

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

June, 2008

Father's Day

Daddy

My daddy just didn't know how to show love. It was mom who held the family together. He just went to work every day and when he came home she had a list of sins we had committed and he would give us what-for about them.

I broke my leg once on a swing set. It was mom who held me in her arms all the way to the hospital. Dad pulled the car right up to the emergency door and when they asked him to move it because the space was reserved for emergency vehicles, he shouted, "What do you think this is, a tour bus?" Mom carried me in while dad parked the car. It seems all my life dad was parking the car someplace, coming in wet and half-frozen.

Dad was always sort of out of place. At birthday parties he just busied himself blowing up balloons, setting up tables, and running errands. But it was mom who carried the cake with the candles on it for me to blow out.

I remember when mom told him to teach me how to ride a bicycle. I told him not to let go, but he said it was time. So I fell and mom ran to pick me up. But he waved her off. I was so mad that I showed him. I got right back on that bike and rode it by myself. He didn't even feel embarrassed. He just smiled.

When I went off to college he was just fiddling with the luggage and the boxes. It was mom who sat down and said that everything would be all right. She did all of the writing. He just sent checks and a little note about how great his lawn looked now that I wasn't playing football on it . . .

When I got married it was mom who got choked up and cried and dad just blew his nose loudly and left the room.

All my life he kept saying, "What are you doing? What time are you going to be home? Do you have gas in the car? Who's going to be there? No, you can't go." Not mom, she just loved me. But daddy, he just didn't seem to know how to show love—unless, is it possible that he was showing it all along and I just didn't recognize it?

—Erma Bombeck

Fathers Are Wonderful People

Fathers are wonderful people,
too little understood.
And we do not sing their praises
as often as we should.

For father struggles daily
to live up to his image
As protector and provider
and hero of the scrimmage.

And perhaps that is the reason
we sometimes get the notion
that fathers are not subject
to the thing we call emotion.

But if you look inside dad's heart,
where no one else can see,
You'll find he's sentimental
and soft as he can be.

Fathers are just wonderful
in a million different ways,
and they merit loving compliments
and accolades of praise.

For the only reason dad aspires
to fortune and success
is to make the family proud of him
and bring them happiness.

And like our heavenly Father,
he's a guardian and a guide,
someone we can count on
to be always on our side.

—Selected



**Joint Meeting
For ABW Circles**

This is an invitation to all our Circle members, the AB Girls, and all other ladies of the church to attend our dinner meeting on Tuesday, June 10th at 6:00 in the Family Center. Circle members will be providing covered dish items. We also invite all who attend to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the New Life Mission. Our speaker will be Kim Werk who will share her drama ministry with us. Our program will also include special music and installation of officers. Come and enjoy an evening of fellowship with your sisters in Christ.

Serving in Christ,
Nancy Whipple

June Missionaries of the Month:

India

David & Elizabeth Perkins

Betsy and David serve at Kodikanal International School (KIS). Students at KIS come from many different backgrounds. At KIS, they receive an excellent education, experience living together in community, hear/experience the Christian witness and participate in social service projects. David serves on the KIS administration team and as the elementary school coordinator. Betsy is the elementary school nurse and teaches health classes.

Nepal

Charles & Carole Sydnor

Bucky (Charles) connects Human Development and Community Service (HDCS), a non-governmental Christian organization based in Kathmandu, with its international partners and supporters. HDCS is committed to holistic mission in Nepal, and focuses on the great need for social ministries such as health, education, job training, and community development. Carole enables foreigners that come to work in HDCS-related hospitals to serve effectively, assisting them with orientation to language and culture. Both Carole and Bucky also assist NBCC with leadership development.

“The Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers . . . that He may incline our hearts to Him, to walk in all His ways.”

I Kings 8:57 (RSV)

This is a history of David’s sons, Solomon, who began to reign about 970 B. C. Solomon was a warrior and a builder, and under him, the kingdom was stronger and wealthier than it had been before or would ever be again.

PRAY for peace and justice in our world: for responsible and powerful world leaders and for world citizens who will learn to live caringly with each other in the name of the Prince of Peace.

