

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

July/August, 2008

Divine GPS

Shelby and I both purchased new GPS devices over the past holidays. For anyone who does not know, GPS is an acronym for global Positioning System. The device receives a signal from a number of satellites and can tell you exactly where you are. GPS devices for automobiles are programmed with maps of highways and streets, as well as various points of interest: restaurants, retail stores, schools, even the location of every Baskin-Robbins in the country!

I used my GPS while traveling last week, even though I knew the way. Before I left, I entered the address and then set off on my journey. The GPS had a specific route in mind, but it wasn't the one I wanted to take. Any time I took a street not on the planned route, the GPS kept saying things like, "Take the next right and then take the second left." At one juncture it advised "Turn around at the next opportunity." No matter how far "off course" I got, the device continued to give instructions on how to get back on course. As I continued to ignore the instructions, I half way expected the GPS to say, "Are you deaf, stubborn, or just stupid?"

I also have my home address programmed into my GPS. No matter where I am, I can select "Navigate to home," and it will chart a course and guide me home. As I traveled it hit me: "The Bible is a GPS—a Godly Positioning System. No matter where you are in your life spiritually, the bible can tell you exactly where you are. Further, it can tell you where you need to be and how to get there.

Unfortunately, many treat the Bible like I treated my GPS. Some refuse to hear the Bible's instructions, choosing to turn a deaf ear to its pleas and pursuing their own chosen course. Others stubbornly reject the message they hear to turn right, turn left, or turn around.

Finally, no matter where you are, the Bible can tell you how to get home. Ultimately, this is the message of Hebrews 11. All the great men and women of in this "Faith's Hall of Fame" understood that only by hearing and obeying God's Word would they end up at the heavenly destination. Are you navigating toward home? If you are unsure as to your present course, please consult your Divine GPS (I Timothy 4:16).

—Allen Webster

House To House/Heart To Heart



15 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 members are: Jordan Allen, Mike, Dale, & Joey Braun and Malynda Messer, Mike Click, Mindy Hazelwood, Lauren & Heather Keith, Dennis & Ruth Metzger, Laurin & Alexander Sprague, Amy Wallace, and Lil Wilson. They will leave First Baptist early afternoon 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

Second Quarter Business Meetings

The Advisory Board will meet on Sunday, July 13th, at 5:00 p.m. in preparation for the second quarter Business Meeting of the church. Items of business which require church action should be presented at this meeting. All elected officers of the church are on the Advisory Board.

The Second Quarter Business Meeting will be Wednesday, July 16th, at 6:45 p.m. Reports will be heard from Boards and Committees and other items of business will be acted upon. A very important item of business at this meeting will be the election of a Nominating committee, whose responsibility will be to seek out officers to serve beginning January 1st, 2009. We trust that you will pray about those that you plan to nominate. This is a great responsibility and in many ways determines future action and ministries of the church.



American Baptist Women's Ministries

Missionary for the Month of **July**:
IM Latin America Desk
Susan Hegarty

Sue is devoted to preparing leaders for the rapidly growing churches of the Baptist convention of Eastern Cuba. Her primary focus is to work with local pastors and writers to produce Christian Education curriculum materials. These materials seek to meet the unique needs of Cuban Christians and to further the Conventions's discipleship goals. In addition, she also teaches at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Santiago.

Bible Book For July Colossians

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."

Colossians 3:1 (RSV)

Paul had never seen the Christians in Colossae, but he thanks God for what he has heard about their faith in Jesus Christ. He knows that there are people in Colossae who have tried to confuse them and make them believe that their Christian faith is foolish, so he writes to encourage them with the real truth. Then Paul goes on to show how they can be new people when they turn their thoughts toward Christ.

PRAY for the world's poor: poor in material things, poor in spirit, unloved and unnoticed, poor in health and hope.

Missionary for the Month of **August**:
Burma Convention

A number of years ago all missionaries had to leave Burma which is now Myanmar. When American Baptist missionaries left there was a strong Burma Baptist Convention which has continued to share the Good News. International Ministries continues to support the work with prayer and financial support.

Myanmar Institute of Theology has started a Christian liberal arts educational program called BARS (Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies). It graduated its second four year class in March, 2005.

There is a Health Care Clinic in Insein which treats many students and people from the community. Our support is appreciated.

Bible Book For August II Kings

"And I will not cause the feet of Israel to wander any more out of the land which I gave to their fathers, if only they will be careful to do according to all that I have commanded them . . ."

II Kings 21:8 (RSV)

This book begins with Elijah still active in Israel and continues with his disciple, Elisha—both great prophets of God. After the story of Elisha, comes the record covering about 150 years of a succession of kings about whom little is told. Throughout, it affirms that national prosperity depends on faithfulness to God and show that disloyalty is visited with heavy retribution.

PRAY for the world's hungry. Ask for guidance in understanding and combating the causes of hunger, economic injustice, military spending, and our self-centered possession of a disproportionate share of goods.

—Madge Walters



We will be making our monthly trip to Matthew 25: Ministries for a wonderful day of fellowship, fun, and **WORKING FOR THE LORD** Thursday, July 24th and also on Thursday, August 28th. We will leave the church at 8:30 a.m. returning at about 3:00 p.m. Come dressed to **WORK** - bring your own sack lunch and beverage. Remember - this is **NOT** just for the KeenAgers, there may be young people who would like to come along and see if they can keep up with the "old geezers", everyone is welcome to be a part of this ministry.

—Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham



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“For Such A Time...”

Caesar Rodney. Hardly a house-hold name these days. In fact, very few would circle the right answer in a multiple choice test describing who he was and what he had done. But the role he played in the early days of our nation was absolutely essential. Our second President⁰, John Adams, described Rodney as “...*the oddest looking man in the world; he is tall, thin and slender as a reed, pale; his face is not bigger than a large apple, yet there is sense and fire, spirit, wit and humor in this countenance.*” Rodney took his place in the formative days of our early history, at a very crucial time.

