

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

March, 2009

Who *Is* This Jesus?

On that first Palm Sunday
They had a celebration.
Jesus entered Jerusalem
amidst their adulation.

They hailed Him as a monarch;
A King in majesty,
Though He entered on a donkey -
Not white horse of victory.

The crowd was cheering wildly!
Palm fronds were waving high!
Hosannas filled the air
As the Servant king passed by!

"Just who *is* this Jesus?"
They asked between their shouts.
Some thought He was a prophet.
Others had their doubts.

Some thought He was a preacher;
A healer, many claimed;
Or a conquering king to save them
From oppressive Roman reign.

But five days later they killed Him.
His "glory days" were past,
As His life blood drained away,
Again, they stood and asked:

"Just who *was* this Jesus?"
A carpenter from Galilee?
Or was He, perhaps, the Son of God
As He claimed to be?

Then, as the sky grew darker,
As lightening flashed and thunder roared,
As Golgotha shuddered,
Some acknowledged He *was* Lord. Mark 15:39 Luke 23:47

His tomb did not stay empty:
Final proof He broke death's cord,
Proof He was God's precious Son,
Proof we serve a Living Lord!

Today, men still are asking:
"Just who *was* this man?"
Are we bold enough to answer?
To spread His word where'er we can?

If we believe Christ died for us
And sin's hold on us is broken,
Will we share this news with others
As a very meager token

Of our thankfulness for His great gift?
His ransom of our soul?
Will we submit to do His will?
Will this be **our** life goal? Matthew 28:18-20

—By Florence Jones



Don't Miss These Important Events!

March 25th - A Passover Seder - 6:00 p.m.
Meal with interpretation, Micha Cohen

March 29th - King's Kids Presentation - 6:00 p.m.
Nic At Night

April 5th - Palm Sunday Morning -
Chancel Choir and Orchestra Cantata
Amazing Grace—My Chains Are Gone

Palm Sunday Evening - *Sing Hosanna!* -6:00

April 12th - Resurrection Sunday Morning Worship
Service - No Evening Service

March Missionaries of the Month:

Mabudiga & Kihomi Nzunga
Haiti
Philip & Corene Smith
Brazil

Mabudiga teaches theology at the Christian University of Northern Haiti, trains assistant professors in teaching and writing books, administers a scholarship program, and visits and preachers in churches. **Kihomi** works with families in the areas of counseling, family planning, and women's health issues. She also coordinates and advises the Women's Association of the Haitian Baptist Convention.

Corene and Phil Smith minister to children through a residential program called Hope Unlimited for Children that rescues homeless street children and youth ranging in age from 8 to 18. Hope Unlimited provides guidance, education, and training for future employment. All students have completed a paid internship and are employed before they leave the program. After experiencing day-to-day living in a safe, caring Christian environment, most of these children make decisions to follow Christ. Hope Unlimited has recently planted a new church comprised largely of these young Christians.

Bible Book of the Month Galatians

"It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."

Galatians 2:20 (RSV)

When Paul wrote this letter, he was deeply troubled and distressed because he heard that the Galatians had been listening to false teachers. Paul tells of his own conversion and how he came to know that Christ was the Savior of all people.

PRAY for our American Baptist ministry in the Philippines.

—Madge Walters

Baby Layettes

Don't forget that we are still collecting items baby layettes. If you see a bargain, please bring it in and give to Bertha Campbell (893-9808) or give to a greeter.

Baby Kit (Layette)

- 4 Cloth Diapers
- 2 Shirts
- 2 Washcloths
- 2 Gowns or Sleepers
- 2 Diaper Pins
- 1 Sweater or Sweatshirt
- 2 Receiving Blankets
(1 can be a knitted blanket)

Disaster survivors need essential items to reclaim their homes and lives. Through the White Cross you can help prepare special recovery kits that provide both tangible assistance to people in need and show that neighbors near and far truly care. The contents of these kits are small things but having or not having them can make a world of difference in an on-going development program or when disaster strikes. Would you help Church World Service build an inventory of baby kits?