–Madge Walters

The next scheduled Work Day at Matthew 25 will be Thursday, June 26th. 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



June 14, 2008

The Courier (ISSN 383367-29)
June 2008
Published monthly by:
First Baptist Church
1501 Pyramid Hill Boulevard
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
Volume 43, Number 6

Trusting God's Sovereignty

During the Bible study time slot on Wednesday evenings, we have been exploring the great doctrines of our faith. One of the theological concepts we have examined is the sovereignty of God. According to the familiar text of the Apostle Paul, God is somehow able to take all the variables of our lives and work out everything out for our good and His glory. Here are his exact words:

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose...What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (Romans 8:28, 31, 8:37)

Recently, I have been reading a book by Joseph Stowell (current teaching pastor at the Harvest Bible Chapel in Chicago, and former president of Moody Bible Institute), entitled *Radical Reliance—Living 24/7 with God at the Center* (Discovery House Publishers). In one of his chapters entitled, *Far From Home*, Stowell tells the story of Marcel Sternberger, a Hungarian resident of the United States in the days following World War II. I quote Stowell's story at length, as an illustration of God's care and concern for His people:

On the morning of January 10, 1948, Sternberger boarded the 9:09 AM train into the city, as usual, from his suburban home to Woodside, N.Y. En route, he suddenly decided to visit Laszlo Victor, a Hungarian friend who lived in Brooklyn and was ill. Accordingly, at Ozone Park, Sternberger changed to the subway for Brooklyn, went to his friend's house, and stayed until mid-afternoon. He then boarded a Manhattan-bound subway for his Fifth Avenue office. Here are Sternberger's own words:

The car was crowded, and there seemed to be no chance of a seat. But just as I entered, a man sitting by the door suddenly jumped up to leave, and I slipped into the empty place. I've been living in New York long enough not to start conversations with strangers. But, being a photographer, I have the peculiar habit of analyzing people's faces, and I was struck by the features of the passenger on my left. He was probably in his late 30s, and when he glanced up, his eyes seemed to have a hurt expression in them. He was reading a Hungarian-language newspaper, and something prompted me to say in Hungarian, "I hope you don't mind if I glance at your paper." The man seemed surprised to be addressed in his native language. But he answered politely, "You may read it now. I'll have time later on."

During the half-hour ride to town, we had quite a conversation. He said his name was Bela Paskin. A law student when World War II started, he had been put into a German labor battalion and sent to the Ukraine. Later he was captured by the

Russians and put to work burying the German dead. After the war, he covered hundreds of miles on foot until he reached his home in Debrecen, a large city in eastern Hungary. I myself knew Debrecen quite well, and we talked about it for a while. Then he told me the rest of his story.

When he went to the apartment once occupied by his father, mother, brothers and sisters, he found strangers living there. Then he went upstairs to the apartment that he and his wife once had. It also was occupied by strangers. None of them had ever heard of his family. As he was leaving, full of sadness, a boy ran after him, calling "Paskin bacsi! Paskin bacsi!" That means "Uncle Paskin." The child was the son of some former neighbors of his. He went to the boy's home and talked to his parents. "Your whole family is dead," they told him. "The Nazis took them and your wife to Auschwitz."

Auschwitz was one of the worst Nazi concentration camps. Paskin gave up all hope. A few days later, too heartsick to remain any longer in Hungary, he set out again on foot, stealing across border after border until he reached Paris. He managed to immigrate to the United States in October 1947, just three months before I met him.

From the Pastor's Heart (cont.)

All the time he had been talking, I kept thinking that somehow his story seemed familiar. A young woman whom I had met recently at the home of friends had also been from Debrecen; she had been sent to Auschwitz; from there she had been transferred to work in a German munitions factory. Her relatives had been killed in the gas chambers. Later, she was liberated by the Americans and was brought here in the first boatload of displaced persons in 1946.

Her story had moved me so much that I had written down her address and phone number, intending to invite her to meet my family and thus help relieve the terrible emptiness in her life.

It seemed impossible that there could be any connection between these two people, but as I neared my station, I fumbled anxiously in my address book. I asked in what I hoped was a casual voice, "Was your wife's name Marya?" He turned pale. "Yes!" He answered. "How did you know?" He looked as if he were about to faint. I said, "Let's get off the train." I took him by the arm at the next station and led him to a phone booth. He stood there like a man in a trance while I dialed her phone number...