On June 30, 1776, a motion for Independence had been put forward in the Second Continental Congress that the colonies in America should be free and independent states. A committee had been formed weeks earlier to draft a document to express this sentiment. The official drafting of this document had begun with a committee consisting of Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston. But the actual writing of these words would not be a group effort. Two of the committee were logical choices—John Adams, from the small community of Braintree, near Boston, a New Englander; and Thomas Jefferson from Virginia. Adams deferred to Jefferson, and the task was laid at his pen. After some “painful revision” of the draft with the assistance and encouragement of Adams and Franklin, the task was completed. Debate was to have begun on July 1, 1776.

In his book, *John Adams*, historian David McCullough observed that presumably, on that July 1st morning, everything that could be said on the question of independence had been already been exhausted in Congress, and the question could have been decided with little more conversation. But John Dickinson, from Pennsylvania, had resolved to make one last appeal to the delegates. His position had been that the colonies were premature in their desire for independence; that something still could and should be worked out with England. John Adams made responded to Dickinson, making the case for independence. Debate and conversation lasted for over nine hours. When the verbal dust settled, a preliminary vote was taken. Four colonies unexpectedly held back a positive vote:

- Pennsylvania stood with John Dickinson, and voted no.
- South Carolina voted no.

- The New York delegates abstained, saying they favored the motion, but lacked specific instructions.
- Delaware, with two delegates present, was divided. Delaware delegate Thomas McKean was in favor of independence, while George Read voted against. Rodney, also a delegate from Delaware was absent during this vote.

While there was technically enough support to carry the motion, the Continental Congress did not want to go forward and declare independence without unanimous support of all the states.

Rodney had been away from Congress in Philadelphia because his role as a Brigadier General in the Delaware militia forced him back to Delaware to squelch a Loyalist riot. After repeated attempts, McKean finally got word to Rodney that his vote for independence was desperately needed in Congress. All night, as the first of July, 1776, turned into the second, Rodney rode through a thunderstorm.

In her children’s book, *Once Upon a Time in Delaware*, Katherine Pyle pens this account of this critical moment Caesar Rodney played in our nation’s history:

“Philadelphia was eighty miles away, and the vote was to be taken the next morning. On went Rodney on his fresh horse. Daylight was gone. The moon sailed slowly up the sky, and the trees were clumps of blackness on either hand as he rode. At Chester, he again changed horses, but he did not stop for either rest or food. Soon, he was riding on again. It was in the morning of July fourth, that the rider, exhausted and white with dust, drew rein before the State House door in

From the Pastor's Heart (cont)

Philadelphia. McKean was there watching for him. "Am I in time?" called Rodney as he swung himself from his horse. "In time, but no more," answered McKean. Side by side he and Rodney entered Independence Hall. There sat the delegates in a semi-circle. Rodney and McKean took their places. The Declaration of Independence lay on the table before them. It was being voted on. One after the other the colonies were called on and one after another they gave their votes for it. The delegate from Delaware were called on. Mr. McKean rose and voted for it. Mr. Read was, as usual against it. Then Caesar Rodney rose in his place. His face looked white and worn under its dust, but he spoke in a clear, firm voice. "I vote for Independence."

Rodney's vote moved Delaware to the side for independence, two affirmations to one negative. Of that moment: David McCullough, writes:

"Even more significant were two empty chairs from the Pennsylvania delegation. Refusing to vote for independence, but knowing the importance for Congress to speak as one, Dickinson and Morris voluntarily absented themselves from the deliberations, thus swinging the Pennsylvania vote to 3-2 in favor of independence...New York continued to abstain; but South Carolina joined the majority to make the decision unanimous in the sense that no colony opposed. And so, it was done; the break was made, in words at least. Twelve colonies had spoken as one, and with one abstaining, the result was the same. And so the day was won."

Declaring independence was one thing; winning it would be a whole different matter. There was much to be done in the days ahead, including waging a war that very few wanted. But to the task the members of Congress pledged their fortunes and their very lives.

As in any great undertaking, there were many key players in the drive for America's independence. But each one was critical, often at a precise moment. One can think of similar examples in the Biblical history of our faith journeys. Mordecai said it best to his cousin, Esther, *"Who knows but you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"* (Esther 3:14).

In your daily walk of independence, you must be willing to ask yourself, "What has God called me to do?" It may be a significant thing, or something common, routine, and ordinary. But understand that it is God who calls you to faithfulness; to attempt the challenging; to endure the routine; to cause you to stretch yourself; to

dream dreams; to venture forth to accomplish what is right, what is good, what is required. It really comes down to an issue of character. To examining yourself, asking what you see there. To listen to the quiet voice of the Spirit, as you attempt the hard thing; the inconvenient. Who knows but that you too have been called for *"such a time as this."*

Thinking of independence, and doing what is necessary, Pastor

Budget Status Report

The Month of May, 2008

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$64,944
Offerings	<u>47,697</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$17,247)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$60,369
Offerings	<u>47,697</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$12,672)

The Year Through May, 2008

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$309,054
Offerings	<u>265,799</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$43,255)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$304,924
Offerings	<u>265,799</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$39,125)

—The Board Of Trustees



Jill O'Hara

I am looking for a record (LP 33 1/3) by Bill, Dave, and Mary from the *Spireno Revival* here at First Baptist in the late 1960s or early 1970s. Richard Hogue was the evangelist and Bill, Dave, and Mary were one of the bands. I bought the record but my brother gave it to a girlfriend in Nashville. I have been singing the song. If you have it, could you contact me, Jill O'Hara. I would like to make a copy.