—Bertha Campbell

AB Girls

The Young Women of Hope met on Sunday, February 15th, in the Family Center. Marilyn Bowling provided a delicious lunch, and we were so pleased to have Karen and Al Schumm as our guests. The girls presented Karen with a blanket as a get well gift. We were so glad to see her after her successful surgery.

The next meeting will be on Sunday, March 22nd. We plan to have several more special ladies as our luncheon guests. We will also bring items to assemble a layette.

Serving in His name,
Marilyn Bowling, Mindy Hazelwood,
& Nancy Whipple

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“Jerusalem–10th of Nisan”

Weeks before the holiday, people began to arrive. They had come from Asia Minor, Africa, Italy, Greece, and Mesopotamia. Soon, the stream became a river, flowing ever-upwards toward Jerusalem and the Temple. By the time of Jesus, Jews had made these arduous pilgrimages faithfully for over 1500 years. For those from distant lands, the journey to Jerusalem to celebrate the religious feasts was often difficult. But the pilgrimage was the fulfillment of a "once in a life-time dream," and many did come, swelling the usual population of Jerusalem's 600,000 to over two million—four times its usual size.

Most rejoiced in the *unity of their Jewishness*. But the days preceding the celebration served other purposes as well. It was a time for the *renewal of family ties*, and those without relatives found themselves *guests* in homes where they had never been before, hosted by people they had never met—obligated by the long-tradition of Jewish hospitality.

Many pilgrims approached Jerusalem from the east. As the pilgrims drew near, their voices would often ring out and echo in the valleys behind them as they worshiped the Lord with the traditional "Psalms of Ascent":

“Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain. It is beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth...the city of the Great King.”
(Ps.48:1-2)

As pilgrims passed over the hill of Mount Olivet, suddenly towering beautifully before them was the Holy City. Jerusalem sat 2600 feet above sea level, and the Temple sparkled like a crown jewel! Songs of praise and worship crescendoed as the pilgrims were joined by others voicing the ancient songs:

- *"As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants after you, O God"* (Ps. 42:1);
- *"How lovely are your dwelling places, O Lord of hosts. My soul longs, yea faints, for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God"* (Ps. 84:1-2);
- *"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go to the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand within your gates, O Jerusalem"* (Ps 122:1-2).

Can you imagine the travelers singing such great songs in anticipation of the worship of their God?

Late on a Sunday, the 10th day of Nisan (our March–April), Jesus and His disciples came through the same pass, as thousands had done before them. The Feast of Unleavened Bread was four days away. No feast was more important to the people; and no celebration more appropriate to the conclusion of Jesus' ministry. Unleavened Bread remembered the exodus of the people of God from the slavery of Egypt. The Feast of Passover, which was observed on the first day of Unleavened Bread, began with the slaying of the Pascal Lamb. The lamb had been selected on the Sunday before the celebration and observed for those four days to make certain it was healthy and without spot or blemish.

As Jesus made His way into the city on that Sunday, riding on a new donkey colt, He was met by the enthusiastic cheers of the people. They waved palm branches as He passed by. For the religiously inclined, this was a Messianic recognition; for the politically astute, it was a call to freedom from their oppressors: *“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the King of Israel.”* One of the Pharisees complained, *“Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”* Jesus replied, *“I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”*

In that Passover season so long ago, there were many new threads waiting to be woven into the ancient fabric of the Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits observances:

- Jesus Himself became the Passover Lamb—*“Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”* (John 1:29).
- His body would be “the bread of life” of Unleavened Bread—*“I am the bread that came down from heaven...He who comes to me will never go hungry”* (John 6:41, 35).

(From the Pastor's Heart, cont)

- He was the First Fruits of those who would rise from the grave—*"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die"* (John 11:25-26).

