

# The Courier

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



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

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May, 2008

## *Mother's Day*

Yes, Mother's Day comes and goes. But the memories linger and remain...

"The woman who creates and sustains a home and under whose hands children grow up to be strong and pure men and women, is a creator second only to God." —Helen Hunt Jackson

Mother's Day has been difficult for me since my mother died of cancer in 1990. There are many things I miss about her, but what I miss the most is sharing my children with her.

Sometimes I get a twinge of sadness because I was never able financially to give her even a tiny fraction of what she gave me. My Mother's Day gifts to her were usually inexpensive, a pair of new pajamas, a new purse. Then I realize that my love was the only gift she ever really wanted.

I was reminded of that yesterday when my seven year old thanked me for his birthday presents. "Mom," he said, "do you know which gift I liked best?"

I imagined it would be the super-soaker water gun, guaranteed to shoot up to fifty feet, the one he used to squirt his sister, the dog, and me. But that wasn't what he said.

"It's the love you gave me Mom," he stated, then ran off to play.

I stood frozen with my mouth open and the tears sliding down my face, suddenly feeling very overwhelmed with how wonderful motherhood can be. How I longed to pick up the phone and call the person who was not only my mother, but also my best friend, to tell her that the love she gave me now lives on in her

...my love was  
the only gift  
she ever really  
wanted.

tell her that the love she gave me now lives on in her

grandchildren. But I couldn't.

Her love for me lives on in other ways too. It visits me in the spring when the flowers she planted a few months before she died bloom. It comes to me from her former students when they write me letters, or take the time to tell me what a wonderful teacher she was.

And so each Mother's Day I have a host of bittersweet memories. I rejoice that in a world of abused and abandoned children, I had a mother who loved me, nurtured me, and taught me right from wrong. And I cry, because I miss her friendship, her strength, her humor, and her love for my children.

There is a creed in Robert Fulghum's wonderful book, *All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten*. It is called the "Storytellers Creed" and I asked the minister to read at Mama's funeral. It says in part...

I believe that imagination is stronger than knowledge.

That dreams are more powerful than facts.

That hope always triumphs over experience

That laughter is the only cure for grief.

And I believe that love is stronger than death.

—Robert Fulghum

Love really is stronger than death because it comes from God, and it is because of God and His sacrifice, that we have hope of life eternal. And then there will be no more goodbyes, because like the old hymn says there will be "no tears in heaven."

—Teresa Kindred  
*HeartLight*

I  Mom



## ABW Ministry Miami Association Spring Rally

The Spring Rally for the ABW's Ministry Miami Association will be Saturday, May 3rd, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Camp Kirkwood. The program will be presented by Heartstrings: A Unique Ministry of Music and Testimony. The cost for lunch is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. We will leave from church at 8:15 a.m. and return at 2:00 p.m. Transportation will be provided. Reservations are to be made with Lil Wilson (858-2335).

## ABW State Conference

The ABW Conference will be held June 5-7 at the Heartland Conference Retreat Center in Marengo, OH. Registration forms can be obtained from Lil Wilson or Circle presidents and are due by May 23.

## Joint Meeting For ABW Circles

Our three ABW Circles will meet together at church for a time of fellowship on Tuesday, June 10th, at 6:00 p.m. for a carry-in supper in the Family Center. Individual Circles will assign covered dishes to their members. Drinks will be provided. Evon Laubenstein will be installing the Board officers and Circle presidents for the upcoming year. If you are not a member of a Circle, we would love to have you as a guest, as all our ladies are American Baptist Women. Don't miss out on this wonderful evening.

Serving in Christ,  
Nancy Whipple

May Missionaries of the Month:

Lebanon  
Daniel & Sarah Chetti

Closed Country  
Matthew & Lori Mann

## Bible Book For May . . . Lamentations

*"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end."*

Lamentations 3:22 (RSV)

The sad poems which make up the Book of Lamentations were written out of the sufferings of the

people. It is true that this book is full of sorrow, but it is the sorrow of strong souls. It is a brave confession of sins, stating clearly that disaster had come upon the country because she had forgotten God. It also expresses trust in the compassion and forgiveness of God.

**PRAY** for the retired ministers and missionaries, and thank God for their years of service.

—Madge Walters

## Young Women of Hope

Lunch with a special friend. There can be nothing better than that, as our AB Girls found out when they took Thelma Ditmyer to lunch. Our April 20th meeting was lunch at Symmes Tavern in Fairfield. We also had two other special guests, Betty Schwab and Rose Young. We enjoyed our time together. Love Gift was collected, and we discussed plans for the next meeting. On May 18th we will go to Paint N Play to make pottery pieces.

—Marilyn Bowling,  
Nancy Whipple, Mindy Hazelwood

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The next scheduled Work Day at Matthew 25 will be Thursday, May 22nd. 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.

—Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham

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## *International Missions Conference–ABC/USA May 16-18, Mason*

For nearly all of our ministry, our family has been involved in the promotion, support, and participation in our American Baptist Missions work world-wide. We have met some effective missionaries over the years who have become dear friends as they have served in places of the world we have never visited. And yet, we feel that we have a deeper insight into what is going on in the world through their ministry efforts.

