace*

Request the honor of your presence

As we exchange marriage vows and

Celebrate our new Life together.

Saturday, April 26, 2008

at Two O'clock in the afternoon

First Baptist Church

Hamilton, Ohio

No gifts please

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

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

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