Jesus' life, His ministry, and His death served as the completion of God's plan from the foundation of the world to bring all of His creation to Himself. With our acceptance of Jesus' sacrifice, we are the recipients of rich and wondrous benefits (Ephesians 1:3-14):

- *He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing;*
- *He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight;*
- *He predestined us to be adopted as His own children;*
- *He has given us His glorious grace;*
- *We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins;*
- *We are marked with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who guarantees our inheritance until the redemption of God's possession.*

So much was at stake as Jesus entered into Jerusalem on that day so long ago. But He was faithful. And because He was, our lives are filled to overflowing with His abundance.

"From Darkness to Glory"—that is our Lenten theme during the days of March as we reflect upon the final days of Jesus' ministry before his arrest, crucifixion, death, burial, and glorious resurrection. May it be that we are able and willing to hear this great story afresh, and commit our lives unto Him, who gave so much for us.

Loving you during this season of reflection and praise—Pastor

"Christ in the Passover"

Wednesday, March 25, 6:00-8:00 PM

Our traditional Maundy Thursday communion service has been canceled this year to accommodate a very special event. **We have invited Micha Cohen, a representative/missionary with Jews for Jesus, to lead us through a full Passover Seder.** Micha has earned a B.A. degree in Jewish studies from Moody Bible Institute, and is the son of missionaries who also served with Jews for Jesus.

The *"Christ in the Passover"* presentation shows the link between the ancient Jewish Festival of Redemption and Christ as the Lamb of God. **Mr. Cohen will walk us through a Jewish Passover Seder, which will include a full meal, explaining each one of the food items and its significance to the Jewish community and to our Christian faith,** weaving the story of the Exodus together with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Our meal and program is scheduled for 6-8 PM. The interpretation of the meal and special Passover items will take place throughout the meal itself.

Reservations are required. Please see representatives from the Women's Ministry Counsel at the tables outside the Family Center, indicating the number of your family and guests attending. (Dinner costs are the same as for our Wednesday dinners—\$4 adult; \$2 children under 12; \$12 for immediate family living in the same household. There will be **no** hot dog table for kids for this meal).

I hope you will plan to join us, bringing your friends and family with you. A love offering will be received for Micha Cohen and Jews for Jesus.

"Christ in the Passover"

Wednesday, March 25th 6 PM

**Family dinner and
Jewish Seder Interpretation**

**No Awana or Lifeline
Nursery available for infants**



Budget Status Report

The Month of January, 2009

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$68,507
Offerings	<u>43,715</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$24,792)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$72,258
Offerings	<u>43,715</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$28,543)

The Year Through January, 2009

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$68,507
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–The Board Of Trustees

KeenAger March Outing

Our March outing will be to Parrish Auditorium to see Rotary Revel's "The Sound Of Music" Saturday, March 21st, at 2:00 p.m. We are eating together after the show. Watch the weekly bulletin for further details.

–KeenAger Activity Committee
Lil Senior, Betty Powell, & Bertha Campbell



Mitten Tree

Thanks! From The Christian Ed Board

A belated and humble thank you to our wonderful church family for the generous donations to our Annual Mitten Christmas Tree. The gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves were given to the New Life Baptist Mission and Serve City.

Call To Prayer!

To all the ladies of the church: we would like to extend an invitation to you to join the Women's Prayer Session every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the chapel. We meet to pray for the service and our pastor and all who has a part in it. We believe prayer changes things so we are praying for souls to be won and every Christian to be lifted up to higher ground and a revival like spirit to abound. Almost every family in today's world is having difficulties - children, finances, economy, heartache, or just plain lethargy. We have four faithful women to come to pray every Sunday and we have seen answers to our prayers. We have been admonished to pray without ceasing! My prayer for my immediate family, and I have also included my church family every day, is this: *I do not cease to pray for you and to desire that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding that you might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.* Join us in prayer every Sunday in the chapel, and Wednesday night it would be encouraging to see less empty seats. The old hymn says "Jesus is calling, calling today". He is coming soon!! So whosoever will, let him come and pray.

Jewell Bowling and prayer team
Every Sunday--10:00 a. m.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Anna Wallace** who came in 2nd place in the Hayes Elementary Geography Bee.

Congratulations also to **Alexander Sprague** who won the 1st place gold medal in the second annual City-Wide Elementary Chess Tournament.