Soft Ball Schedules (Second Half of Season)

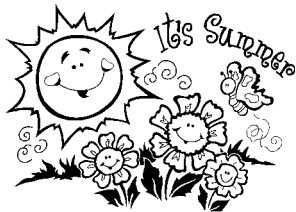
Blue Team

June 23	# 3 @	7:40 p.m.
June 30	# 2 @	8:50 p.m.
July 7	# 4 @	7:40 p.m.
July 14	# 2 @	6:30 p.m.
July 21	# 5 @	7:40 p.m.
July 28	# 4 @	6:30 p.m.
August 4	# 1 @	8:50 p.m.

Gray Team

June 24	# 2 @	7:40 p.m.
July 1	# 3 @	8:50 p.m.
July 8	# 4 @	7:40 p.m.
July 15	# 2 @	8:50 p.m.
July 22	# 2 @	6:30 p.m.
July 29	# 3 @	8:50 p.m.
August 5	# 3 @	6:30 p.m.

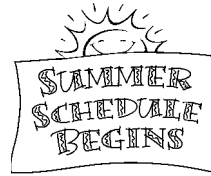
-Josh Metzger
Sports and Recreation



Miami Baptist Association Summer Fun Day Camp Kirkwood

Join with kids from other churches for a day of fellowship and fun together Saturday, July 19th, from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Kirkwood, our American Baptist Camp & Conference Center. There will be field sports, children's games, water activities, hayrides, fishing, canoeing, opening & closing ceremonies. The cost is \$8 per person which includes a picnic lunch and snack. This is for children and youth (K - 8), parents and adult leaders. High school youth can help with games. Registration is due by July 13th. See Loretta Hampton for further information and to register.

-Loretta Hampton
Camp Co-ordinator



Wild & Wacky Wednesdays!

We have been sooooo encouraged by the fabulous turnout on Wednesday nights! We have soooooo enjoyed the kids and working/playing with them! Thanks to the families who are bringing these precious ones to us on Wednesday nights! Even though we have other events planned on Wednesday nights, such as the New Believer's Class and VBS staff meetings, continue to bring the kids and we will have activities for them. Thanks so much!

New Believer's Class

We will be hosting a New Believer's Class beginning the Wednesday evening after Bible school on July 23rd, during Adult Prayer/Bible study time. (Location to be announced) This class is for children who have made the decision to make Jesus their Savior, and feel they are ready to grow their relationship and be baptized. This class will be open to children who made decisions during VBS, as well as those who made decisions at other times in their lives. If you would like for your child to join us, please contact Claire or Brandi.

Fourth of July Parade

As you read this month's edition of the Courier you will notice that the Fourth of July has already passed and we as a church participated in the parade this year. We want to take a minute to say a gi-normous THANK YOU to all the people who helped, whether this was prayer, organizing or anything else. We certainly could not have done this project without the support of the full church, especially considering one of us is 100% British! So thank you once again, and if you would like to help next year we already have an idea...



HHS Booster Award

Congratulations to Sara Cain, who received one of the Hamilton High School Booster Awards for participating in three sports and maintaining a 3.0 grade-point average. This past year, she participated in swimming, diving, and softball.

Totally Terrific Tuesday Summer Schedule

Activities for kids who completed kindergarten through completed 5th grade. Younger children may attend if accompanied by an adult.

July

July 1: Outtie/Innie - Bowling/Game Day/Scavenger Hunt; Bowling at Columbia Lanes, then back at church for more fun; \$2.50 for 2 games/shoe rental. Wear your TTT shirt and bring a sack lunch. Meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. Pick up will be at 2:00 p.m. at church.

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” - an inflatable jump and play place in Liberty Twp.; \$5.50 for 2 hours of jumping fun; will visit a local park for lunch and more playtime. Wear your TTT shirt, bring a sack lunch and sunscreen! Meet at church at 9:00 a.m. Pick up will be at 2:30 p.m. at church.

July 29: Outtie - Miami University Recreation Center in Oxford for swimming and play time; \$6 person for over 4 hours of fun! Wear your TTT shirt, bring a sack lunch, gym shoes for the soccer/basketball/volleyball courts, shower necessities (if you want to take one), plastic bag to put wet suits in; lockers are there for us to put things in. Meet at church at 9:15 a.m. Pick up is at 3:00 p.m. at church.

August

Aug 5: Innie - Service Projects and Activity Day. Meet at the church at 10:00 a.m., with pickup at 2:00 p.m. Bring \$2 for pizza.

Aug 12: Outtie - Playtime at a local park followed by Roller Skating at Tri-Skateland in Fairfield, followed by playtime at the park; \$3 for 2 hours of skate time and skate rental. Wear your TTT shirt and bring a sack lunch. Meet at the church at 10:00 a.m., with pickup at 2:40 p.m. at church)

Participating kids MUST have a permission slip on file for this year. One slip will cover the entire summer. Kids from the same family can be on the same form. Forms can be filled out the morning of the event. Please allow extra time to do so. Please try to RSVP before the event so we

can coordinate chaperones and transportation. You can make your reservation by calling the church (868.1412), calling Brandi (738.2439) or by emailing Brandi (br9@fuse.net) Also, please try to have the exact amount for the fees. If transportation assistance is needed, let us know. Be sure to check out the church website for any updates.

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



Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



Silent Dinners

The Silent Dinner for July will be held on Friday evening, July 11th, at Kenwood Mall and the August Silent Dinner will be Friday, August 1st, at Tri-County Mall. See you there!

Interpreter Schedule For July & August

July 6 Jo Manson
July 13 Jo Manson
July 20 Jo Manson
July 27 Jo Manson

Maria Miller
Maria Miller
Maria Miller
Maria Miller

August 3 Jo Manson
August 10 Jo Manson
August 17 Jo Manson
August 24 Jo Manson
August 31 Jo Manson

Maria Miller
Maria Miller
Maria Miller
Maria Miller
Maria Miller

Happy Birthday



No July or August birthdays

—Maria Miller
Director of Deaf Ministries

Vacation Bible School 2008

“God’s Big Backyard”

July 14 - 18

Again as you read this we should be in the midst of VBS 2008! We have such an awesome group of teachers, helpers, and organizers so if you see anyone with a dazed expression upon their face and look generally tired, then they are probably working through VBS this July!