For many years, we have been blessed beyond measure by our attendance in the International Missions Conference at Green Lake, Wisconsin. It was in the context of those conferences that our boys caught a vision for ministry. It was a seed that was planted in Adam's heart in those days that encouraged his involvement with the *X-treme Team* in its formative days, as they spent time in interactive learning about missions in the Philippines. In the years that followed, Adam worked for a summer as an intern with the World Servant organization in Tecate, Mexico.

As members of First Baptist Church made their way to Green Lake for the International Missions Conference, a passion for world missions developed enabling many to "*Go Global*" in their thinking, prayer, and support.

In recent years, ABC International Ministries began to explore the value of multiple missions conferences in venues throughout the nation. The goal was to make these "regional" conferences more accessible to ABC membership, and to increase the total number attending. **On Friday through Sunday, May 16-18, we have the great opportunity to participate in a World Mission Conference right in our own back yard at the Montgomery Community Church in Mason.** The theme is "*Be Surprised by God's People.*" This regional conference features the Executive Director of International Ministries, Dr. Reid Trulson. Reid has been with us in worship on several occasions. He is a great friend of First Baptist, and a committed and visionary leader of our ABC missions effort.

In addition to Reid Trulson, nine missionaries serving in urban and rural areas all over the world, will join us. These missionaries include:

- John Armagost (Japan),
- Duane Binkley (serving Burmese refugees, the Karen and Chin peoples);
- Dan Buttry (acting as a "traveler for peace," leading conflict transformation training in over 18 nations);
- Jim Kelsey (serving immigrants in Italy);
- Patti Long (touching the lives of children with special needs in Mexico);
- Lynn Nelson (serving the women of the

Democratic Republic of Congo);

- Ketley Pierre (ministering in Nicaragua);
- Kit Ripley (serving with the New Life Center in Thailand); and
- Walt White (a global consultant for historically under-served people in Asia, Africa, and Europe). Walt will be with us in our AM worship on Sunday, May 18.

In addition to interaction with our missionaries, there will be a kids mission program (k-grade 8); a teen program (grades 7-12), packed with music, games, and antics to challenge their understanding of God's world; Bible study and worship, led by Tom Lipsey, Duane Binkley, and Brad Berglund; quality child care available (crib-age 4, no cost).

Please check out the short video on the missions conference at [www.worldmissionconference.org](http://www.worldmissionconference.org) and click on the 2008 World Mission Conference video link. There is a registration cost for this conference, based upon full or partial participation. Registration can be completed online, or obtain registration materials from the church office.

It is my expectation and hope that our efforts in International Ministries will become more and more a part of our prayer life and our passion for the Lord's service. Looking forward to seeing you in Mason on May 16-18.

For the Lord of Missions,  
Pastor

## KeenAger Trip To Berea, KY

The KeenAger outing for the month of May will be a trip to Berea, KY. Monday, May 19th. They will have lunch together at Boone Tavern, tour the shops and crafts, etc. They will leave the church at 8:30 a.m. arriving back around 6:30 p.m. Please sign the list on the bulletin board as soon as possible.

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### Memorial Day Weekend Picnic

Sunday  
May 25th  
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.  
Holloway Park

Devotions by  
Captain Amber Murrell Keisel

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### An Opportunity For All

Saturday morning, May 3rd, at 8:30 a.m. we will gather at the church for our Annual Spring Clean-Up of our grounds. Weeds need to be pulled, shrubs, trimmed, flowers planted, mulch spread, litter picked up, etc., etc! There is a job for every one. Please bring hand spades, weed eaters, rakes, blowers, pruning loppers, shovels, pruning shears, etc. Come when you can, stay as long as your schedule will allow. We will be here from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Thank you for using your time and talents to beautify the Lord's house.

-The Trustees

## Budget Status Report

### The Month of March, 2008

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$59,772
Offerings	<u>69,872</u>
Over (Under) Budget	\$10,100

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$57,938
Offerings	<u>69,872</u>
Over (Under) Actual	\$11,934

### The Year Through March, 2008

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$187,738
Offerings	<u>161,459</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$26,279)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$183,984
Offerings	<u>161,459</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$22,525)

-The Board Of Trustees

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## Corrections and Additions To The Directory

We will be using this spot each month to update the directory. Please call the church office with additions or changes to your address, phone number, or e-mail address.

**Bailey, Paul & Nicole**  
710 Liberty Avenue #2  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

**Glover, Carm**  
c/o Wilma Cobb  
1425 Ray Lynn Drive  
Lawrenceburg, Indiana 47025  
Phone # 812-537-0199  
Cell phone # 379-1145

**Lakes, Fred & Lil**  
43 Warr Court  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013  
Phone # 887-2807

**McCartney, Sandra**  
172 Progress Avenue  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013  
Cell phone # 833-1648



## Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



### Silent Dinners

The Silent Dinner for May will be held on Friday evening, May 2nd at Eastgate Mall. See you there!