Kiddie Korner

We have had a lot of things to be thankful for this last month, we held our third Child Care Appreciation Dinner in celebration of those that help teach our children and we had a lot of fun planning it :) and we enjoyed the time we spent with all of you. Thank you once again!

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

UPCOMING WOMEN EVENTS

Opportunities for Fellowship, Encouragement,
Spiritual Growth and Service

March 9: Book Club - Lynn Austin's "Candle In The
Darkness"

April 13: Book Club - Jerry Jenkin's "Riven"

April 25: "Tickle Me Pink Tea" - See article below.

May 11: Book Club - Joel Rosenberg's "Epicenter"



**Big and little ladies-tickle the
date April 25 on your
calendars!**

Get your pink outfits ready and your funny
bones tuned up!

Your pink presence (pink will be the
must wear color of the day) is desired
for a girly ticklish time at the

Tickle Me Pink Tea

on Saturday, April 25th

We will be entertained with holy humor and by
the Costume Lady, Kim Werk.
For our added pleasure our youngest ladies will
be walking the pink carpet in their pink finery.

*Mark your calendars now and watch
for information coming soon.*

*Sponsored by the Women's Ministry
Council.*



Nic at Night

A Musical play for Kids about Nicodemus

By
KATHIE HILL

King's Kids Presentation
Sunday, March 29, 2009
6:00 PM



Baby Shower For Claire Metzger

All the ladies of the church are invited to a baby
shower for our lovely Claire Metzger and her expected
baby girl, Saturday, March 7th, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
in Room 200. Pizza and salad will be served at 4:00
before the shower! Chris and Claire have registered at
target and Babies R Us. They are requesting any
clothing items be 6 months and older.



Junior Jam 2009
Saturday, March 28th
9:00am - 4:00pm
Cedarville

Awana Club

Awana March Calendar Update

- 4 - Pajama Night/Movie Night/Staff Meeting
- 11 - T&T Grand Prix
- 18 - Cubbies & Sparks Matchbox Race
- 25 - Regular Club Night

Awana Grand Prix

The T&T Awana Grand Prix will be Wednesday, March 11th. Family members, friends & neighbors are all invited to attend. We'd also like to invite anyone from our church congregation who would like to be a spectator. Awana missionary Steve Schenk will be visiting us for our Race, and will also be sharing the gospel message with us.

Cubbies & Sparks Matchbox Race

The Cubbies & Sparks Matchbox Race will be March 18th. Parents are welcome to attend. Each group will meet in their own rooms for Opening and Handbook Time. Sparks will then join Cubbies in the Cubbies room about 7:00 p.m. to begin the races.

Additional Listeners

Sparks is in need of some additional listeners to help students with their sections. If you are available to help one or two students with their sections, we would be glad to have your assistance from 6:50 pm to about 7:10 pm. If you can spare a few minutes, we would appreciate your help! With some additional helpers, this will allow a little bit more of individualized attention with the kids, and allow more time for story and recreation. Thanks!

Reminder!

Their will be no Awana Wednesday, March 25th, as we will be having a family dinner and Jewish Seder Interpretation in the Family Center at 6:00 p.m.

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

Junior Jam is a one-day, high-energy event with music to get yer toes a-tappin', games and hands-on activities to get yer feet - & mind - a-movin', & a lunch to stop yer stomach from a-growlin'! Not to mention one-on-one time with University students! Ya'll can learn somethin' from them! This year, we're throwin' a "Roof Raisin' Ruckus" as we tell ya how to show forgiveness & kindness to the folk in yer life. And believe me... we'll be a-raisin' the roof!

*"Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving one another,
just as in Christ
God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32*

Your kids will take home memories, practical lessons, and Bible promises that we pray will make a difference in their lives for years to come!

When: March 28, 2009

Cost: 20 per student includes all activities and lunch. First Baptist will cover \$5 of each child who would like to attend. Chaperones will be free. T-shirt purchases may be made at the event for \$5. If you have any questions, please see Brandi, Claire, or Cheryl Motzer. RSVP's will be due by mid-March
Ages: 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students (and their friends!)