As part of our theme of SERVICE we have several areas that we are studying in our week of God's BIG Backyard.

SERVE FAMILY

SERVE COMMUNITY

SERVE NEIGHBORS

SERVE FRIENDS

SERVE JESUS - this is ultimately our biggest, most important and most challenging area of Christian life and one which we are focusing upon each day at VBS.

Since our theme is “God's Big Backyard”, we decided that our VBS donations this year would benefit those in our own backyard! We will be sponsoring kids in our neighboring school districts that need assistance with school supplies and clothing. We will be gathering school supplies, backpacks, coats and jeans, as well as monetary donations to help others.

Here is a list of items we will be collecting this year during VBS. Our goal is to gather enough materials to stock 40 backpacks with the following supplies.

- *backpacks (no rolling ones, please)
- *1 pair scissors
- *10 Crayola Markers
- *24 Crayola crayons
- *24 pencils
- *2 packs loose leaf notebook paper
- *5/ 2 pockets folders- Yellow, Blue, Red, Green, Purple
- *2 glue sticks
- *1 box large Tissue
- *1 box sandwiches bags
- *1 box gallon bags
- *new or gently used coats and jeans (to be put out on tables, not in backpacks :)

We will be participating in a Back-to-School carnival on Saturday, August 30th. These donated items will be a blessing to this outreach ministry sponsored by local churches.

VBS Kickoff

Please join us for a fun and fabulous VBS kickoff on Friday, July 11th, 6:30 pm at Holloway Park! You and your friends will be able to register for Bible school and pick up a FREE music CD! Plan to get wet and messy, so wear clothes that you don't mind getting wet! If you think you might be able to join us, email Brandi at br9@fuse.net or call her at 738-2439. If you forget to let us know you are coming, that's okay--join us anyway!

Completed 6th Grade VBS Class

There will be a 6th grade VBS class this year, thanks to Sandy Morris and Dale Braun! This is always a fun, exciting, and inspirational group, so please plan to join Sandy and Dale this year! This is traditionally a smaller group, but we have high hopes for a larger group this year! So, start talking with your friends and have them join you for a week they won't soon forget! If you have any questions, check with Sandy, Dale, or Brandi and Claire.

VBS Staff Meeting

There will be a staff meeting for all workers on Wednesday, July 9th, around 6:00 or 6:15. If you will be eating dinner at church, you could get your dinner "to go", and eat during the meeting. The location is still to be determined. We will be going over the details of VBS. Please plan to join us! Childcare will be provided.

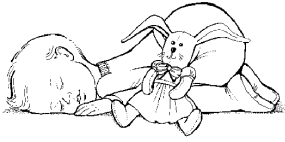
VBS Closing

Please join us for our VBS closing on Friday, July 18th, at 11:30 am. The kids will be sharing things they have learned throughout the week and how they have learned to serve others, and most importantly Jesus! The program will be followed by a light lunch. We hope to see you there!

Summer Son Club (TTT)

Following our theme of SERVICE at God's BIG Backyard, we have decided that one of our days for an Innie is to have service projects. We will be baking cookies, making cards, and packing backpacks for our outreach project. We will learn of the joy of serving others! But, it will not be all work and no play-we will have other fun activities as well. So, be sure to mark your calendars to join us on August 5th as we use our hands to serve Jesus and others!

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



Child Care Workers

We are in **urgent** need of childcare workers and Kinderchurch volunteers! It is not scary – we provide you with a well thought-out and prepared lesson, honestly! (With lots of glitter! ☺).

New schedules for Morning Worship time child care are being prepared. **Thank You** to all who have so faithfully been a part of this important ministry to families with young children. Surely you have received a blessing from God while serving Him. As you are asked to serve this year, please remember that Jesus said, "Let the little children come unto me." This also enables the parents to come and be a part of the Worship Hour while we care for their dear ones.

If you are not contacted and would like to help once each quarter, please give your name to Claire Metzger or Brandi Emenaker. We ask that when it is your turn to serve that you arrive in the scheduled area by 10:15 a.m. to help with the transition time from Sunday School to Morning Worship. If you find a time when you are scheduled and you are not able to keep that commitment, we ask that you **please** call someone else on the schedule and trade with them. Everyone will receive a schedule with names, dates serving and phone numbers. This will ensure child care coverage at each service.

If you are a member of First Baptist Church and at least 13 years of age, we would invite you to say "Yes" to the call of working in our Nursery, Ones & Twos, or Kinderchurch. A real blessing is waiting for you, too!

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

Sunday School Promotion Day for those completing



Kindergarten through 5th grade will be August 31st during the last part of the Sunday School hour. These students should report to their new class on September 2nd. Children under Kindergarten age are permitted to advance to the next age level on their birthday if the parents and teachers feel they are developmentally ready for the next class.

–Barb Arnold
Sunday School Superintendent



Looking Ahead!

The fall trip to Oneida Baptist Institute is being planned for October. You can start putting good used clothing, coats, shoes, toys, etc. aside now for the trip. Watch for more details in the September Courier.

–Jerry Hampton

“Les Miserables”

...most famous of all French musicals

Presented by Encore Summer Youth Theatre

Parrish Auditorium
Miami University - Hamilton

Wed. & Thurs. July 30 & 31 - 8:00 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. August 1 & 2 - 8:00 p.m.
Sat. August 2 - 2:00 p.m.

Drew Helton as Jean Valjean

Bob Borden - Orchestra Director
Mike Wallick - Violin
Tisha Patton - Keyboard

Tickets: \$15
Sr. Citizens over 60 & children under 10: \$12

To reserve tickets or seek more information, contact the Heltons at 988-6814.