### Interpreter Schedule for May

May 4 Jo Manson  
May 11 Jo Manson  
May 18 Jo Manson  
May 25 Jo Manson

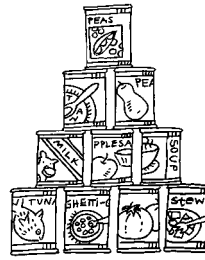
Maria Miller  
Maria Miller  
Maria Miller  
Maria Miller

### Happy Birthday



May 9 Mary Ella Hudson

—Maria Miller  
Director of Deaf Ministries



### FOOD DRIVE

## Letter Carriers' Food Drive

With diesel fuel hovering around \$4.00 a gallon, it now costs Shared Harvest Foodbank more than \$1,000 a week to transport food that eventually makes its way to emergency pantries that serve families in need. At the same time, those same high fuel costs, increased costs of food and medical care have caused more people to turn to food pantries for help.

You can do something to help. Members of the National Association of Letter Carriers throughout Butler County are preparing for the largest one-day food drive in America. The "Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive" takes place Saturday, May 10th.

Your letter carrier will pick up your donation while delivering the mail that day. Carriers suggest you set bags or boxes of non-perishable food items next to your mailbox around the time your mail is normally delivered. In addition to pick-ups on city postal routes in Hamilton, Fairfield, Middletown, Monroe, Oxford, and Trenton, rural carriers have agreed to pick up food donations on rural routes.

All the food goes to Shared Harvest Foodbank, which distributes it to soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless shelters, and other emergency food programs in Butler County.

Stamp Out Hunger is the largest one-day food drive in America. Butler Countians contributed a record 70,000 pounds of food in the 2007 campaign. The food is distributed during summer months when children in need are home from school and parents are faced with providing additional meals for them. May God bless your generosity.

## Edgewood Presents Spring Musical

### "Bye, Bye Birdie"

Friday, May 23 - 7:30 PM  
Saturday, May 24 - 2:00 PM  
Saturday, May 24 - 7:30 PM

Albert - **Drew Helton**

Adults - \$10  
Senior Citizens 55 & over - \$5  
Students through high school - \$5

Reserve tickets by calling the Heltons - 988 - 6814



May 1, 2008



**Awana Club**

**Junior Jam 2008**

*“Let your light shine, who-a-a-oh,  
Let your light shine, who-o-ee-o-o,  
Let your light shine  
so that Jesus shines through you!”*

**Awana May Calendar**

- 7th - Regular Club Night
- 14th - Visit from Awana Missionary, Ken Rohrer  
Last night to finish handbook sections
- 21st - Awana Fair
- 28th - Awards Night

**Coin Drive**

Keep bringing in coins for our Awana Missionaries Steve Schenk and Ken Rohrer! Our goal is to fill the containers up to their marked lines by May 14. We will have pizza on Awana Fair Night (May 21) if we meet our goal. Anyone involved in Awana is invited for pizza-clubbers and their families, leaders and helpers and their families, and anyone who has helped this year in Awana..

**Awana Fair**

The Awana Fair will open at 6:30 p.m. on May 21. If we reach our Coin Drive goal, we will have pizza at 6:00 p.m. There will be lots of games, prizes, Awana Store tables & snacks, as well as a Castle Slide! Cubbies play for free, and Sparks and T&T will spend their Awana Bucks at the Fair. Sparks and T&T need to use up all their Awana Bucks at the Fair because they cannot be carried over to the next Awana club year.

**Awards**

We will be recognizing Awana Clubbers, Leaders and Helpers on May 28 in the sanctuary. Families, friends and our church congregation are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served afterward in the Family Center.

-Emily Metzger  
Awana Commander

This song was sung by hundreds of kids and leaders at the opening and closing meeting of Junior Jam '08! (and on the bus on the way home!) It was a fun day filled with games, devotions, and food! The opening and closing skits were set on a pirate ship, with a boy who wanted to be a pirate so that he didn't have to listen to his mom. In the end, the captain told him that we all have someone to listen to, and that our log book and our guide book is God's Word. We should stick to this book so that we do not lose our way.

Thanks to Amy Wallace, Megan Miller, Judy Wallace, Mary Brown, and Cheryl Motzer for helping with the trip, as well as providing a wonderful day of fellowship! Thanks to the kids who set aside a day to learn more about God: Heidi Martin, Lauryn Emenaker, Anna Wallace, Noelle Wilson, Emily Miller, and the sole male on the trip-Blake Hendrickson. I look forward to what next year will bring!

-Brandi Emenaker  
Co-Director of Children's Ministries



**Calling All Moms  
And Mother-Figures!**

Please join us on Mother's Day, May 11th, as we recognize all the women of the church and their contributions to our church. Claire, Sandra Imhoff, Angie Inloes, Chris Metzger, and the Kids' Church kids have been working diligently on a handmade token gift for all of the women of the church. We hope you can join us!