When I heard her voice at last, I told her who I was and asked her to describe her husband. She seemed surprised at the question, but gave me a description. Then I asked her where she had lived in Debrecen, and she told me the address. Asking her to hold the line, I turned to Paskin and said, "Did you and your wife live on such-and-such a street?" "Yes!" Bela exclaimed. He was white as a sheet and trembling. "Try to be calm," I urged him. "Something miraculous is about to happen to you. Here, take this telephone and talk to your wife!"

Stowell has told an incredible story. And I have left out many of the details. But what a reunion that must have been for this long-separated couple. The world's wisdom would tell us that it was just blind luck that brought the two together once again after an incredible confluence of people and circumstances. But this was hardly just good fortune. Imagine the number of "coincidences" God had to arrange to bring about this reunion. Such is the wonder of God's sovereignty!

The story raises as many questions as it provides appreciation for God's love and care. Is every couple reunited after tragedy? Does every illness end in healing? Does every loss have its counterpoint in celebration? Experience tells us that dark days and lonely hours do not always end in tears of joy and shouts of laughter.

In one moment, the Apostle Paul could speak of "all things working out for good...", all the

while reminding us that his life was filled with all kinds of sorrows and obstacles. Read this text from his second letter to the Corinthian church:

I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? (2 Cor. 11:23-29.)

Was God's sovereignty at work in Paul's life in the midst of these terrible experiences in the same measure as when there was peace and prosperity? The answer is "Yes! Absolutely." It's just that in our lives, we may not see it as clearly; and, in truth, we may never understand what God is doing in our lives until we finally arrive in His Kingdom.

May it be so that in our lives we have learned to be content with these words of hope and truth from God's perfect and inerrant Word:

*The Lord is my light and my salvation--
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life--
of whom shall I be afraid?...
For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle
and set me high upon a rock...
I am still confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord. (Psalm 27:1, 5, 13-14)*

Trusting in God's Sovereignty, and inviting you to do the same...Pastor



Awana Club

May 14 was our last night to finish handbook sections for this club year. For those who did not finish their book, if they are a Sparkie who will be in Sparks again next year or a T&T clubber who will be in T&T again next year, they will continue in the same book next year.

Coin Drive

We raised \$209.22 for our Awana Missionaries, Steve Schenk and Ken Rorher. When Mr. Rorher visited our club on May 14, we surprised him with a check for \$104.61. Because we were able to fill our coin drive container up to our goal line, we had pizza for everyone involved in Awana (and their families) on Awana Fair Night, May 21. There were reservations for 80 people!

Awana Fair

Our Awana Fair on May 21 was well attended-my best count, with everyone moving around, was 100 people. The huge Castle Slide was a popular and busy spot. Thank you to everyone who ran the games and store tables. We couldn't do this without you.

Awards Night

As I write this, Awards Night hasn't happened yet, but we have quite a few handbook finishers who will be getting awards on May 28. Following the Awards Ceremony, we will enjoy (did enjoy, by the time you read this?) a Chocolate Fountain Reception...3 chocolate fountains-milk chocolate, semi-sweet and blue-colored white chocolate!

New Sparks Material Next Year!

Awana has begun revising the Sparks curriculum. The new material has an exciting flight theme. There will be three brand new books, one introduced each club year for three years. Beginning in fall 2008, each Kindergartener Sparkie will float skyward in HangGlider™ (formerly Skipper). In fall 2009, clubbers completing HangGlider™ will soar among the clouds in WingRunner™ (formerly Hiker). Finally, in 2010, Sparkies who completed the first two handbooks will streak across the hemispheres in SkyStormer™ (formerly Climber).

HangGlider, WingRunner and SkyStormer will take Sparkies on a chronological journey through

Scripture-Genesis through Revelation-with regular layovers to meet important Bible characters along the way.

The red vest uniforms will remain the same, but there will be new patches to wear, and Sparkies will wear pilot wings instead of crowns to display their achievement jewels.

Awana clubs across the nation are planning for the best way to integrate the new Sparks material into their club. In our club, all Kindergarteners will begin with the new material. As long as we still have the "old" material still on hand, any new first or second graders joining our club will begin with the Sparks Gate Test and Skipper book. If they finish the Skipper book before the club year is over, they can immediately move on to the Hiker book.