The musical, staged in early 19th century France, follows the intertwining stories of a cast of characters as they struggle for redemption and revolution. This Tony award-winning musical includes the songs, "I Dreamed A Dream", "One More Day", "A Heart Full Of Love", "Do You Hear The People Sing", and "On My Own".



Lauren Schwartz

On May 20th, **Lauren Schwartz**, junior at Cincinnati Christian School, was inducted into the National Berean Chapter of the National Honor Society.



From The Heart Of Marilyn

College Corner

Results of those who responded to the questionnaire sent to recent graduates.

David Diedrichs - David graduated from Ross High School. The thing that he will miss most about school after graduation is his friends. He plans to attend Miami University for one year and then transfer to an art school. David says that attending First Baptist "has helped me better understand God's commands and His guidance. First Baptist is another family I can go to."

Drew Helton - Drew graduated from Edgewood High School. The thing that he will miss most about school after graduation is his friends and doing things with Choraliers and the plays and musicals. He plans to attend Wright State University majoring in Vocal Performance with an emphasis in opera. He says, "I enjoy singing and performing. I want to develop the gift God has given me to the fullest and, hopefully, make my living performing. I would also, someday, like to work with show choirs at the high school level." His favorite Bible verse is: Psalm 100:1 & 2 (Part of each verse) "*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord; come before his presence with singing*". He says, "Even when I'm not singing "church" songs, I can be singing unto the Lord." Drew says, "I really appreciate that my "church family" doesn't just support me inside the walls of the building. People like John & Jean Riczko have come to almost every performance, play, & musical I've been in. MANY people pray for me and support what I do—I can't mention all the names, but their support means a lot."

Craig Keller - Craig graduated from Andersonville Theological Seminary in January, 2008 with a Doctorate of Theology. Craig says, "I felt compelled by the Lord to further my education. It has deepened my knowledge and understanding of the scriptures. Hopefully, it will better equip me as a witness for Him, now and in the future years to come. His favorite Bible verse is: "*I will say to the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress: My God, in Him I will trust.'*" Psalm 91:2. Craig says, "In the past approximately 25 years I've been a member here, my spiritual walk has grown tremendously, due in large part to my church family here at First Baptist. I very much appreciate the Godly people that attend this church. You have been both an inspiration and witness to me, which in turn, has made me a better Christian."

Matthew Lyttle - Matthew graduated from Hamilton High School. The thing that he will miss most about school after graduation is his friends. Matthew plans to attend join the United States Marine Corps and would like to become a legal assistant (Lawyer type personnel). His favorite Bible Verse is: "*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes on him shall not perish but have everlasting life.*" John 3:16. About how attending First Baptist Church has helped him in his Christian walk, Matthew says, "It has put me closer to God in many ways, getting baptized, and accepting Christ. It means a lot to me. Everybody there is like a second family to me even if I forgot their name."

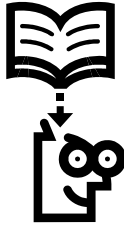
Important!! We need all college students addresses as soon as possible. Please call Marilyn Bowling 863-2435 or the church office 868-1412.

—Marilyn Bowling
College Coordinator

Honors For Graduates

We want to congratulate all the 2008 graduates for their honors, awards, and scholarships. We only received one questionnaire with honors included.

Drew Helton - State Award of Merit
Capital University Music Scholarship
Capital University Music Grant
Ohio Choice Grant
Otterbein College Endowed Scholar
Wright State University Music Scholarship
Miami University Teach Grant
Morehead State University Non-Resident Tuition Scholarship
Opera Guild of Dayton Vocal Competition First & Third Places
Xi Lambda Pi Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Music Award
Middletown Community Foundation Johnen Vocal Scholarship
Middletown Community Foundation Glover Performing Arts Scholarship
Edgewood Choir Boosters Scholarship
Edgewood Best Thespian 2008
Edgewood Best Actor in "Arsenic & Old Lace" and "Bye Bye Birdie"



Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

Summer Dress

Just wanted to remind everyone that we need to make sure we are dressing modest during the summer. As the summer temperatures rise please make sure you are not wearing low cut shirts, short shorts, tops that show too much stomach, or tight clothing of any kind. Also remember for any events that entail swimming or you may want to wear a swimsuit that it must be a one piece or a tankini for the girls and at least shorts for the guys, no speedos or tight swim trunks guys. This would include our outing to King's Island for Spirit Song.

Staying afloat and cool this summer,
Jeremy

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- July 2nd:** During Lifeline you will be helping Brandi and Claire with the 4th of July Float. Please see them for details and what you may need to bring and wear. I will not be here during Lifeline.
- July 4th:** Brandi and Claire need some people to ride on the 4th of July float as well as pass out flyers along the parade route.
- July 6th:** During the evening service there will be a picnic down in Holloway Park. Join us for the picnic and then we will head to Flub's afterwards for an aftermeet.
- July 10th** 12 Noon: Spirit Song Concert at King's Island begins. Please meet at the church at noon for those of you who purchased tickets for this event. We will return that evening at 10:30pm.
- July 11th** 9:00am: Meet at the church for our second day of the Spirit Song Concerts. Make sure you bring extra clothes, sleeping bags and items, shower clothes and anything you would need to be able to spend the night at church that evening.
- July 12th** 10:30pm: Parents please be at the church to pick up your teen from our Spirit Song outings. We will be back around this time and the sooner you can pick your teen up the better for all.
- July 13th** 6:00pm: The CREW will be in the evening service. Immediately after the evening service we will be heading for an Aftermeet. Please bring \$5 to help with the cost of things.
- July 15th** Noon: Right after VBS we will either be going bowling or having a pool party for those who have helped with VBS for the day and week. You will be told on Monday what clothes to have ready for the evening. No cost for this one.