**Memorial Day - May 30th**



**VBS 2008**  
**July 14 - 18**

**Totally Terrific Tuesdays**  
**(a.k.a. Son Club and TTT)**

**God's BIG Back Yard**

The focus for this year's VBS is Serving. We will start by learning how to serve our family, then friends, then neighbors, community and most importantly serving Jesus. We will have all the aspects of crafts, snacks, stories, bible all packed children and Lord. We have two puppets this year, a squirrel and a dog. These two will be greeting us everyday during VBS and will introduce us to the focus for the day. With all the things for God's BIG Backyard we will be hard pressed to squash everything into the five days that we have!



t h e n  
 and finally  
 We will  
 u s u a l  
 VBS, with  
 projects,  
 worship and  
 messages,  
 with fun for  
 love for our

We want everyone to know that God's Big Backyard starts in our own church backyard, and gets bigger each day as we all take Jesus' love into our homes, neighborhoods, communities and beyond! For us to do this we need to start at church and work our way out, so we will work on advertising and reaching out to our local children this year. As well as passing out flyers and leaflets around the church area, we will be building a float for the Fourth of July Parade. Although we are not allowed to pass out flyers from the float we can pass out leaflets in the crowd. There will be hundreds of children gathered on High Street - this is too good of an opportunity to miss!

We are still in need of helpers and people who have a heart to work with our children, and with the message of VBS this year being SERVE, there are many opportunities to jump right in and take a turn. We need a trailer, a driver, decorators, walkers, prayers, people to pass out flyers, teachers, and much more! God's Big Backyard is all about service and service is integrated into all aspects of life as a Christian. We are offering YOU many opportunities to be a part of this service this summer, so find your suntan lotion and join us!

-Claire Metzger & Brandi Emenaker  
 Co-Directors of Vacation Bible School

We are yet again planning another summer of "innies and outies", activities and outings which provide opportunities for fun and fellowship. The following is a list of tentative dates for our gatherings. Please save the dates! As usual, dates are subject to change. We are still planning the activities, so stay tuned for a more exact schedule in the days to come.

- Tuesday, June 17th
- Tuesday, June 24th
- Tuesday, July 1st
- No gathering July 8th, due to VBS setup
- No gathering July 15th, due to VBS-come and join us!  
 (M-F, 9 am - 12 pm)
- Tuesday, July 22nd
- Tuesday, July 29th
- Tuesday, August 5th
- Tuesday, August 12th

**KingsKids Present**



A Children's Musical  
 Created by  
 Celeste Clydesdale  
 Arranged by  
 David T. Clydesdale

Sunday  
 May 4, 2008  
 6:00 p.m.



"What you are after Lord, is truth . . . from the inside out!" Psalm 51:6 (The Message) That is exactly what this musical is all about . . . God's truth changing us to live inside out.





**From  
Olive Bell Young**

This note encompasses, but is not limited to your many kindnesses during John Paul's final days and death. It has been very comforting to receive your numerous cards, beautiful flowers, and notices of your contributions to First Baptist memorial Fund in memory of John Paul. Your hugs and prayers are priceless. Thanks to each of you who participated in making John Paul's memorial service so beautiful. This was followed by a delicious luncheon prepared and served by Nancy Follmer and her wonderful crew of ladies—thanks a million!

Your prayers and loving concern go back to the fall of 1972. Our family had just finished climbing Mount Katahdin and hiking the northern portion of the Appalachian Trail. Rev. George Scripture was pastor. John Paul's attempted by-pass from the aorta to the left kidney failed resulting in the loss of his left kidney. Through the years, many surgeries and hospitalizations followed.

In the spring of 1990, John Paul was facing 2 major back-to-back surgeries at Cleveland Clinic. It was then that Pastor Den began 18 years of devoted attention, numerous prayers, and countless visits. Thanks, Denny, we grew to love you dearly!

A short time later, Pastor Bill joined the First Baptist staff. His prayers and visits have been very meaningful. Through these wonderful, yet sometimes very difficult years, much loving concern has been expressed by so many of you. I would be remiss not to mention the unusual acts of kindness and backbone of loving support from Nancy and Cleidith Humbach.

During our more than 54 years of membership, John Paul volunteered and longed to serve in so many ways at First Baptist. He enjoyed and cherished each experience of service.

With endless love and profound admiration for my beloved husband—also known as Dad, Papaw, Godfather, Uncle, and Friend—my heart overflows with deepest appreciation for the special part you played in his life.



**Pat Miller Inducted Into  
Hamilton City School District  
Fine Arts Hall Of Fame**

Our own Pat Miller was inducted into the Hamilton City School District Fine Arts Hall of Fame April 5th. Following is the bio used at the induction:

Patricia Miller graduated in the top ten percent of her class of 600 students with an emphasis on business from Stonewall Jackson High School in Charleston, West Virginia. As a freshman at Morris Harvey College, now known as Charleston University, Patricia changed her major to music education. While there Patricia was active in a variety of choral music groups, and performed as a soloist in many college and church productions, including the Messiah performance her senior year. She received her Bachelor of Science in Music Education in 1961. Patricia was listed in the "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities", and was a soloist in the Charleston Light Opera Guild.

Patricia began her teaching career in the Ross School District where she taught elementary and secondary choirs, elementary and junior high general music, and concert choir. She was the director for the boys' and girls' ensembles, and the a cappella choir.

