

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

January, 2009

Asking God For The Gift Of Time To Help Us Celebrate The New Year

Time. . . what is it? Where does it come from? Where does it go? How do we manage it? Is it possible to be stuck in time? Why does time go faster when we are watching a great movie than when we are waiting in the dentist's chair? Why did it seem like an eternity from Christmas to Christmas for children? And why does a year pass in what seems like a short month for grandparents?

I recently asked a 13-year-old what would happen if we did not have watches and clocks. She wisely observed that we would not be so busy if we did not have clocks. A generation ago, when I had appointments every hour from 7 a.m. until 6 to 8 p.m., I refused to wear my watch on Saturdays or make an appointment for anything on that day. I survived a grinding week because I anticipated time and opportunities to follow my whims.

At least twice in my career, I attended workshops on time management. Those workshops made me more efficient, but less humane. Life was so driven by the clock that my relationship with people deteriorated. There was no time for small talk or any conversation that wasn't related to my agenda.

Boethius, a medieval philosopher and theologian, taught that God lived outside of time as we know it. He knew mankind thinks about time as a linear sequence, but God does not perceive a sequence. God sees all times at once. The promise to Abraham and the multitude of his descendants exiting from Egypt were perceived at the same instant by God. That perspective helps keep trials, suffering, waiting, and pain more tolerable.

How to make the most of time is the issue for us. How to live each moment of our lives with purpose and direction must concern us all as we live in a fast-paced society that sweeps us along almost out of control. Wise people whose lives testify to holy living keep telling me that people have to set a time for prayer and meditation. Many of those people get up an hour before they must start preparing for their day. That hour is dedicated to God: some pray the whole time,

others follow a Bible reading schedule and pray part of the time, and others read and meditate. Many runners tell how their prayer lives have been enriched as they have spent the time praying for the people in their lives. A close friend writes a prayer journal every day; the journal is only about praise and adoration of God.

The coming of a new year is a great time to set out a pattern of Bible reading that will help you focus daily on God's message. I am coming off a year when I have read the Bible in chronological order. Such a pattern will help you see more clearly the contest of the books of prophecy and wisdom. This past year, for the first time in my life, I thought I understood the integrity and messages of Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

A pattern that has benefitted me immensely is a reading of the four gospels. Reading three chapters a day will take you through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in one month. In a year you follow the life and teachings of Jesus 12 times. You will be amazed at the details you will see that you have overlooked before. A year with Jesus will make it one of the best years of your life.

I still do not understand time, but I am working to relish and use every minute to grow closer to God. I am still trying to understand what it would feel like to be beyond time, to see events as God sees them. I want to escape the ruthlessness of time so that I can find time to connect meaningfully with people that cross my path.

Although life creates many occasions to mourn, my goal is to rejoice more. I want to learn how to celebrate the common events of life. I want to see God's hand working in circumstances of my life. I am asking God to open my eyes to the beauty of his working all around me. I want the gift of time to help me be holy and fully devoted.

—Bailey McBride
Christian Chronicle



American Baptist Women's Ministries

Missionary for the Month of **January**:

Dwight & Kari Davidson
Japan

Dwight and Keri serve at Kanto Gakuin University in Yokohama, where the vast majority of students and many of the faculty members are non-Christians. Dwight teaches Bible and English at the junior high and high school levels, and Kari is involved in the community and in the Japanese kindergarten their son, Adam, attends.

Bible Book of the Month Romans

"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 5:1 (RSV)

Paul points out that neither Gentile nor Jew has achieved an acceptable righteousness by works, for only by faith shall the righteous live.

PRAY that the new year may bring renewal in your life, the life of the church, and in the world. Pray that a new spirit may come to Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant people as we seek Christian unity.

—Madge Walters

Upcoming Dates: Blanket Sundays—February 8 & 15

Young Women Of Hope

The AB girls had a merry time shopping together to provide toys and clothes for a child at Christmas. We met on Saturday, December 13th, and after a light breakfast headed to the toy departments! Our next meeting is scheduled for January 18th, after the morning service.