- July 16th** Lifeline: We will be painting blocks in the youth room wall. If you have not painted your block or want to re-paint it please make sure you are here.
- July 17th** Noon: Another outing for those who have helped with VBS for the week. Activity will be decided on Wednesday and you will be notified what to bring. No cost.
- July 18th:** A \$20 deposit is due to Jeremy for the Revolve Tour event being held in Columbus September 12th & 13th. Total cost will be \$40 per person including hotel, conference fee and food for Saturday lunch. For more information see Angie Inloes, Jeremy, or www.revolve.com. This is only a girls event.
- July 23rd** 6:30pm: This will be our Annual Wet N Wild night during Lifeline. Please bring clothes that can get wet, towels for drying, extra clothes to change and squirt gun of your choice. For questions please see Jeremy.
- July 30th** Lifeline: We will be having a scavenger hunt of some sort this evening. This is not a video scavenger hunt but just a regular one. I will need extra adults to help drive for this one.
- August 10th:** We will be going to Laser Tag or to Putt-Putt for the evening service. Meet at the church at 5:00pm and we will return around 7:30pm or so. Cost is yet to TBD but will be no more than \$10 per person. Invite some friends and reach out for Christ.
- August 17th:** We will be going to the Red's Game vs. the Cardinals. This is also Faith Day at Great American BallPark and we will be staying after for the MercyMe Concert as well. It is \$10 per person and money will be due July 30th. You will need money to get something to eat on the way down. We will leave immediately following Sunday morning service.
- August 24** 4:00pm: We will have an Amazing Race or Video Scavenger Hunt this evening. Please be here right around 4:00pm so we can get started as soon afterwards as possible. We will be finished at 7:00pm. Drivers will be needed for this evening.
- Lifeline for August:** All the Lifelines for the month are yet to be completely planned out but they are guaranteed to be fun filled but also challenging. Keep your eye out for those details in the weeks to come.
- September 6th:** We will be going to Cabin Creek Paintball for our Annual Paintball outing. Please meet at the church at 10:00am if you need a ride and 11:00am at Cabin Creek if you don't. We will play all day long, or as long as you can play. We will return to the church around 5:30pm. Cost will be around \$30 per person. More details to come but plan on attending NOW. Great event to bring friends to!

Butler County Right To Life In July 4th Parade

On July 4th the Annual Bells of Independence Day Parade will take place in Hamilton. Right To Life will be organizing a group to participate in the parade with a float. Additionally, the group will have available signs stressing "Adoption The Loving Option" or *Adoption Not Abortion*". This effort has always had great crowd response and is a family event, as well as a great witness in respecting life. We will gather at the Butler County Fairgrounds located at the intersection of Fair Avenue and Ohio Route 4 at about 1:30 p.m. Ask for directions to the Right To Life group entry when you get there. We will have a hay wagon and a truck to ride in, or one may walk as able. Families are especially encouraged to participate. If you haven't had the opportunity to do something for the pre-born babies now is the time! Please contact Mike Mignery for further information at 867-1832.

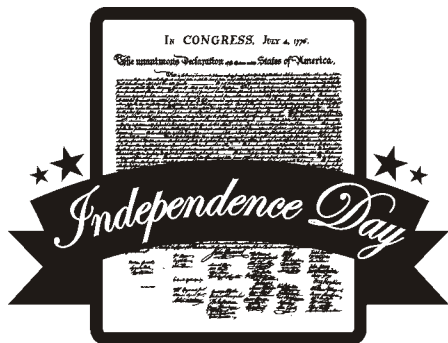
-Linda Wallace

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.

Isaacs, Fred & Eyvone
Sunrise Assisted Living
896 N. W. Washington Blvd. # 111
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
Phone # 863-8657

Lewis, Steve & Janet
1386 Cotswold Lane
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
Phone # 858-1166



Vision Committee, Strategy #7 - Prayer

Several weeks ago Pastor Metzger distributed "An Invitation to Prayer - Elections 2008", written by Jim Patton, to those in attendance at Prayer Meeting. Jim has a vision for a prayer chain that could have a very powerful effect on our nation's thinking during this election year. Here are some excerpts from Jim's invitation:

"In presenting my case for prayer for the 2008 elections, I wish to say that I believe these elections to be very critical, perhaps more than any other in the history of our country, in determining the moral compass heading of our nation. We do not have time to pursue any other strategies...The only real influence that can be brought to bear within this time period is a direct moving of God on our nation.

If we need God to intervene, then we need to call on Him...I have a vision for a prayer "chain" that is simple, flexible, and easy to pass along. I can see this starting with a small group in our own church, and crossing many borders, possibly even becoming a national prayer event. For instance, enlisting family or friends in other states.

There would be three simple statements to pass along:

- Pray for the 2008 elections
- Commit to a regular schedule (once per day, week, month, etc.)
- Try to enlist 2-3 other people

The commitment would be personal, to God, and to the person who did the enlisting of that individual.

If you are interested, you don't even have to wait! You can commit yourself to a schedule that works for you, and you can take the first steps to enlist someone else...I encourage you not to just sit and steep in your concern for the future of our country. You have much more power that you think to influence the course of events, for you are connected to the Creator of the universe!"

Thank you, Jim, for this challenge. The Vision Committee on Prayer submits this article to Courier readers, hoping (and praying) you will accept this invitation to pray.

For a complete copy of the letter, please contact Jim Patton.

Additional Thank You Notes!

From Don Lewis

To the church family. I want to thank you for all cards, prayers, phone calls, visits. Thanks to Pastor Metzger for his visit. Also Pastor Bill for his visits at the hospital and my home. I feel better. I hope to be back in church soon.

From Ruth Metzger

Dear Church Family,

I deeply appreciated your prayers and the many cards we received upon my mother's passing from this earth to her heavenly home. The personal notes included with many of the cards were so meaningful to me. Both the beautiful wreath and the lush peace lily plant added such beauty to the sanctuary and warmth to our hearts from friends so far away.