In 1966, Mrs. Miller began teaching for the Hamilton City Schools at Taylor, Pierce, and Lincoln Elementaries. Later on, she moved to Wilson Junior High where she taught vocal music and was director of choirs for ten years. While at Wilson, Patricia started the Wilsonaires Showchoir. Also at Wilson, Patricia directed Wizard of Oz, Tom Sawyer, Li'l Abner, Charlie Brown, Oklahoma, Cinderella and Brigadoon. Patricia became the vocal music teacher at Hamilton High School in 1986 where she founded the Rhapsody in Blue Showchoir. Before retiring in 1995, she directed ten dinner theaters at Hamilton High. Patricia has also served as a director, a soloist and/or a member for many Hamilton area churches, the Great Miami Choral Society and the Hamilton-Fairfield Symphony Chorale. For several years she sang the soprano solo for Hamilton High's community performance of the Messiah. Mrs. Miller has remained active in different choirs, both as a member and as a soloist. She also plays in the Sun Lakes Hand Bells group.

Patricia lives in Hamilton and in Chandler, Arizona, with her husband, Hank, a retired Hamilton City Schools administrator.



## We Are Looking For You In Sunday School!

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

Congratulations to those who had perfect Sunday School attendance for January, February, and March, 2008.

### Nursery

Jill O'Hara

### Threes

Emma Imhoff

### TNT

Chris Metzger

### Homebuilders

Jerry Wallace

Brian Begley

Sandra Imhoff

Bruce Soldano

### Carpenter's Hands

Robert Williams

### Office

Dennis Metzger

### FOCUS

Rick Baker

Dwain Brewer

Sharon Brewer

Ruth Gaskins

Pat Gingrich

Jean Grimes

Paul Grimes

Jerry Hampton

Loretta Hampton

### Keystone

Ron Gerth

Bert Brantingham

Bill Brantingham

Bettie Carmack

Kathy Chambers

LaVerne Gerth

Beulah Hampton

Isabell Johnson

Mary Petry

Walter Petry

Irene Schilling

J. K. Walker

Mary Walker



There are numerous dishes on the table in the cloak room that have been left from funeral dinners. Please check the table to see if any of the dishes belong to you.

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## "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

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## Dayton Opera Guild

**Congratulations to Drew Helton**, Edgewood High School Junior, who won the Dayton, Ohio Opera Guild's annual high school vocal competition for high school juniors and seniors from all over the state of Ohio. Drew received a \$600 scholarship award and was honored, along with his voice teacher, Bess-Arlene Camacho, at the Opera Guild's annual banquet on April 27th, where he sang one of his winning pieces from the competition. **Tisha Patton** was his professional accompanist for the competition on April 19th.



## Sunday School Promotion Day!

Sunday School Promotion Day will be during the last part of the Sunday School hour on May 25th for all children completing grades 6 through 12. On June 1st, these students should report directly to their new class. All other school age children will be promoted in September at the beginning of the new school year.

—Barb Arnold  
Sunday School Superintendent



## Kirkwood Camp Schedule 2008

It's hard to believe that our MOPS year will soon be over! What an awesome year we have had! Each month we have "visited" a different room of our home and have based the meeting around that room. Some of our topics have included organization, how to make our marriage great, dealing with sibling rivalry, passing on family traditions and our famous annual pamper fair. We have welcomed many new moms to MOPS this year and will see quiet a few "graduate". We have been blessed with many Moppet workers that allow us to keep this ministry going and growing. Without your help ladies (and gents) we would not be able to function....you are a true blessing from God. We have enjoyed many moms' only activities, children outings and extra craft nights.

Our May meeting will wrap up the year with gardening advice from Master Gardner and mentor Marilyn Bowling. At this meeting we will also reveal our secret sister and distribute upcoming events for the summer months. At the conclusion of the May meeting we will host our annual Moppet appreciation luncheon for everyone that has been involved in the MOPS program. Be on the look out for your invitation. As this year comes to a close may I ask all of you to continue to pray for this ministry, it's purpose and it's leadership team that has served and that will be serving for the 2008-09 year. May God be glorified in all that we do!

Next year is sure to be just as exciting, educational and inspirational as this year was with our new theme Adventures in Mothering. This theme will equip moms to learn more about themselves as they go through the adventure of motherhood. They will celebrate and embrace scriptural principle that will be developed throughout the year. The theme verse for Adventures in Mothering is Ephesians 3:18: "...how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." The dimensions of this verse express how God is with us in our mothering adventure. More information about the 2008-09 MOPS year will be available in August.

Have a great summer!