—Nancy Whipple, Marilyn Bowling,
& Mindy Hazelwood

Advisory Board Meeting

The Advisory Board is made up of all elected officers of our church. The first meeting of this board will be on Sunday, January 18th, at 5:00. We will hear from boards and committees regarding their ministries and take care of any business items which should be presented to the church membership in the annual business meeting.

Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the church will be on Wednesday, January 21st, at 6:45 p.m. Your hearts will be encouraged as you hear how the Lord has worked among us in 2008 and the vision of the boards and committees for 2009.



We will be making our monthly trip down to Matthew 25: Ministries for a wonderful day of fellowship, fun, and WORKING FOR THE LORD Thursday, January 22nd. We will leave the church at 8:30 a.m. returning at about 3:00 p.m. Come dressed to WORK and bring a sack lunch and a beverage. Remember - this is NOT just for the KeenAgers. Everyone is welcome to be a part of this ministry.

—Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham



The Courier (ISSN 383367-29) January 2009 Published monthly by: First Baptist Church 1501 Pyramid Hill Boulevard Hamilton, Ohio 45013 Volume 44, Number 1

“Bring It On”

I have been thinking some about this thing we call “the new year.” I have observed more than several of these in my lifetime, but they seem to be arriving more and more quickly as the seasons pass. Each is filled with opportunities and questions; possibilities and responsibilities. But each day of this new year will leave its mark upon our lives.

In an internet article, Borgna Brunner observes that the celebration of the new year on January 1st is a relatively new phenomenon. The earliest recording of a new year celebration is believed to have been in Mesopotamia, about 2000 B.C., and was observed around the time of the vernal (spring) equinox, in mid-March. A variety of other dates tied to the seasons were also used by various ancient cultures. The Egyptians, Phoenicians, and Persians began their new year with the fall equinox, and the Greeks celebrated it on the winter solstice.

On the early Roman Calendar, March 1st rang in the New Year. Their calendar had just ten months, beginning with March. The names of the months, September through December, then meant something, marking their position on the calendar (September, the seventh month; October, the eighth; November, the ninth; and December, the tenth month). It was not until

*Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain
a heart of wisdom.
Psalm 90:12*

Numa Pontilius of Rome (legendary king of Rome, and successor to Romulus in about 700 BC), added the months of January and February to the beginning of the calendar, that the positions of September-December were thrown out of sync to their respective names.

In 46 B.C., Julius Caesar introduced a new, solar-based calendar that was a vast improvement on the ancient Roman lunar calendar, which had become inaccurate over the years. The Julian calendar celebrated the new year on January 1st.

In the Middle Ages, as a reaction to the pagan celebrations accompanying the arrival of the new year, the Council of Tours (567 AD) abolished January 1st as the beginning of the

year. At various times and in various places throughout medieval Christian Europe, the new year was celebrated on different days significant to the Christian calendar.

Over a thousand years later, in 1582, the Gregorian calendar reform restored January 1st as new year's day. Although most Catholic countries adopted the Gregorian calendar almost immediately, it was only gradually accepted among Protestant countries. The British, for example, did not adopt the reformed calendar until 1752. Until then, the British Empire and her American colonies celebrated the new year in March.

Our present calendar provides for 365 days (or more accurately, 365.2524 days). All of this effort was to bring some organization to our lives, some sense of order, some way for us to plan for the days and the seasons that follow. The Psalmist knew that our days were a fragile and valuable commodity. In the 103rd Psalm he wrote:

As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field, the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. (103:15-16)

Solomon admonishes the younger generation about valuing these years:

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them." (Eccles. 12:1)

In his letter to the Philippian congregation, Paul encourages the believers with words that remind them how to live during these days God sends our way:

From the Pastor's Heart (cont)

*Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life--in order that I may boast on the **day of Christ** that I did not run or labor for nothing. (Philip. 2:14-16)*

These days are not a constant cycle of hours that repeat themselves. Nor are they without purpose. These days are going somewhere, and they are in God's hands. How good it is to know that we belong to Him, and one day, we shall be introduced to our eternal home where we will be with Him for a long, long time. David wrote:

*Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever. Psalm 23:6*

So, let it happen! Bring on 2009. And know all the while, that we are safe in His hands as we determine to serve Him with all of our hearts.