If you would like to read more about the new Sparks material, go to www.awana.com/newsparks/

Awana in the News

Chicago's Daily Herald ran a full-length feature article on Awana's co-founder, Art Rorheim. You can read it online at <http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=189223>. In May, Art celebrated his 90th birthday and 73 years in children's ministry. You can read about how Art was influential in Awana's beginnings and how he continues to serve at <http://www.awana.org/news/>.

This brings to my mind some of our Awana helpers who might consider themselves part of the "older" generation. Compared to Art, you're just middle age! It just goes to show you can't be too old to work in Awana!

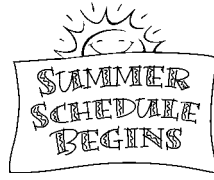
Here's a quote from the Daily Herald article about Art Rorheim. Art said, "Here's one basic that's never changed: Kids respond to people who love them," he said. "The key to it is the leader personally taking an interest in that kid."

Thank you to all of our leaders and helpers who took an interest in kids this year.

–Emily Metzger
Awana Commander



**From The Heart
Of
Marilyn
College Corner**



**Summer Son Club
(aka Totally Terrific
Tuesdays!)**

We have our summer programming scheduled. Save the following dates to join us for an exciting time of fun and fellowship! Start telling your friends all about it! We ARE going to GROW this summer!

Dear God,

Please help me discover

my purpose in life.

Give me the directions to open the roads

you want me to travel.

Please help me discover

the treasure of being on my true course.

You have created me

with a certain purpose.

Lead me to recognize my path

so that my life will have true meaning.

Thank you for listening to my prayer.

Amen

-Serving in His name,
Marilyn Bowling
College Coordinator

June 17: Innie - Make It and Take It day at church; make lots of fun things to take home and maybe make our TTT T-shirts for the summer; \$2 (?), covers materials and lunch/dessert

June 24: Innie - Pottery and Art Day at church; customize a piece of pottery to make your own dry-erase board! \$14 covers pottery piece, lunch and dessert

July 1: Outie/Innie - Bowling/Game Day/Scavenger Hunt; Bowling at Columbia Lanes, then back at church for more fun; \$2.50 for 2 games/shoe rental

No gathering **July 8** due to VBS setup

No gathering **July 15** due to VBS—come and join us!
(Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.)

July 22: Outtie - Bananas-inflatable jump and play place; \$5.50 for 2 hours of jumping fun; will visit a local park for lunch and more playtime

July 29: Outtie - Miami University Rec Center for swimming; \$6 person for 4 hours of playtime!

Aug 5: TBA

Aug 12: Outtie - Roller Skating at Tri-Skateland in Fairfield, followed by playtime at the park; \$3 for skate time and shoe rental

Be sure to check the church website to get all of the latest info! Be on the lookout for schedules to hand out to friends, permission forms, and signup sheets. If you would like to help with chaperoning duties on Innies and Outties, please let me know. Extra help is very much appreciated, and it's also lots of fun! ☺

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



God's Big Back Yard
Vacation Bible School 2008
July 14 - 18



Get ready to unpack your BBQ things, your summer play toys and join us for VBS 2008 *God's Big Backyard!* We will be passing out flyers on Sunday... and at the Fourth of July parade. If you want some to pass out to friends and families please take some from the table in the connector.

We will be collecting things for decorating. Think summer, think backyards, and think playing outside. Cheryl and John Motzer will also have our VBS arts and craft collection boxes out and ready for any donations. Lists will be with the boxes. Also watch the weekly bulletin for needed items.

Our first meeting will be on ?!?!?!? (Watch the weekly bulletin.)

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

Preregistration For VBS

Sign up at the “*God's Big Back Yard*” registration table in the connector beginning Sunday, June 29th. Registrations will also be taken on Wednesday evenings, July 2nd and 9th. Don't forget to take home registration forms for your friends also. Transportation will be arranged if needed. Contact Marsha Helton or Linda Gibbs for further information or questions.

Donations For VBS Teachers' Snack Room

Please mark you calendars now for VBS: July 14-18. We will once again be having a teacher's snack room for our hard working teachers! Please bring snacks - baked things, fruit, cheese, anything - to the kitchen on Sunday or anytime that week marked “Teachers Snack Room.” Thanks!!

–VBS Snack Room Coordinator

Soft Ball Schedules (Second Half of Season)

The second half of the softball schedules were not available at the printing of this issue of The Courier. Please watch the calendar portion of the weekly bulletin for the weekly softball schedules.