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

Sing Hosanna!

On Sunday evening, April 5th, at 6:00 p.m., we will be presenting an evening of inspiring music of the season. Join us as the musicians, soloists and various vocal groups of our church sing songs of the cross and resurrection. For more information contact Rich Hazelwood at richanjeff@yahoo.com or phone 726-4335.



March 8th



**From The Heart Of
Marilyn**

College Corner

E-Mail From God

Take A Chill Pill

*"In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds,
search your hearts and be silent."* —Psalm 4:4

Dear Child,

Has anyone ever told you, "Just sleep on it"? That's often good advice. Sometimes you'll be so angry about something that you can't see straight. That is not a good time to make a decision. When you are angry, you may blurt out something rude and later think, *I can't believe I said that.*

My advice is, just wait. When you're mad, don't act. If someone is forcing you to make a decision while you're mad, tell them, "I need some time to think about this. Let me get back to you." Then just chill out and pray about it. Ask Me what I think about the situation. Breathe deeply. Count to a hundred. Do whatever it takes to calm down. Yes, you have emotions. But you don't have to be a slave to them. I want you to control your emotions, not the other way around.

Your Peace,
God

—Serving in His name,
Marilyn Bowling,
College Coordinator



The next scheduled Work Day at Matthew 25 will be Thursday, March 26th. As usual, we would like to have a good working group to go. We will leave the church at the usual time, 8:30 a.m. Bring your sack lunch and beverage and be prepared for a good day of work and fellowship

—Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham



**Chancel Choir And Orchestra
Easter Cantata Presentation
Palm Sunday, April 5th
10:30 a.m.**

***Amazing Grace
My Chains Are Gone***

(An Easter Celebration of worship and communion
for Congregation and Choir)

Created by
Dennis & Nan Allen

Orchestrated by
Dave Williamson

Freedom—true freedom—is found only in Jesus Christ. Whatever bondage has held you captive, whatever chains have kept liberty at bay, there's good news for all of us. Freedom has a name—Jesus. And He's broken our strongholds through His amazing grace.

Amazing Grace—My Chains Are Gone makes a bold statement and offers an undeniable witness to liberating, lasting, life-changing freedom:

Our faith's most cherished hymn and its modern day adaptation,

Some of today's best loved worship songs, presented for choir and congregation,

The "testimonies" of John Newton and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, reminding us of the power of freedom in Christ,

A communion service allowing believers to reaffirm and celebrate Christ's victory over sin.

It's been true throughout history, and it's still true today; freedom has a name—Jesus. And He's made freedom a reality for all of us . . .through His amazing grace.

—Mike Wallack
Chancel Choir and Orchestra Director



Carpenter's Hands



Signs Of Love

The next Silent Dinner will be held on Friday evening, March 6th, at Kenwood Mall. See you there!

Interpreter Schedule for March

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

—Maria Miller
Director of Deaf Ministries



On Tuesday, February 17th we held our monthly MOPS meeting. This meeting is an extra special treat and a favorite of all the moms, it is our Pamper Fair! This was our 5th year hosting this event which included stylist from Shear Genius, Master's Touch and Shelly's Unique Hair Design. In addition to all the moms receiving a free haircut they were also able to choose from either a manicure or eyebrow waxing. There were also crafts, paraffin dips, vendors and of course food! (including a chocolate buffet). The festivities began after a time of prayer and a devotion on Beauty by the Book by Laurie Cole. We had a total of 34 moms attend with 4 new moms visiting. Every month we have had at least 1 new mom attend our group. God is definitely working among us!

Free Concert Of Vocal, Organ, And Trumpet Music

The incredibly gifted soprano Mary Elizabeth Southwork will be accompanied by organ and trumpet. Among others, she has soloed with the Dayton & Cincinnati symphony orchestras and the Cincinnati Pops. FREE at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11th, at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main Street in Oxford. Information: Jack Daugherty at 523-6969.