Yours for a new year,
Pastor

Calling All Couples!!!

The Weekend To Remember Conference is coming soon to the Cincinnati, Ohio area and we at First Baptist are planning on taking a group. The conference date is March 6-8, 2009 and will be located at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Cincinnati. This is an amazing conference geared for couples and those soon to be married. You can read some great stories online at familylife.com and I hope you will check things out. The cost of the conference is \$89 per person, a savings of \$40 per person, when you call or register online with our group name "fbcham" or our group code number of "19950". You can register on your own and then book your own hotel or stay at the Hyatt Regency for \$100 per night. The conference begins on Friday evening and will conclude on Sunday morning. For more information please see Jeremy or Aleesha Spence. Hope you will take part of this group opportunity.

-Jeremy Spence



All annual reports are due in the office **on disk** (Word Perfect, Word, or generic text file, if possible) by Sunday, January 4th. Preparation time is needed to compile and print this valuable report.

Budget Status Report

The Month of November, 2008

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$58,137
Offerings	<u>68,593</u>
Over (Under) Budget	\$10,456

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$54,237
Offerings	<u>68,593</u>
Over (Under) Actual	\$14,356

The Year Through November, 2008

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$666,996
Offerings	<u>577,649</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$89,347)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$649,629
Offerings	<u>577,649</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$71,980)

-The Board Of Trustees



Winter Reminder!

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

**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

Reminder: All articles for the monthly newsletter, The Courier, are due in the church office by the **15th of the month**. They can be emailed to Ellie at ellie.dinger@fuse.net or elliedinger@juno.com. Articles received after the 20th may not be in that month's newsletter.



Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



Silent Dinner

The **Silent Dinner** for **January** will be Friday, January 2nd, at Eastgate Mall. See you there!

Interpreter Schedule for January

January 4	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
January 11	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
January 18	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
January 25	Jo Manson	Maria Miller

Happy Birthday



January 2 - Tina Monhollen
January 19 - Sandra Williams
January 31 - Robert Williams

—Maria Miller
Director of Deaf Ministries

Corrections and Additions To The Directory

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

Jones, Ralph & Florence Jan. - March
Riverside Club
1900 Clifford Street (701-A)
Ft. Myers, FL 33901
Phone # 239-334-7245

Scruggs, Hazel
100 Berkeley Drive
Hamilton, OH 45013
Phone # 896-8039



We held our fourth meeting for the 2008-09 MOPS year on Tuesday, December 16th. There were 26 ladies in attendance with 1 new mom visiting. Even though our numbers were down just a bit we received bountiful blessings! Three of our own moms shared their testimonies with the group. It was a heartfelt meeting with love, compassion and a few tears. God was smiling as He heard the stories of where these women had been and where they are today. Our theme of Tea and Testimony was perfect for the holiday season and allowed us to always remember we are always loved by our Father in Heaven no matter what! Our children celebrated the season with a Happy Birthday to Jesus party and each received holiday specs to view the Christmas lights in a new way.

It's hard to believe that our year is just about half over! What a wonderful group of people we have working for this ministry. From our steering team moms, mentors, moppet workers, prayer warriors and the office staff - all of you have a heart for the Lord and make this ministry possible. Thank you for your continued support.

We will hold a mother/child outing on Tuesday, December 30th at Banana's Jump and Play beginning at 10:00. All children are welcomed to attend. We currently have over 30 planning to come! If you are interested in attending or need more information please call me at 844-1226.

Be sure to plan on attending our January meeting. Our theme for the month is *The Roller Coaster* and our topic will focus on quick and healthy meals and exercising. Just in time for those New Year resolutions!

Please continue to pray for our ministry as we see new visitors each month. May each mom that comes through our doors receive a special blessing and ultimately a new life with Christ.