–Josh Metzger

Wild And Wacky Wednesdays

Now that AWANA has ended, what are you doing on Wednesday nights? Well, Claire and I are still here, and we are looking forward to playing with the kids! We would like to have MANY, MANY kiddos this year, and we challenge you to help us reach that goal! Bring your friends, neighbors, and relatives! Our Wednesday nights are like little VBS's, so it promises to be a good time! If you need help with transportation, please let us know!

–Brandi Emenaker
Co-Director of Children's Ministries

Childcare Requested

Do you love working with children? Do you like to play games, color, and sing? Well, even if you aren't great at those things, luckily, kids don't care! They just love your time and attention! What if you like to hold little ones, rock them, sing to them, and feed them? We would love to have your help in the Child Care program this summer. If you would like to help, the following dates are still available! Just let me know when and where you would like to serve! ☺

Nursery dates: **June 1, 8**
One & Two Year Olds dates: **June 8, 15, 22**
Kinderchurch dates: **June 1, 8, 29**

–Brandi Emenaker
Co-Director of Children's Ministries

A Special
THANK YOU

From Luella & Norbert Lerch

I am writing this note to thank everyone for their prayers for our nephew, Greg Reece. His parents took him to Lima, Peru for umbilical cord stem cell injections. He had two stem cell treatments and one human growth injection in the twelve days they were there. There were two doctors from the U.S. attending the treatments.

The people in Peru were very cooperative and accommodating. His parents were furnished with an efficiency apartment, cab service, and an interpreter and Greg seemed to have a nurse around the clock.

Greg can now stick out his tongue between his teeth, can turn his head from side to side in bed. He has also moved one finger on one hand. He has a little more strength in the left leg and was swinging both legs a little on Sunday. The doctor in Hawaii says, according to the blood test information from his visiting home doctor, he should have another Human Growth Hormone injection now. His parents are trying to exercise his chest by putting weights on it and increasing them to strengthen his chest hoping he will be able to breathe on his own so they can get him off the ventilator.

The doctor in Hawaii suggested that they get a camera to set on the top their computer so they can let me see Greg's movement by email. That way he can see the progress. The doctors in Peru say they may still see improvements for as long as a year.

The ambulance picked them up at home and took them to the Middletown airport, then when they arrived in Lima, Peru, and ambulance met them and took them to the hospital. There were five patients being treated with stem cells for different afflictions and our family got to know and meet all of them. At least one man had ALS. He could not walk or talk when he started the treatments but before Greg left, the man could walk with assistance and could talk some, but not very plain.

So thanks again for all your prayers and concern. We all surely do appreciate them.

(Greg was diagnosed with ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease last fall.)



Fourth of July Parade

We are still in need of help for the Fourth of July parade!

- ★ We need people who are willing to pass out goodie bags to children in the crowd. Because we cannot do this from the float, we need people to walk in the crowd as the float goes by.
- ★ We need people who can spare 1 hour (only!!) to help decorate the float on July 3rd. We will have all the equipment ready and will just need people to give 1 hour to put things together.
- ★ We need CHILDREN to go on the float!
- ★ We need prayer warriors!

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



Members of our congregation will be working with World Servants and other church groups at Chestnut Ridge, West Virginia. They will be doing light construction on the homes of local families, as well as, assisting with a Vacation Bible School with area children. The team will leave First Baptist the morning of Sunday, July 6th and return Saturday, July 12th.

Please pray for our team members and the families they will serve. Thank you!

-Laurin Sprague & Mike Braun



Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



Silent Dinner

The **Silent Dinner** for **June** will be Friday, June 6th, at Northgate Mall. See you there!

Interpreter Schedule for June

June 1 Jo Manson	Maria Miller
June 8 Jo Manson	Maria Miller
June 15 Jo Manson	Maria Miller
June 22 Jo Manson	Maria Miller
June 29 Jo Manson	Maria Miller

Looking Ahead

Deaf Zoo Day
(Watch the monthly Courier for date)

—Maria Miller
Director of Deaf Ministries

Les Miserables a musical

Presented by Encore Summer Theatre

Parrish Auditorium
Miami University - Hamilton

Wed. & Thurs. July 30 - 31 - 8:00 p.m.