At Home with Him-  
Elise Martin, Co-Coordinator

ABC/OHIO summer camps at Kirkwood will be:

- June 15-20 - Multicultural Camp (Gr. 7-12) \$235.00  
Director: Portia Banks
- June 20-21 - Beginners' Camp #1 (K-2) \$83.00  
Director: Kim Flach
- June 29-July 4 - Junior High (Gr. 7-9) \$235.00  
Director: Linda Miller
- July 6-11 - Senior High (Gr. 9-12) \$235.00  
Director: Ken Atchison
- July 20-23 -New Adventure #1 (Gr. 3-4) \$150.00  
Director: Tim Lee
- July 20-25 Junior Missions Camp (Gr. 4-6) \$235.00
- July 25-26 - Beginners' Camp #2 (K-2) \$83.00  
Director: Kim Flach
- Aug. 3-6 - -New Adventure #2 (Gr. 3-4) \$150.00  
Director: Crystal Reams
- Aug. 3-8 - Extreme Camp (Gr.7-12) \$375.00  
Director: Jeremy Spence

The Board of Christian Education decided that the church would pay 1/2 of the fee of **those who attend First Baptist regularly** to attend ABC camps.

For additional information or registration forms, contact Loretta Hampton, 844-1976 or see her at church.

-Loretta Hampton  
Camp Coordinator





## From The Heart Of Marilyn

### College Corner

#### E-Mail From God

#### Have I Got A Plan For You!

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”—Jeremiah 29:11*

Dear Child,

Sometimes it seems like everyone, including your friends, your parents, and maybe even yourself, has a plan for you. Well, I have a plan for you, too. I created you with a plan in mind. It is your destiny—the reason you exist.

We have adventures to go on, you and I. There are new friends for you to meet and new places for you to explore. There will be tough times, but I’ll give you strength; and when you’re lost, I’ll show you the way back home. So when you need to make a decision, pray first and then listen. You will hear a whisper inside yourself. Trust me. I only want to bless you!

Your Trail Guide,  
God

—Serving in His name,  
Marilyn Bowling  
College Coordinator

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### Sharing Christ With Kids Seminar

Save the date--Saturday, May 31--for this course that will help you share Christ simply and biblically with children. Created by Bible Centered Ministries International, Celebrate Kids and Awana/Rorheim Institute, this 4-hour workshop will teach you to...

- \* trust God with your efforts to share Christ with children
- \* build spiritual relationships with children
- \* share the Gospel clearly and biblically with children
- \* help children trust Christ as Savior

We will start with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m., and begin our first session at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided, and we will be finished by 2:00 p.m. If you: have children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews, work with kids, teach kids, volunteer in children's ministry or ever encounter kids, this workshop is for you.

—Emily Metzger



#### Soft Ball Schedules (First Half of Season)

##### Blue Team

April 14	# 1 @	6:30 p.m. vs. Ham. Chris. Ctr.
April 21	Bye	
April 28	# 5 @	6:30 p.m. vs. Higher Heights
May 5	# 5 @	6:30 p.m. vs. Ham. Chris. Ctr.
May 12	# 3 @	7:40 p.m. vs. 1st Church of God
May 19	# 3 @	6:30 p.m. vs. Tri Co Nazarene
June 2	# 1 @	6:30 p.m. vs. Higher Heights
	# 1 @	8:50 p.m. vs. 1st Church of God

##### Gray Team

April 15	# 1 @	8:50 p.m. vs. Immanuel Lutheran
April 22	# 1 @	6:30 p.m. vs. Buckeye Baptist
April 29	# 5 @	7:40 p.m. vs. Fairfield W. Baptist
May 6	# 5 @	6:30 p.m. vs. Paducah Ave. Bapt.
May 13	# 3 @	7:40 p.m. vs. Lindenwald UMC
May 20	# 3 @	8:50 p.m. vs. Immanuel Lutheran
May 27	# 1 @	7:40 p.m. vs. Buckeye Baptist

—Josh Metzger  
Sports and Recreation

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### Ladies Day in Waynesville

The Women's Ministry Council is sponsoring a day of shopping and lunch in Waynesville on Friday, May 2nd. We will leave church at 9:30 and return at 4:00. We will shop in Waynesville, enjoy lunch at Der Dutchman, and shop some more at the Secret Garden. If you have not already made a reservation, contact Nancy Whipple at 863-2309, so that transportation needs can be arranged.

—Women's Ministry Council





## Child Care Schedule

### Nursery (Morning)

May 4 - Judy, Amy, & Anna Wallace  
May 11 - Barb Keith, Lauren, & Heather  
May 18 - Kim Schuerman, Taylor, & Kalyne  
May 25 -

### One & Two Year Olds

May 4 -  
May 11 -  
May 18 -  
May 25 -

### Kinderchurch

May 4 - Brandi Emenaker & Teen  
May 11 - Brandi Emenaker & Teen  
May 18 - Brandi Emenaker & Teen  
May 25 - Claire Metzger & 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:

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

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



## Wednesday Family Dinners

### May 7

Menu: Ham, Hash Brown Casserole, Green Beans, Applesauce, Rolls, Brownies  
Hosts: Trustees

### May 14

Menu: Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert  
Hosts: Chancel Choir

### May 21

Menu: Hamburgers and Hot Dogs with all the trimmings, Macaroni Salad, Cole Slaw, Potato Chips, Dessert  
Hosts: Deacons

### May 28

Menu: Chicken and Noodles, Honey Glazed Carrots, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert  
Hosts: Deaconesses

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.