Enjoying the Adventure with Him-
Elise Martin
Coordinator



Awana Club

Awana January Calendar Update

- 7th - Regular Club Night
- 14th - Handbook Time/Recreation/Staff Meeting
- 21st - Silly Socks Night
- 30th - Missions Night with Evon Laubenstein

Awana continues to go well, looking over the past year neither of us would have imagined how supportive people have been in continuing to bless us with great willingness and a desire to see Awana continue. We have certainly been able to count our blessings and pray and hope that 2009 will be a year for Awana to continue to bloom and reach our children that we do not normally see in a church setting.

—Brandi Emenaker, Claire Metzger,
& Sandra Imhoff, Awana Leaders

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Katie Ford** who was recently inducted into the Hamilton High School National Honor Society!

Also congratulations to **Sara Cain** who won the prestigious "Eric Scott Russell Rescuer of Humanity Student Kindness Award." This was open to applicants in the entire state of Ohio. Sara was nominated by Coach Jim Place of Hamilton High School.

WE HAVE A PUBLISHED WRITER IN OUR MIDST!!! Every year, the Lane Public Library holds a writing contest for teens in Butler County. There are four categories: Short Story – ages 13-15, Poetry – ages 13-15, Short Story – ages 16-18, and Poetry – ages 16-18. The first-place winner in the Short Story – ages 13-15 category this year was **Iris Patton**, with her story, "The Lights." Prizes and certificates were distributed at the Fairfield Branch on December 4th. The winning stories and poems will be posted on the Lane Library's teen web page by the first of the year – look for her story at <http://laneteenzone.org>. Lane Library will also host a teen art contest in the spring. Winners of both the writing and art contests will have their work published in the Lane Library's Teenzine later in 2009. Congratulations, Iris!

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

New Year, New Blessings, New Opportunities

When I think of January I always think of New Year's Resolutions. Something I have never been very good at keeping, intentionally and unintentionally. This last year my Dad gave up drinking coffee for the year, only to realize later in November that frothy chocolate flavored drinks like Mochas, which he had been drinking were actually coffee based! It is one thing to say you'll do something but to actually complete the task is another, if you're in doubt ask all who write for the Courier - or better yet ask Ellie! Brandi and I spend time recruiting volunteers who want to help with childcare and children's bible groups at church. We are often met with enthusiasm that the person we are talking to knows someone else who would be perfect for the job! God created each person in His own Image, so I believe that everyone is could work with our children.

If you are thinking about making a New Year's Resolution and want to be involved in God's work at church, there are many opportunities for you. We would certainly appreciate any people who want to make a commitment of working with our children once or twice a year. Please remember though that making a commitment should not be forgotten or dreaded like a New Year's Resolution, but instead it should be a joyful gift to God and to our children.

Junior Jam

We are already thinking ahead to April, to this years Junior Jam events. We do not have many details but save the date on March 28, 2009. In the past we have taken 3rd through 6th graders for a day a workshop day of fun fellowship where we have learned how to worship Jesus and how to be a Christian in school. If you know of anyone who is interested please let us know and as soon as we have information we will forward it to you. Watch this space!

Childcare Staff Appreciation

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us this past year in changing diapers, praying with us, taking a Kinderchurch lesson, singing with our children and all those who have taken a turn in Childcare to join us for our annual lunch after church on February 15th.

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



Free Jazz Concert



Jazz guitarist Dan Faehnle, a native of Ohio and Hamilton resident, performs at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21st, at the Oxford Presbyterian Church as part of the Midday Music in Oxford series. As a member of the Diana Krall Quartet, he made several world tours, including stops at Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl, and appeared on television shows, radio and media events. Critics have said, "A jazz giant ... has taken the jazz world by storm ... simply one of the best around ... a guitar great." Information: 523-6969.



Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 1st, is Souper Bowl Sunday. Please bring to church with you a can of soup or any other food item and \$1. Members of CREW and JV CREW will be collecting these items at the doors. All items will be donated to the New Life Baptist Mission. Thanks for your participation!

–Deaconess Relief Committee

Annual Pro Life Prayer March

All churches in the Butler County area are invited and urged to participate in the 20th Annual Butler County "Prayer March For Life", taking place on Monday, January 19th, around the Butler County Courthouse from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. All churches, individuals, and families are encouraged to attend and pray together for an end to abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. If each church community would send just "12 disciples" or more, willing to pray together for an end to the killing of our modern day "Holy Innocents", we would have the largest diverse prayer gathering that butler county has ever seen! Signs and church banners are welcome. The Prayer March will take place regardless of the weather!