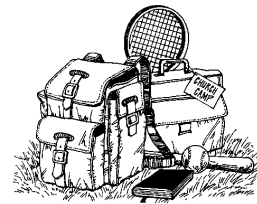
My mother left this earth surrounded by three of her sons praying, singing and reading scripture to her. The service was conducted by a marvelous pastor Mother had worked with when she had been able to be more active than she had lately and was a wonderful time of "remembering Ruth Pals and honoring her Savior." Most of her 21 children, grandchildren, and spouses began the service by singing, "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus." Josh ended it by singing Chris Rice's "Fly to Jesus." We kept saying, "Mom would have loved this!" But after being embraced in Jesus' loving arms, I'm sure she is busy getting used to her new heavenly home completely whole and complete at peace, praising God face to face. Wow! What joy, what comfort!

Thankfully His,
Ruth Metzger and family

From Ed & Ann Russell

Ed and Ann Russell and families—Tom's wife, Cindy, and children, Jody, Candice, & Chad and daughter Carleigh, brothers Rev. Charles and Kathie, Tim and Kathie, sister Connie and Darryl Ross—wish to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all of your prayers, thoughts, and cards during our son, Tom's cancer illness of seven months and his subsequent death on June 9th. You all have been so gracious and caring since his diagnosis of cancer in November, 2007. After several thousand people attended his visitation and funeral, and countless messages to him and his family on the website, one of his close Christian friends shared with us that "The Holy spirit brought to mind during a prayer time that after Tom's graduation from Bryan College in 1974, God sent him on His Mission to Mobile County, Mobile, Alabama!" We agree! He taught and coached at Greystone Christian and Faith Academy Schools, served him at the First Baptist Church at Tillman's Corner in mobile as a deacon, led devotions at a local nursing home, worked with building contractors using his electrical wiring skills on

new buildings added at Faith Academy and in the community; always witnessing about his Lord to all he met and living his faith before them! May God continue to bless you all and us as well as we remain faithful to the mission He has called each of us to serve in our daily walks.



Kirkwood Camp Schedule 2008

ABC/OHIO summer camps at Kirkwood for the remainder of the summer will be:

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

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



Child Care Schedule For July



Wednesday Family Dinners

Nursery (Morning)

July 6 -

July 13 - Linda & Larry Wallace

July 20 - Jan Smith & Linda Wallace

July 27 - Judy Wallace, Amy & Anna

One & Two Year Olds

July 6 -

July 13 -

July 20 -

July 27 -

Kinderchurch

July 6 - Claire Metzger & Teen Helpers

July 13 - Angie Inloes & Teen Helpers

July 20 - Angie Inloes & Teen Helpers

July 27 - Brian & Barb Begley

Child Care Schedule For August

Nursery (Morning)

August 3 - Lisa Dulli & Teen Helpers

August 10 -

August 17 - Lisa Dulli & Teen Helpers

August 24 -

August 31 -

One & Two Year Olds

August 3 - Ruth Metzger & Teen Helpers

August 10 -

August 17 -

August 24 - Anne & Rob Ruwe

August 31 -

Kinderchurch

August 3 - Angie Inloes & Teen Helpers

August 10 - Claire Metzger & Teen Helpers

August 17 - Jerri Begley, Adam & Brooke

August 24 - Brian & Barb Begley

August 31 - Claire Metzger & Teen Helpers

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)

July 2

Menu: Baked Pork Chops, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Corn, Applesauce, Dessert

Hosts: Trustees

July 9

Menu: Baked Chicken, Broccoli and Rice Casserole, Applesauce, Rolls, Dessert

Hosts: Chancel Choir

July 16

Menu: Baked Ziti, Tossed Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert

Hosts: Deacons

July 23

Menu: Pulled Pork Barbecue Sandwiches, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Dessert

Hosts: Deaconesses

July 30

Menu: Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Mixed Vegetables, Tossed Salad, 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.

**There will be no Wednesday Dinners
during the month of August!**

July/August Greeters

Jerry Hampton, Ken Hendricks, Evelyn Maddox,
Mary Petry, and Nancy Follmer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>July 2008</h1>						
		1 9:30 MOPS Steering 9:30 Totally Terrific Tuesday Innie/Outtie 8:50 Men's Softball Gray	2 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Lifeline 6:30 Celebration Ringers 6:45 <i>Wild & Wacky Wednesdays</i> 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands	3	4 Independence Day!! Church Offices Closed!	5 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering
6 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Mission Group Leave for WV 4:45 Women's Council 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 CREW Picnic	7 7:40 Men's Softball Blue	8 7:40 Men's Softball Gray	9 6:00 Family Dinner 6:00 VBS Staff Meeting 6:30 Lifeline 6:30 Celebration Ringers 6:45 <i>Wild & Wacky Wednesdays</i> 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands	10 12:00 CREW to <i>Spirit Song</i> @ Kings Island 5:30 Board of Trustees	11 9:00 CREW to <i>Spirit Song</i> @ Kings Island 6:30 VBS Kickoff @ Holloway Park	12 10:30 Parents Pick up CREW @ church from <i>Spirit Song</i> Mission Group Returns from WV
13 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Board of Missions 5:00 Advisory Board 6:00 Evening Celebration	14 9:00 VBS 6:30 Men's Softball Blue	15 9:00 VBS 8:50 Men's Softball Gray	16 9:00 VBS 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Lifeline 6:30 Celebration Ringers 6:45 <i>Wild & Wacky Wednesdays</i> 6:45 2 nd Qtr. Business Mtg. 6:45 Carpenter's Hands	17 9:00 VBS	18 9:00 VBS 11:30 VBS Closing & lunch	19 9:00 Summer Fun Day @ Camp Kirkwood
20 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Diaconate 6:00 Evening Celebration	21 7:40 Men's Softball Blue	22 9:00 Totally Terrific Tuesday Outtie 6:30 Men's Softball Gray	23 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Lifeline WetNWild 6:30 Celebration Ringers 6:45 <i>Wild & Wacky Wednesdays</i> 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands	24 8:30 Matthew 25	25	26
27 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 CE Board 6:00 Evening Celebration	28 6:30 Men's Softball Blue	29 9:15 Totally Terrific Tuesday Outtie 8:50 Men's Softball Gray	30 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Lifeline 6:30 Celebration Ringers 6:45 <i>Wild & Wacky Wednesdays</i> 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands	31		