Fri. & Sat. August 1 & 2 - 8:00

Sat. August 2 - 2:00 p.m.

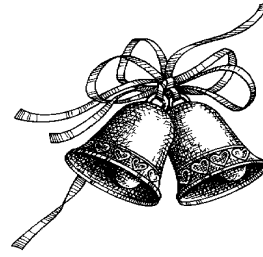
Drew Helton - As Jean Valjean

Bob Borden - Orchestra Director

Mike Wallick - Violin

Tickets - \$?? (Check July Courier)

To reserve tickets, contact the Heltons or check the Encore web site for information:
encoreyouththeatre.net. Make checks payable to
Encore Summer Youth Theatre.



You are cordially invited to an open house

celebrating the marriage of

Jeremy Spence

and

Aleesha Brandt

Sunday, June 29, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

in the Family Center

at First Baptist Church.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Jeff Hazelwood**, this year's Treasurer of Edgewood's chapter of Future Farmers of America. His treasurer's book received a gold rating, which is the highest rank in the state of Ohio. Jeff has been named Vice-President of the group for the 2008-2009 school year and also serves as a member of the Butler County Fair Board.

Congratulations also to **Heather Keith** who sang the National Anthem recently for the Opening Day of Fairfield Civitan Girls Softball League.



Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

June 1 -

June 8 -

June 15 - Betty Emenaker & Kristina Miles

June 22 - Rob & Jenny VanMeter

June 29 -

One & Two Year Olds

June 1 -

June 8 -

June 15 -

June 22 -

June 29 - Marilyn Bowling

Kinderchurch

June 3 -

June 8 -

June 15 - Brian & Barb Begley

June 22 - Jerri Begley, Adam & Brooke

June 29 -

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

June 6

Menu: Pulled Pork Barbecue Sandwiches, Macaroni and Cheese, Baked Beans, Potato Chips, Cole Slaw, Dessert

Hosts: Keystone II

June 13

Menu: Chicken Fingers with Honey or Honey Mustard, French Fried Potatoes, Peas and Carrots, Fruit Jello, Rolls, Dessert

Hosts: TNT

June 20

Menu: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert

Hosts: FOCUS

June 27

Menu: Salisbury Steak, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Dessert

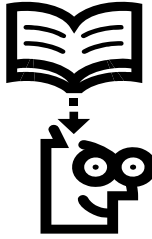
Hosts: Keystone I

Reminder: Adults should contribute \$4.00 per person for the meal; \$12.00 for a family. 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 **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.

June Greeters

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



Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

The Wedding

T-minus 30 days and counting. Actually by the time you read this article it will be closer to T-minus 21 days than 30. With the day approaching fast many of things are coming together and many things are left to be done.

The invitations have been sent and the responses are coming. We are starting to get a good count on just how many people will be joining with us to celebrate the love God has placed in both of us and the beginning of doing God's will together.

On June 21st though, there will be an even greater reason for us to be celebrating. It will be because we have seen God answer prayers. Some of you have been praying since I arrived at First Baptist close to five years ago for God to bring someone by to help out. My grandmother has been praying for who knows how many years, the same goes for my mom. In fact, I have been praying for close to 13 years, yes teens, I started praying when I was your age for my future spouse and I encourage you to do the same. The day is finally coming when the prayers of so many people will be answered. Truly that is a reason to celebrate, don't you think?

We will be celebrating that day and then also Aleesha and I have decided to continue celebrating for our entire lives because of what God has done for us. We also want to allow you all, my church family, to celebrate with us if you could.

Even though, because of distance and place of wedding, we could not invite all of you to our special day in Michigan we are going to have an open house celebration on June 29 from 1pm until 3pm in the church Family Center. We invite you to join us on that day to celebrate what God has done for us, the way God answers prayers, and for what God is going to do in the future. I hope you plan on attending and please consider this your personal and formal invitation. (There is an invitation elsewhere in the Courier as well you can consider as yours.)

I hope that you will join us on that day and if you feel the need, though you do not have to, to purchase a gift. Aleesha and I are registered at Bed Bath and Beyond as well as Sears. If you have questions let me know but please know your presence is more than enough and all we ask. See you then as we celebrate God's answering of prayers.

Living in the joy and answered prayers of the Lord,
Jeremy

Upcoming Events

June 4th 6:30pm: First Lifeline for new CREW members. We will be going over summer plans and playing a variety of games both indoors and outdoors. Please wear appropriate shoes and clothing.