–Mike Mignery
Butler County Right To Life

KingsKids Kick-Off For Nic At Night

The Kick-Off for the KingsKids' production of *Nic at Night* by Kathie Hill will be Sunday, January 11th, at 5:30 p.m.

Women's Ministry Council News

Serve City Dinner

Another opportunity to help with a dinner at the Serve City homeless shelter will be on Friday, Jan. 30. Many volunteers have already signed up to help with food items and to serve the meal. These people will be contacted with the details. Contact Nancy Whipple at 863-2309 with questions about this event, sponsored by the Women's Ministry Council.

–Women's Ministry Council

Dale Braun, Lois Anderson, Nancy Whipple,
Johnny Wallace, Elise Martin, Teri Horsley

Bible Study Opportunities!

I would like to invite all ladies at First Baptist to join one of our Women's Bible Study Groups this Winter. Beginning January 15 the following groups will be doing Beth Moore's study on Esther and it promises to give wonderful insight into how this Godly woman dealt with many of the same issues that women deal with today.

Both groups meet weekly on the following schedule:

Thursday Morning at 9:30 - Room 113- Led by Dale Braun

Thursday Evening at 6:30 - Room 113 - Led by Teri Horsley

Dale and I hope you'll take this opportunity to learn and fellowship with us, as we seek to glorify our Lord Jesus! We hope to see you January 15th!

Happy New Year!
Teri Horsley



Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

Intentional Opportunities

This past couple months in CREW and ONE Ministries we have been talking a lot about how to reach out to our neighbors, friends, and community with the love of God. Time and time again, there has been one word that has been a constant in the discussions and lessons: "intentional". The word, according to the dictionary on my computer, means "done on purpose, deliberate" and other words that help us out in understanding how intentional is used may be: calculated, conscious, intended, planned, willful, purposeful, premeditated, pre-planned, preconceived, done on purpose and others. As you can tell it is a word packed with great images and ideas.

It is also the word that helps one to understand all the CREW is doing in the next couple weeks. While I was planning our Outflow series, which is an amazing 30 day (5 week) study, I knew we would have to give practical and intentional opportunities to live what we have been taught. Hence, we did the Christmas wrapping, a great time and we will do it again next year, and also some of the below events. This year we, as a CREW and ONE Ministry, are hoping to be more intentional on reaching out and showing God's love for others.

I am not sure what things will look like but I do know that if we don't specifically plan and become deliberate in the way we show God's love that it won't just happen. Unless we make the conscious effort to reach out to those who need God's love I am convinced they probably won't find it on their own.

I am also convinced of this because God's Word shows this to be the case. God made a preplanned, calculated, and purposeful decision to send his Son, our Lord, to this Earth so that all humans would have the opportunity to experience God's love. If God did I sure can try to do it. As John 3.16 says "For God so loved the world that he **gave** his one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." God loved and then did something about it.

Living the intentional life,
Jeremy

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 4th: We will have a game night for all this evening. Bring your favorite board or card game and a snack to share. We will meet in the youth room and enjoy the last day of our break playing card and board games together.

The fun begins at 6pm and will end at 7pm.

January 7th: New year of lifeline will begin back up. As usual we will be playing a game, worship and a lesson of some sort. Lifeline begins at 6:30pm with some social time with our activities starting promptly at 6:45pm.

January 11th: We will have a game night in the gym. Bring some friends as we will do different games in the gym for about an hour starting at 6:00pm.

January 18th: The first ever CREW Mystery Lock-In will take place. This evening will be loads of fun for anyone who comes and the more the merrier. Cost will be \$20 per person and include: Gameworks, LaserWeb, snacks, games at the church, t-shirt, and the best time you have ever had. You won't want to miss this evening and plan on bringing some friends who don't attend a church or may not know about Jesus. We will have a short lesson that evening as we think about some different mysteries. Are you able to handle the fun that the Mystery Night will offer? Come check it out as things will begin around 5:00pm.