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 - Aidan Gleason
Isabella Wallace

2 - Bernie Griesinger
Kattee Wells
Tabitha Wells

3 - Bob Borden
Jewell Bowling
John Diedrichs

4 - Dick Avey
Lillian Lakes

5 - Betty Cross

6 - Peggy Avey
Mark Hanna
Noah Krall

8 - Amber Murrell

9 - Glendene Hall
Barb Hendricks
Joe Sackenheim
Hazel Scruggs

10 - Alice Dungan
Beverly Flaig
Christy Stinson
Ray Wallace

11 - Melynda Hazelwood

12 - Emily Rankey
Tim Swicegood

13 - Merle Grubbs

14 - Ryan Finnerty
Anne Hazelwood
Connie Taylor

15 - Isabell Johnson

16 - Glen House
Skyler Yates

17 - Justin Baker
Carole Busch
Benjamin Geiss
Madelyn Hall
Margaret Hoel
Mitchell Inloes
Emogene Kellum

18 - Mary Ann Johnson
Kim Siman

20 - Peggy Avance
Kristy Buchanan
Erin Gingrich

21 - Betty Bailes Zeller
David Hazelwood

23 - Eric Gabbard

24 -
Nathaniel Geiss
Doris Hartley

25 - Cameron Hampton
Jim Thomas

27 - Mary Flo Braun
Sue Neiman
Chance Patrick

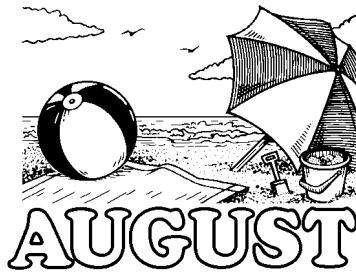
28 - Don Tragesser
Jay Wallace
Nancy Whipple

29 - Ray Chambers
Paul Grimes

30 - Margie Braun
Ralph Jones
Laurin Sprague
Zachary Dichtl

31 - Jerry Busch
Mildred Hangbers

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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

1 - Naomi Hoskins
Jeff L. Miller

2 - Brenda Abney

3 - Lauren Imhoff
Eyvone Isaacs
Todd Keith
Janet Lewis
Jerry Wallace

4 - Madalyn Buchanan
Edna Hughes
David Zeek

5 - Lauren Hampton
Edith Rish

6 - Dale Braun
Shelley Ebbing
Erla Krastins

8 - Charles Campbell
Norbert Lerch
Sue Sizemore
Doug Wallace

9 - Karen Bell
Cindy Shalloe

10 - John Motzer

11 - Janet Baker
Jessica Day
Judy Wallace

12 - Tim Schwartz

13 - Andrew Garver

14 - Jeff Hollowell
Jared Messer

15 - Diane Wallick

17 - Barbara Begley

18 - Bill Burton

19 - Dale Kimble

20 - Steve Martin
Jeff Schwab

21 - Josh Day
Herb Murrell

23 - Emily Cain
Conner Gleason

24 - Don Lewis
Shirley Wade
Susan Wells
June Winkler

26 - Ruby Gessendorf
Irene Moran

27 - Matt Acus
Elise Martin

28 - Linda Davis Wallace

29 - Josh Irwin
Olivia Hoskins
Alexandria Patrick

30 - Johanna Hines
Atha Wallin

31 - Ed Allen
Samantha Blackwell
Malvrie Landis
Jack Maddox
Samantha Mosley
Carl Schwab

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 Faye Baker

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers for Jack's son-in-law, Jack Myczka, who underwent open heart surgery recently in Michigan. Also, I would like to thank everyone for keeping my daughter, Regina, in their prayers. She still needs everyone's thoughts and prayers. It is wonderful having a great church family.

From Marilyn Bowling

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to my church family for the love and encouragement they have given me following my knee surgery. Your words of encouragement in a card helped me so much on the tough two weeks after my surgery. I so appreciated Pastor Den and Pastor Bill showing me their support. The prayers of so many have given me the needed strength. I have taken a verse to see me through my rehab. Psalm 3:3 "But Lord, you are my shield, my wonderful God who gives me courage." Love to all.

From Bob & Mary Flo Braun & Bud & Margie Braun

The Braun family would like to thank our church family for their prayers and thoughtfulness shown to us during the illness and passing of our uncle, Bob Braun. Also, we appreciate Pastor Bill's visits and know this was a comfort to his wife, Bettie.

From the family of John Dees

To all our dear friends. Thank you so much for your visits, cards, and many thoughts and prayers. It was greatly appreciated. With love, Becky, Phil, Mandy, and Ali Hoskins.

From the family of Earl Fields

For our First Baptist friends and Nancy Follmer. Thank you so much for all your prayers and support in the loss of Dad. Thank you for the delicious food. All of the family was able to eat after the visitation. Thank you for your wonderful Christian witness to our family. We will never forget your kindness. Carolyn, Donna, & Nancy.

From the family of Jennell Honeycutt

Thank you so much for your kindness. We really appreciated everything you did. (From Robert & Sandra Williams family.)

From Clela & Darryl Paragin

We would like to thank everyone and express our appreciation for all the cards, calls, visits, and prayers on my recent surgery. A special thanks to Ron & LaVerne Gerth, Pastor Den, Pastor Bill, and Don & Pat Gingrich. Thank you all so much.

From Merle Wilson

I would like to thank the pastor for his visit and prayer after the death of my son, Doug, April 10th. I also want to thank the church for their prayers and many cards received during this time.

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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