This month's mom's only outing will consist of a food tour of Jungle Jim's followed by dinner out. If you are interested in attending this event please let me know. It's sure to be fun and exciting!

We will also be offering another evening of dinner and a craft. On March 10th we will be making a darling stationary set. It's too cute to describe! Cost for the evening is \$15 and includes a box lunch from Subway. Openings are still available.

Please continue to pray for the MOPS ministry, the moms who attend along with those who will attend, the Moppet workers and the members of steering. May all who are involved and attend our meetings see Christ through us.



Winter Reminder!

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

A big thank you to Jeremy and his crew for allowing many of the mom's to enjoy an evening out on Tuesday by offering free childcare!

Enjoying the Adventure with Him-
Elise
Coordinator



Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

Baggage

As I sat down to write this article I am still thinking about the lesson last night in Lifeline. We watched a 15 minute video on the baggage we carry along in life. The video showed how we start to pick up baggage very early in life. Sometimes it comes from friends picking on us and calling us names. When that happened to me, and maybe you did the same, I would retort back "sticks and stones may break my bones but words could never hurt me." Are you familiar with that saying?

As the video pointed out this saying is one of the biggest lies that we can ever buy into. Words do in fact cause more hurt than sometimes a broken bone may. The words of others are very sharp at times and unfortunately I think we are too careless with what we say and how we say it, myself included.

Another way we pick up baggage is through rejection and betrayal. This happens from friends, family, or girls/guys that we liked and the feelings weren't mutual. The teenage years are filled with rejection for some as this only adds to their burdens and before long they become weighed down with baggage.

Other times our baggage comes from parents, coaches, and loved ones as they criticize the things we mess up. We don't always try to make mistakes they just happen but sometimes others like to point them out and remind us of why it isn't the goal they had in mind for us. It is interesting to think that sometimes our baggage can cause someone else to pick up another bag and carry it around.

Sooner or later something has to happen. We must let out all our baggage, and typically the recipient is someone close to us. Yet, in reality when we try to dump our "stuff" on someone else it typically doesn't go too well because no one else can carry our baggage. We tend to hurt others and sometimes we even get confronted with the true reason behind our actions. This only adds to our baggage and makes it harder and harder to move around in life.

We also realized last night that others are not the only cause of loading us down with baggage but sometimes we do it to ourselves. When we compare ourselves to someone else, take extreme thoughts on our worth, the sins we commit, and constantly feeling guilty for what is done. For me, I tend to heap way more baggage on myself than others as a "punishment" for what I do. No one can punish me more than what I am do. Are you similar?

As the video went on we learned a couple other ways but this one line as been sticking with me. "When we carry our baggage around we aren't living the abundant life, we are just getting by." I ask myself did Jesus come so that I can just "get by" in life? The answer is absolutely not! Yet, which life will I live?

In Matthew 11 Jesus says this "*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. For my*

yoke is easy and my burden is light." For us that means we must drop our baggage off at the feet of Christ and pick up his yoke, something I think feels like a cotton ball. What relief and joy we can find when we drop our heavy stuff for something as light as a cotton ball. Jesus is ready to give me that joy and relief but I don't always perceive His way as light and make it more of a burden than it should.

What about you? Are you carrying around more baggage than you should? Will you let Jesus trade you? My prayer is you will join me and the CREW is living the abundant life, not the "getting by" life.

Baggage free because of Christ,
Jeremy

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday Nights at 5:15pm: Youth Choir will be meeting for anyone interested in helping serve the church in this ministry. The youth choir helps to lead us in worship on a couple Sunday mornings throughout the year. See Laurin Sprague for more information and to sign up.

Small Groups start at 6 p.m every week There will be a 7th-8th grade group which discusses life and then applies the Bible to our current situations, 9th-10th grade small group will be using different movie clips to apply the Bible directly to our everyday life and 11th and 12th grade small group is finishing up the book *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan. These are amazing times to see just how practical God's word is for our life and be encouraged by those who are in similar situations as you.