June 6th-7th: CREW Formal Night tickets are \$10 per person and \$5 per extra sibling. Tickets are on sale now. Ladies meet at the lower level of the church at 5pm on Friday. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm with a menu of: grilled chicken, salad, dinner rolls with butter, green beans, apple pie, water and tea. Immediately following dinner we will change clothes and roller skate. Ladies will leave the church for a home around 9:30pm or so. Breakfast will be served at 9:30am on Saturday with the event over by 11:00am.

Guys must wear tie, pants, and shoes (no sandals or flip flops) for the dinner portion. See Jeremy for more information. Ladies, if you need a formal dress, please see one of your older CREW peers or Jeremy and he will put you into contact with someone who has formal dresses. Also we are in need of a place for the ladies to sleep on Friday night. Our first two places have other commitments to honor. Please see Jeremy if you would like to open up your home for this evening. This is also the first event where our new CREW members may join us.

June 8th-Baccalaureate Service: Attention All Graduates and Families- Plan now to attend the Baccalaureate Service and Luncheon on June 8th. You should have received some information by mail however, if you did not receive anything please let Jeremy Spence of Marilyn Bowling aware. Anyone who has graduated from High School, College, or Graduate School anytime this past year will be recognized.

June 15th- In honor of Father's Day there will be no evening services at church this evening. Please spend this time with your families and especially dad.

June 25th 6:30pm: Ryan Inloes will be leading Lifeline this evening as I will be away on my Honeymoon. Please plan on being there to support Ryan and to have a great time.

June 29th 1:00pm-3:00pm: There will be an open house reception at the church to celebrate Aleesha and my wedding that will take place on June 21st. If you are able to come I would love to see you all there and we can celebrate together. If you have any questions please let me know and I can try to answer them.

July 2nd Lifeline: During Lifeline this evening you will be helping Brandi and Claire with their VBS Event they are planning on having. See them for more details. I will still be on my honeymoon but will return into the office on July 5th.



Kirkwood Camp Schedule 2008

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

Mending Hearts Summer Program

The John Engle Christian Counseling Center would like to announce a new opportunity this summer! Our Mending Hearts program for grieving children will be meeting every Tuesday night, June 17th through August 12th.

This program is a ministry designed to help children (ages preschool to 18), who are grieving the loss of a loved one. We are run by professional clinicians, and staffed by volunteers.

Mending Hearts will be meeting at the John Engle Christian Counseling Center, First United Methodist Church, 225 Ludlow St., Hamilton, OH, 45011, located on the third floor.

Individuals interested in participating in the program, or in volunteering should call 513-896-4357. Please leave a message, if it is after office hours, and your call will be returned. Thank you for your support, and God bless!

Susan Clock M.S.W.
Coordinator
Mending Hearts
J.E.C.C.C.

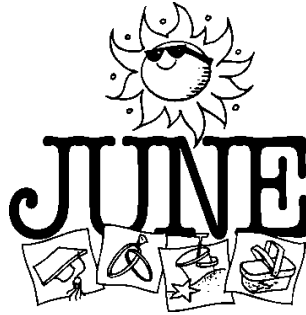


Farewell Tour Performance By Men's Vocal Group



In April, 2007, the Midday Music in Oxford series received high praise for a performance by *High Street A Cappella*, Ohio's premier men's vocal ensemble. This group was formed in 2004 and will present a FREE concert at the Oxford Presbyterian Church at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 12 as part of their seven-city "Farewell Concert Tour" before disbanding. Information: 523-6969.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>June 2008</h1>						
1 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:00 CE Board 4:45 Women's Council 6:00 Evening Celebration	2	3 9:30 MOPS Steering	4 5:00 ABW Meeting 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 <i>Wild & Wacky Wednesdays</i> 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	5 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Music & Worship	6 5:00 CREW Formal Night	7 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering
8 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Baccalaureate 12:00 Graduates Luncheon 4:30 Board of Missions 6:00 Evening Celebration	9 11:00 WMC Book Club	10 6:00 Joint Circles Covered Dish Meeting	11 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 <i>Wild & Wacky Wednesdays</i> 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	12 5:30 Board of Trustees	13	14
15 Father's Day 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship No Evening Service	16	17 10:00 Totally Terrific Tuesday "Innie"	18 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 <i>Wild & Wacky Wednesdays</i> 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	19	20	21 Wedding of Jeremy Spence & Aleesha Brandt in MI
22 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Diaconate 6:00 Evening Celebration	23	24 10:00 Totally Terrific Tuesday "Innie"	25 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 <i>Wild & Wacky Wednesdays</i> 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	26 8:30 Matthew 25	27	28
29 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 1:00 Open House for Jeremy & Aleesha Spence 6:00 Evening Celebration	30					