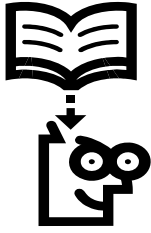
Reminder: Anyone desiring to borrow items, such as, chairs, tables, coffee pots, etc. are now required to fill out a sheet in the office with name, date, item, and number borrowed and then the date, item, and number returned. Please see Ellie.

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## May Greeters

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



## Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

*I've seen God. What about you?*

I just want to share with you a couple ways I have seen God this past month in hopes that you will see how awesome our God is, that God is still at work, and maybe even to challenge you to see God every day of your life.

The first place I saw God was at Fairfield High School's production of *Phantom of the Opera*. If you did not see this production you missed an outstanding production by one of our area high schools. Our very own Heather Keith, who is an amazing teen that everyone needs to meet, was part of the tech/stage crew and helped with the set. I saw how God will use students in amazing ways if we allow them to and if they want to.

In very similar ways I have been able to help encourage a group of students at Hamilton High in impacting that school for Christ. This group, known as TFC or Time For Change, is excited about reaching their peers for Christ and seeing the fruit of the Spirit reign supreme in the hallways of the school. Now tell me that isn't amazing!!! I repeat what I have seen God tell me: Never, and I mean NEVER, underestimate the power of students who love Christ can have on others. Please pray for the TFC students as they have a rally on May 16th. Our students have the potential to be the generation that turns our nation around, and God is showing me just how that may take place. Do you believe it?

If that wasn't enough I have more stories than space will allow me to share in regards to students challenging themselves to go deeper in their walk with Christ. Whether it is in small groups, Sunday school, Wednesday night Lifeline, or just hanging out with them we have great students being honest with themselves and our Lord. They are struggling with great questions and sincerely contemplating what it means to be a Christian. Trust me this shows me that sharing love to a teenager is well worth the effort.

God is showing me that prayers are answered. There are some that have been on my heart and prayer list for over four years and God is now letting me see the answer. God never forgets the prayers we pray and always answers.

This is just the tip of the iceberg but let me assure you this one point: Our God is alive and working. How did you see Him today?

Seeing the Lord each and every day,  
Jeremy

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**May 3:** 8:30am Spring clean up day on the church grounds. Please, if you are able, come and help out others in the church clean things up for the spring. There will be lots of tasks to do and with many people it will take less time. I am unable to make it but please don't let that stop you from coming to help.

**May 4th:** 6:00pm There will be no small groups because of the King's Kids production in the Sanctuary. Please come and support our younger ones and listen to a message put to music.

**May 11th:** Don't forget it is Mother's Day and to get your mom a card or do something special for her on this day. There will be no evening services in order to allow you time to spend with your families.

**May 16th:** The new Chronicles of Narnia movie: *Prince Caspian*, will be out in theaters and I encourage you to think about watching it. If a group of people want to go together as a group let me and we can meet at one of the theaters and watch it together. You would pay your own ticket if you wanted to go.

**May 17th:** There is a missions conference at Montgomery Community Church with a special youth track for us. It is an all day event but I think you will really enjoy it if you are able to make it. I hope to have more details soon.

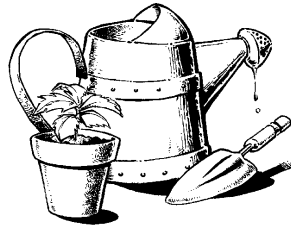
**May 18th:** 5:00pm We will be cleaning up Holloway Park. Please wear work clothes, bring rakes, gloves and work clothes. The sooner we get the tasks done the sooner we can make a Flub's run to celebrate. However, the work will come first. Tasks include: weeding the volleyball courts, sweeping out the patio/picnic area, sweeping the picnic tables and making sure the trash is picked up. Hope to see you there.

**May 24th-May 26th:** Andrew Geyer, Oliver Davis and myself will be leaving around noon on the 24th and returning around 5pm on the 26th for Paradise 08 as the CREW's representatives. Please pray for traveling safety as well as a great time of worshipping God in Kansas.