Lifeline Series: Every Wednesday night in March we will be looking at how God's Outrages Claims are beneficial to our life. Topics to include: Surviving the Rat Race without becoming a Rat, Forgiveness: Do I really Have to?, You get more than you give, Playing the Safe=Danger, and other topics.

Sunday March 15th: Annual WatchCare Dinner immediately following the morning worship. This will be a time when you get to enjoy conversation with others in our church and learn about those in our church who are responsible for helping you grow in the Word, Church, and life in general. Due to the dinner there will be NO small groups in the evening.

Wednesday 25, 6:00 p.m.: We will be having a Passover Seder this evening. Please come early for the Seder itself and then we will stay with the adults and hear Micha Cohen from Jews for Jesus explain the different elements of the Seder to us. This should be an excellent evening of understanding our Christian heritage and the life of Christ. We will finish around 8:00 p.m.

March 28th 9a.m until 4p.m: There is a conference entitled "*Reset*" going to take place at Vineyard Community Church in Tri-County. This is a one day purity conference for teenagers in 7th-12th grades. There will be a main session for all then breakout sessions for guys, girls, jr. highers and sr. highers. The cost is \$20 per person and I will need to know if you plan on attending by March 15th. Go to www.resetconference.com for more information.



Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

March 1 - John & Ruthie Wallace
 March 8 - Jenny & Rob VanMeter & Justin
 March 15 - Judy, Amy, & Anna Wallace
 March 22 - Kathy & Dick Inloes & Joey
 March 29 - Larry & Linda Wallace & Oliver

One & Two Year Olds

March 1 - Mary & Stan Brown
 March 8 - Chris & Claire Metzger
 March 15 - Debbie Allen & Lauren Schwartz
 March 22 - Vicky & Rick Baker
 March 28 - Kim & Erin Gingrich

Kinderchurch

March 1 - Vicky Baker & Dorothy Hollowell
 March 8 - Barb & Brian Begley
 March 15 - Chris & Claire Metzger
 March 22 - Debbie Allen & Lauren Schwartz
 March 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

March 4

Menu: Turkey ala king, Honey Glazed Carrots, Applesauce, Rolls, Dessert
 Hosts: Deacons

March 11 - Pastor Bill's Birthday Dinner

Menu: Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Corn, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Ice Cream
 Hosts: Deaconesses

March 18

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

March 25

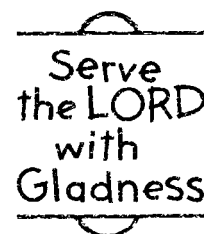
Menu: Passover Seder Dinner
 Hosts: Trustees

Reminder: Adults should contribute \$4.00 per person for the meal; the cost for children under 12 years old who eat at the "Hot Dog" table is \$1.25. If they chose to eat from the main table, the cost is \$2.00. Be sure to make your reservation on the Friendship Folder each Sunday.

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

March Greeters

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2009</h1>						
1 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:00 Women's Council 5:15 Youth of Praise 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration	2	3 9:30 MOPS Steering	4 5:00 ABW (canceled) 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana-PJ Night/Movie Night/ Staff Mtg 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	5 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Worship & Music 6:00 Upward Basketball 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	6 6:00 Upward Basketball	7 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering 9:00 Upward Basketball 4:00 Baby Shower for Claire Metzger
8 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Board of Missions 4:30 Diaconate 5:15 Youth of Praise 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration	9 11:00 Women's Book Club at Fairfield Lane Library	10 10:00 Holloway Circle 7:00 Abell Circle 7:00 Smith Circle	11 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana T&T Grand Prix/Lifeline 6:30 Celebration Ringers 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	12 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Board of Trustees 6:00 Upward Awards 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	13	14
15 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 WatchCare Dinner 5:15 Youth of Praise 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration	16	17 9:30 MOPS	18 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana - Cubbies & Sparks MatchboxRace 6:30 Lifeline 6:30 Celebration Ringers 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands	19 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	20	21 2:00 KeenAgers to Rotary's <i>Sound of Music</i>
22 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 AB Girls 4:30 C.E. Board 5:15 Youth of Praise 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration	23	24	25 6:00 Passover Seder Dinner w/Interpretation 8:00 Chancel Choir	26 8:30 Matthew 25 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	27	28 9:00 Junior Jam 9:00 <i>Reset</i> @ Vineyard fir CREW
29 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:15 Youth of Praise 6:00 KingsKids Presentation <i>Nic at Night</i>	30	31				



HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|--|-----|--|
| 1 - | Derek Hines | 13- | Elaine Tragesser | 24- | Lisa Witmer
Brian Martin
Jared Morris |
| 2 - | Edward Allen
Katie Ford | 14- | Christopher Arnold
Stephen Campbell
Charlotte Furginson | 25- | Ryan Inloes
Nick Wilson |
| 3 - | Adam Begley
Rich Hazelwood
Cameron Jenkins
Kelley Taylor | 15- | Oakley Wardlow | 26- | Bertha Campbell |
| 4 - | Jerri Lenehan | 16- | Rob Ruwe
Barbara Perkins-
Salcedo | 27- | Taylor Emenaker
Lee Trent Yates |
| 5 - | Jim Baker
Bruce Helton
Janet Messer
Anne Ruwe | 17- | Miranda Gabbard
Gary Hetterich
Emma Imhoff
Durb Tuley | 28- | Michael Shalloe |
| 6 - | Jim Cornett
Brandon Sapp | 18- | Hank Miller
Lisa Stanger
Jill Saylor | 29- | Josh Braun
Bob Stanger
Freida Tuley |
| 7 - | Taylor Schuermann | 19- | Paul Bryant
Jean Grimes | 30- | Chris Johnson
Danny Sparks
Katie Hoskins |
| 8 - | Barb Blevens
Bill Brantingham | 20- | Michelle Harris
Jim Yates | 31- | Ann Brown
Andrea Thomas
Craig Keller
Janice Russo
Buddy Wallin |
| 9 - | Lauryn Emenaker
Nancy Humbach
Chris Metzger
Keith Wallace | 21- | Riley Bowling
Heidi Martin | | |
| 11- | Betty Dulli
Mikayla Laney | 22- | Dwain Brewer
Pat Gingrich | | |
| 12- | Janet Hazelwood
Caitlin Jackson
Debbie Miller
Joey Sackenheim
Dale Titus
Dorothy Wallace | 23- | Kristin Fryer | | |

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 Flo Gill

Thank you for all the cards, prayers, and other expressions of sympathy at the time of homegoing of my sister, Lorna. You are all such a caring church family. It is truly a blessing to be counted as "one of you" as a church family and as God's family.

From Evelyn Mesler

The families of Myron Mesler and Kendra Schlichter thank you for your faithfulness praying for us over several months. December was an exceptionally difficult month. We appreciated the food, cards and phone calls during a busy Christmas season for everyone. Pastors Dennis and Bill were attentive friends and spiritual leaders. Their visits and prayers meant so much. God bless you all.

From Mike & Jill O'Hara

We want to thank everyone for your prayers, calls, and all the cards we received when Mike's mom, Cecilia O'Hara, passed away. We thank you for the delicious meat tray. We appreciate Pastor Bill and Jeremy's visits and calls during this time.

From John Raum (Friend of Jim Powell)

I can't thank you enough for your kind thoughts and prayers. I was totally overwhelmed by the card from your church members. The power of prayer can be a very strong force. Everything turned out well and I am on the road to recovery. Please express my thanks to the members of your congregation!

From Karen Schumm

Dear A.B. Girls, Thank you so very much for the beautiful throw. I love it! It's especially warm because it was made with love. You're all very special to me. Thanks for lunch!, Mrs. B. Blessings!



Free Tax Service

Provided by IRS approved tax preparers under the supervision of AARP Tax Aide. Bring last years Income Tax returns to First United Methodist Church on Ludlow Street between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our own **Naomi Hoskins** has served as a counselor in the program for many years, and is a local coordinator. For further information see Naomi Hoskins (863-1873).

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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