Attention Adults!!!! We will be needing many adults to help make this night just amazing and great for the kingdom of God. I need 30 people who will pray for this evening, adults who can help transport people, and some adults that are willing to stay up with us or at least take a shift of being part of this night. Please see me, Jeremy, to let me know what you will do. Thanks in advance.

January 30th-31st: Dare2Share Invisible Conference will be held in Columbus this Friday and Saturday.

This is an amazing conference is only \$50 per person, which is due on January 21, includes all food, lodging, conference, and transportation for the weekend, and it promises to be an amazing weekend in learning how to share your faith and then practicing it on Saturday. There will be a late night ABC-OH Student Ministry party on Friday.

February 1st: After the morning service we will be collecting money for the Souper Bowl of Caring drive. Canned goods will be collected as well at that time. In the evening we will be having a Super Bowl Party. Watch for details.



Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

January 4 - Rob & Jenny VanMeter & Justin
 January 11 - Juli & Katie Ford
 January 18 - Aleesha Spence & teen helper
 January 25 - Dick & Kathy Inloes & Joey

One & Two Year Olds

January 4 - John & Cheryl Motzer
 January 11 - John & Cheryl Motzer
 January 18 - Debbie Allen & Lauren Schwartz
 January 25 - John & Ruthie Wallace

Kinderchurch

January 4 - John & Ruthie Wallace
 January 11 - Chris & Claire Metzger
 January 18 - Chris & Claire Metzger
 January 25 - Chris & Claire Metzger



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!

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



Wednesday Family Dinners

January 7

Menu: Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Dessert
 Hosts: Deacons

January 14

Menu: Turkey Tetrazzini, Honey Glazed Carrots, Applesauce, Rolls, Dessert
 Hosts: Deaconesses

January 21

Menu: Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert
 Hosts: TNT (Seekers)

January 28

Menu: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Corn, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Dessert
 Hosts: Keystone I

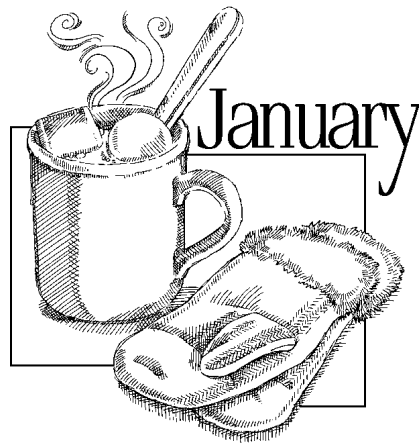
Reminder: Adults should contribute \$4.00 per person for the meal; \$12.00 for **immediate family living in the same household**. The cost for children under 12 years old who eat at the “hot dog” table is \$1.25. If they chose to eat from the main table, the cost is \$2.00. Be sure to make your reservation on the Friendship Folder each Sunday.

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

January Greeters

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2009</h1>						
				1 Have a happy, healthy blessed New Year!	2	3 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering
4 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:45 Women's Council 5:15 Youth of Praise 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 CREW Game Night	5	6 9:30 MOPS Steering	7 5:00 ABW 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	8 12:00 Miami Baptist Assoc. Ministers' Council Luncheon 5:30 Music & Worship 5:30 Board of Trustees 6:00 Upward Basketball	9 6:00 Upward Basketball	10 9:00 Upward Basketball
11 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:00 Board of Missions 5:15 Youth of Praise 5:30 KingsKids Kick-Off 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 CREW Game Night	12 11:30 Women's Book Club at Fairfield Lane Library	13 10:00 Holloway Circle 7:00 Abell Circle 7:00 Smith Circle	14 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana-Handbook Time/Recreation/Staff Meeting 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	15 9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Upward Basketball 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	16 6:00 Upward Basketball	17 9:00 Upward Basketball
18 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 AB Girls 4:30 Diaconate 5:00 CREW Mystery Lock-In 5:00 Advisory Bd. Mtg. 5:15 Youth of Praise 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration	19 7:00 <i>Prayer March For Life</i> at Butler County Courthouse	20 9:30 MOPS	21 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana-Silly Socks Night 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Annual Business Mtg. 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	22 8:30 Matthew 25 9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Upward Basketball 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	23 6:00 Upward Basketball	24 9:00 Upward Basketball
25 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 CE Board 5:15 Youth of Praise 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration	26	27	28 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana-Missions Night 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	29 9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Upward Basketball 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	30 5:00 WMC Serve City 6:00 Upward Basketball Dare2Share Invisible Conference in Columbus	31 9:00 Upward Basketball Dare2Share Invisible Conference in Columbus