**May 25th:** 5:00pm Church picnic at Holloway Park. Please see information elsewhere in the Courier.

**June 6th and 7th:** We will once again have our CREW Formal Night. Things will kick off around 5pm with dinner being served around 6:30pm. The ladies will then be sleeping in the CREW room and the guys will camp out in Holloway Park. For any sixth graders this will be the first event you can come to. Reminder: ladies if you need a dress see another CREW lady member or myself for help in finding someone to lend you a dress for the evening. Guys remember you must be in at least a tie and dress shoes to participate.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2008</h1>						
				<b>1</b> National Day of Prayer! 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Music & Worship	<b>2</b> 9:30 WMC Trip to Waynesville	<b>3</b> 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering 8:15 ABW Spring Rally 8:30 Spring Clean-Up Day
<b>4</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:45 Women's Council 6:00 KingsKids Presentation <i>Livin' Inside Out In An Unside Down World</i>	<b>5</b> 6:30 Men's Softball Blue	<b>6</b> 9:30 MOPS Steering 6:30 Men's Softball Gray	<b>7</b> 5:00 ABW Meeting 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Club 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	<b>8</b> 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Board of Trustees	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Letter Carriers' "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive
<b>11</b> Mother's Day 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>12</b> 11:00 WMC Book Club 7:40 Men's Softball Blue	<b>13</b> 10:00 Holloway Circle 7:00 Abell Circle 7:00 Smith Circle 7:40 Men's Softball Gray	<b>14</b> 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	<b>15</b> 9:30 Ladies Bible Study	<b>16</b>  International Missions Conference - Mason	<b>17</b>  International Missions Conference - Mason
<b>18</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship-Walt White 12:00 AB Girls 4:30 Diaconate 5:00 CREW Clean up Holloway Park 6:00 Evening Celebration	<b>19</b> 8:30 KeenAgers to Berea 6:30 Men's Softball Blue	<b>20</b> 9:30 MOPS 8:50 Men's Softball Gray	<b>21</b> 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Fair 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	<b>22</b> 8:30 Matthew 25 9:30 Ladies Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 12:00 CREW to Paradise '08
<b>25</b> 9:15 Sunday School Promotion 10:30 Worship 5:00 Church Picnic @ Holloway Park	<b>26</b> Memorial Day! Church Offices Closed  5:00 CREW return from Paradise '08	<b>27</b> 7:40 Men's Softball Gray	<b>28</b> 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Awards Night 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	<b>29</b> 9:30 Ladies Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 8:30 Sharing Christ With Kids Seminar



# MAY

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1 - Harold Sapp  | 12 - Helen Baker<br>Jerri Begley                          | 26 - Juanita Hazelwood<br>Don Perry<br>Amanda Mason    |
| 2 - Glenn Madden   |   |  |
| 3 - Bob Arnold<br>Jeff Hazelwood<br>Tracy Scott<br>Douglas Rocco<br>Sizemore               | 13 - Bill Abrams<br>Denise Cox                            | 27 - Joshua Chamberlain<br>Daniel Morris<br>Iva Voss   |
| 4 - Logan Stanger<br>Andrew Withrow  | 15 - Drew Helton<br>Priscilla Phillips<br>Cress           | 28 - Jerry Hampton<br>Geraldine Smith<br>Bryan Wallick |
| 5 - William Cox<br>William Sizemore  | 16 - Olivia West  |  |
| 6 - Lorraine Collier<br>Lisa Dulli   | 17 - Mollie Johnson<br>Sydney Ruwe<br>Ashley Wilson       | 29 - Dorothy Hollowell<br>Heather Keith                |
| 7 - Zeke Gibson<br>Justin Zeek   | 18 - Ruth Gaskins   | 30 - Richard Apgar, Sr.                                |
| 8 - Anna Apgar<br>Warren Townsend  | 19 - Darlene Gibson<br>Ron Herzog<br>Lucille Lancaster    | 31 - Frances Bailey<br>Isaiah Witmer                   |
| 9 - Lyndsay Begley<br>Tonya Metzger<br>Paul Dudley<br>Alex Hendrickson<br>Mary Ella Hudson | 20 - Danielle Williamson<br>S a m a n t h a<br>Williamson |  |
| 10 - Ruth Goble<br>Clinton Harris<br>Pauline Johnson<br>Omega Murrell                      | 22 - Elyssa Hines<br>Jeanette Schwab                      |  |
|  | 24 - Josh Metzger<br>Marilyn Shearer                      |  |
|  | 25 - Tiffany Jordon                                       |  |

**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 Bob Eicher

I want to thank our church family for the calls, cards, and especially the prayers for the surgery I had on march 14. I'm doing well but I still can't seem to gain any weight. Except for the weight, everything is coming along fine. It's wonderful to have a church family who you can call on.

### From Luella & Norbert Lerch

This is a little note to thank everyone for their prayers for my nephew, Gregory Reece, and to update you on the most recent plans. On Sunday, March 30, they have plans to take him to Lima, Peru for some umbilical cord stem cell treatments. An ambulance will pick them up at home and take them to Cincinnati where a medical equipped airplane with a staff will fly them directly to Peru. The treatments will begin Monday, march 31. We surely are praying that they will work along with our Lord's help.

### From Glenn Purdy

I want to thank each of you for your prayers and concern for my recent throat surgery. It went exceedingly well, and I know that in great part this was due to your kind regards and prayers. My family and I are so very grateful. Thank you!

### From Wisdom's Gate Home Education Cooperative

Thank you so much for your wonderful hospitality in opening your building for our co-op's use! It is great

blessing and we very much appreciate you.

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## THE DIFFERENCE

I got up early one morning  
and rushed right into the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
that I didn't take time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me,  
and heavier became my task.  
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.  
He answered, "You didn't ask".

I wanted to see joy and beauty,  
but the day toiled on gray and bleak;  
I wondered why God didn't show me.  
He said, "But you didn't seek".

I tried to come into God's presence;  
I used all my keys at the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided,  
"My child, you didn't knock".

I woke up early this morning,  
and paused before entering he day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
that I had to take time to pray.

Author Unknown

Submitted by the Committee on Prayer  
Strategy #7

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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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