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 - Ken Dulli
Evon Laubenstein | 15 - Lona Davidson McClain
Marilyn McAllister
Alex Thiel
Mandy Chaney | 26 - Katie Riczko |
| 2 - Tonya Bishop | 16 - Sue Gambrell Peace | 27 - Mary Law
Fred Schilling |
| 3 - John Rish
Karen Schumm | 17 - Dale McAllister | 28 - Harold Lainhart
Lauren Schwartz |
| 4 - Trevor Allen
Robin Chamberlain | 18 - Tom Avance
Mary Walker | 29 - Maxine Hillman
Sam Murrell |
| 6 - Lois Ross
Betty Schwab
Dorothy Withrow | 19 - Branan Becknell
Philip Dudley
Mark Whipple | 30 - Blair Hampton
Carson Martin |
| 7 - Andy Braun
Matthew Riczko
Rob VanMeter | 20 - Joe Ford
Johnnie Wallace | |
| 8 - Sallie Minnich | 21 - Dick Inloes
Rachel Keller
Lillie Senior
Madeline Wallick | |
| 9 - Katie Buchanan | 22 - Oliver Davis
Guy Gessendorf
Jenna Huff | |
| 12 - Amber Allen
Jean Bradbury
Marlene Collins
Jim Davis | 24 - Michelle Hampton
Josh Young | |
| 13 - Duke Baker
Dan Brandenburg
Audrey Wallace
Alexandra West | 25 - Molly Day
Dale Young | |
| 14 - Alice Danielle Roberts | | |

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 Dick Inloes

Thank you to Pastors Den and Bill for the hospital visits, prayer with me, and your outreach. I have received numerous "Get Well" cards and wishes. I know they were all backed with genuine care and individual prayer. I fully believe that my Christian brothers and sisters through prayer have "expedited" the Lord to touch me in a physical and spiritual healing. Thanks in advance for your continued support through prayer until I'm back 100%.

From Jack & Evelyn Maddox

We want to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, cards, and visits when Jack was in the hospital. It is wonderful to be a part of such a caring church family. God is good.

From Helen Mullen

I want to thank you for all your prayers when I was in the hospital and when I was home recuperating. Knowing you were keeping me in your prayers meant so very much to me and I want to thank Pastor Metzger and Pastor Bill for visiting me in the hospital and Pastor Bill for visiting me at home. I appreciate all the cards from each of you and I was blessed with each one. I have so much to be thankful for. I thank the Lord for His many blessings and I thank Him for each of you. Love in Christ.

From the family of Ken O'Brien (cousin of Tim Schwartz)

My nephew, Tim Schwartz, told you about our son, Ken O'Brien, who passed away on March 2nd. Thank you for all your prayers for our family and Ken.

From Lois Ross

The prayers, cards, and concern helped me while I was having tests, pain, and a throat procedure, to be

uplifted spiritually. Thank you and ask for your continued prayers. Bless you all.

From Kim Stantz (niece of Mary Walker)

I cannot tell you how much it meant to me to receive your card filled with prayers and good wishes. It helped so much to know that so many thoughtful people were supporting me through my surgeries. I am happy to say that I am feeling well and the healing process is better than expected. Thank you for your kindness and I hope to see you again in the future.



Adult Library Bulletin Board

The bulletin board outside the Adult Library, will once again, be used to post important events and alert us to the good things that are going on with our members and their families. The events will cover such topics as, New Members, New Births, Weddings, Military, College, Honor Students, Special Awards, Special Studies, Programs & Conventions.

If you have such an event or announcement that fits any of these categories please notify Walter or Maxine Hillman, via Phone: (513) 895-3311 or email: ehillmaniwalt@cinci.rr.com. If all else fails please notify Ellie at the church office.

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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