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 - Janet Hetterich

2 - Pat Brown
Charlotte Day
Tina Monhollen

3 - Fuz Buchanan

4 - Felicity Hines

5 - Alex Wallace

6 - Brian Begley
David Dawson

7 - Brenda Roddy

8 - Florence Jones
Thelma Stanger

9 - Robert Abney

10 - Mark Schumm
Susan Thomas

11 - Ed Emerick
Hannah Ruwe

14 - Jesse Brown
Nicole Campbell
Elyse Hendrickson

15 - Aubrey Jordon
Karl Metzler

16 - Jan Wade Griffin
Sheryl Morrow

18 - Fred Isaacs
Logan Andrew Sapp
Margie VonStein

19 - Ed Dawson
Sandra Williams

20 - Bob Tragesser
George Wade

21 - Adam Metzger
Ted Soderholm

22 - Jeffrey D. Miller

24 - Zeke Bowling
Larry Wallace

25 - Scott Dawson
Evelyn Maddox

26 - Ralph Lenehan
Bonnie Titus

27 - Brittany Nesbitt
Candace Yates

28 - Adrian Benzing
Lisa Rankey
Amy Wallace

29 - Verna Pickett
Charles Walters
Nancy Hoskins

30 - Maggie Baker
Orville Madden

31 - Robert F. Williams

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 Helen & Norb Baker

Thank you for the great cookies you made for us. You all must be real Bakers. Thanks to Karen Buchanan and the Preschool Class. All the children are adorable and we enjoyed seeing each one. Nice to be remembered.

From Marilyn Bowling

A heartfelt thank you for the ladies of the Abell Circle, Young Women of Hope, and many ladies of the church for your generosity in donating paper and craft items for the Mending Hearts Program. Larry delivered five bags full of things that will help them minister to children and adults who attend this program.

From Bunnie Cooling (parishner of Tim Schwartz)

I am not sure how you got my name, but I want to thank you so very much for the card acknowledging that you are praying for me. It has lifted my spirits more than you will ever know. It is very comforting to know that there are so many people praying for you in a time like this. I would appreciate it very much if you would keep my name on your list until after my breast cancer surgery on December 22nd. I will be praying for all of you and I thank God for the power of prayer.

From Cletus & Judy Morgan (sister of John Motzer)

Cletus and I would like to thank you for your prayers and concerns while John was ill and after his going to be with Jesus! Thanks again!

From Harold & Lindel Sapp

We want to thank you for all the prayers, cards, and visits. We want to especially thank Bill and Pastor for all the help they gave and being there in our time of need. God bless each one of you.

From Carol Stoll (niece of Shirley Henson)

I would like to thank everyone for their cards and prayers. I could really feel the prayers.

Used Christmas Cards Needed For Recycling Project

The FCCLA class at Edgewood High School will be collecting the FRONTS of used Christmas and other greeting cards until Jan. 23 and will be sending them to St. Jude's ranch so they can recycle them. St. Jude's turns the cards into a project for the kids that helps fund their program.

Please tear off the front portion of the cards and place them in the box marked "Christmas cards" in the coat room of the Family Center. The cards CANNOT have writing on the back side of the front cover. Mrs. Gregory's class at the high school will send the cards to the Ranch campuses nationwide.

St. Jude's Ranch has over 40 years of experience of working, healing, and caring for abused, abandoned, and neglected children. There are three campuses in Nevada and Texas. St. Jude's provides a safe home-like environment where the kids learn new life skills and have a new start with new choices and new hope.



Martin
Luther
King Jr.
Day

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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