

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

May, 2009

Mother's Day Story-Wisdom

After 21 years of marriage, I discovered a new way of keeping alive the spark of love. A little while ago I had started to go out with another woman. It was really my wife's idea.

"I know that you love her," she said one day, taking me by surprise.

The other woman that my wife wanted me to visit was my mother. She had been a widow for 19 years, but the demands of my work and my three children had made it possible to visit her only occasionally. That night I called to invite her to go out for dinner and a movie.

"What's wrong, are you well?" she asked. My mother is the type of woman who suspects that a late night call or a surprise invitation is a sign of bad news.

"I thought that it would be pleasant to pass some time with you," I responded, "just the two of us."

She thought about it for a moment then said, "I would like that very much."

That Friday after work as I drove over to pick her up I was a bit nervous. When I arrived at her house, I noticed that she, too, seemed to be nervous about our date. She waited in the door with her coat on. She had curled her hair and was wearing the dress that she had worn to celebrate her last wedding anniversary. She smiled from a face that was as radiant as an angel's.

"I told my friends that I was going to go out with my son, and they were impressed," she said, as she got into the car. "They can't wait to hear about our meeting."

We went to a restaurant that, although not elegant, was very nice and cozy. My mother took my arm as if she were the First Lady. After we sat down, I had to read the menu. Her eyes could only read large print. Half way through the entree, I lifted my eyes and saw Mom sitting there staring at me. A nostalgic smile was on her lips.

"It was I who used to have to read the menu when you were small," she said.

"Then it's time that you relax and let me return the favor," I responded.

During the dinner we had an agreeable conversation, nothing extraordinary, but catching up on recent events of each other's lives. We talked so much that we missed the movie.

As we arrived at her house later she said, "I'll go out with you again, but only if you let me invite you." I agreed.

"How was your dinner date?" my wife asked when I got home.

"Very nice. Much more so than I could have imagined," I answered.

A few days later my mother died of a massive heart attack. It happened so suddenly that I didn't have a chance to do anything for her.

Some time later I received an envelope with a copy of a restaurant receipt from the same place mother and I had dined. An attached note said: "I paid this bill in advance. I was almost sure that I couldn't be there, but nevertheless I paid for two plates--one for you and the other for your wife. You will never know what that night meant for me. I love you."

At that moment I understood the importance of saying, in time: "I LOVE YOU" and giving our loved ones the time that they deserve ...

Yesterday is a canceled check.
Tomorrow is a promissory note.
Today is cash ... Spend it wisely.

—Selected

Young Women of Hope

There was no meeting in April, so the next meeting will be on May 17th after the morning worship service. We will each bring 2 dish towels to donate to the church kitchen.

–Marilyn Bowling, Nancy Whipple,
Mindy Hazelwood

ABW Ministry Miami Association Spring Rally

The Spring Rally for the ABW's Ministry Miami Association will be Saturday, May 2nd, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Camp Kirkwood. The program will be presented by Jeffery M. Gujjarlamudi, our Miami Association Scholarship Student. Jeffery is from South India and is enrolled at Winebrenner Theological Seminary. The cost for lunch is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. We will leave from church at 8:15 a.m. and return at 2:00 p.m. Transportation will be provided. Reservations are to be made with Lil Wilson (858-2335).

Joint Meeting For ABW Circles

All of our ladies are invited to attend the joint Circle dinner meeting on Tuesday, June 9th at 6:00 pm in the Family Center. We will enjoy a covered dish dinner and then have a program and installation of officers. Come and enjoy this time of fellowship.

Nancy Whipple, ABW president

May Missionaries of the Month:

Lebanon

Daniel & Sarah Chetti

Closed Country

Matthew & Lori Mann

Bible Book For May Hebrews

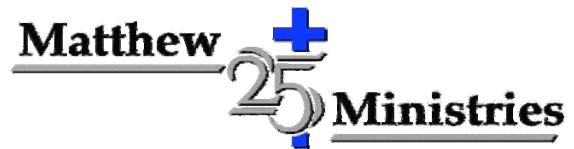
"I will remember their sins . . . no more."

Hebrews 10:17 (RSV)

The writer of Hebrews was sure that Jesus was the Savior. He said that God had spoken through the prophets, had given the law through Moses, and had made Aaron the high priest for the people's worship. But now, in Christ, God had spoken in a new and perfect way. Jesus made it possible for all people to draw near to God with confidence that their sins would be forgiven..

PRAY for the celebration of May Fellowship Day. Pray for a dynamic spiritual focus to be evident throughout the sessions of the American Baptist Biennial Convention.

–Madge Walters



The next scheduled Work Day at Matthew 25 will be Thursday, May 28nd. 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

Spring Trip To Oneida, KY

Ken Hendricks and Jerry Hampton will be making the spring pilgrimage to Oneida Baptist Institute on Monday, May 4th. The campus has approximately 450 teens grades 6 through 12 and are in need of all help possible. Please bring any good used clothing, coats, shoes, toys, etc. that you would like to donate to the building and place them in the coat room after April 19th. Please put the items in plastic trash bags and mark them for Oneida. (Please, because of storage problems - NO donations after Sunday, May 3rd.) **Anyone** is welcome to ride along with them on May 4th.



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The Relationship Principles of Jesus *40 Days of Love* April 26-May31

One of the teachers of the law came and asked Jesus, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" [Jesus responded]... "The most important one is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:28-31). This statement, recorded by Moses in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, came to be known as the *Sh'ma* (which literally means, "to hear"). It is the powerful confession of faith for the Jewish community, and was recited daily by the faithful followers of their covenant God.

In His answer to this teacher of the Law, Jesus identified two of the most significant principles for living as God's follower in this world in which we live. The ancient Jewish community was constantly challenged to practice the first requirement to love God with all of their heart, mind, soul and strength. But it took Jesus to complete the formula: "...and to love your neighbor as yourself." For an ancient people culturally committed to hospitality, this should not have been a such a giant undertaking, but Jesus understood that love was a matter of the heart.

One might be able to follow a list of rules and regulations to give a hint about how successful a person was in loving his/her God. But this check-listing could be easily manipulated, disguising a heart that was not in relationship with God. To love your neighbor as you love yourself, however, is a totally different matter.

Truly loving others often required going the extra mile, speaking the truth in love, practicing patience, expressing kindness, actively forgiving others when being wronged, and finding ways to love beyond selfishness.

As part of a **40-Day Spiritual Growth Campaign** from Purpose Driven Ministries, our worship services April 26-May 31 will explore some of the challenges of loving God and others more effectively. In his book, *The Relationship Principles of Jesus*, author Tom Hollady commented: "Nothing matters more than relationships—and no one understands them better than Jesus." During these 40 Days, we will be engaged in a study of what Jesus had to say about our relationships. In addition, we will explore the most familiar chapter in the Bible teaching us how to love

others more completely— 1Corinthians 13. Read a portion of this text in a new way from Peterson's *The Message*:

*Love never gives up
Love cares more for others than self
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have
Love doesn't strut
Doesn't have a swelled head
Doesn't force itself on others
Isn't always "me first"
Doesn't fly off the handle
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others
Doesn't revel when others grovel
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth
Puts up with anything
Trusts God always
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.*

Most of us use the word "love" with little thought about what it really means. We say we love vacations, a new car, a great meal, a new adventure movie, or a new baby. Love is easy to talk about; but so much more difficult to practice in the way God had in mind.

I hope you will take the challenge and be faithful about joining us during these **40 Days of Love** as we attempt to discover ways to love the Lord our God with our whole hearts, and to love others as we love ourselves. May it be so that God will reward each of us with His presence during these days of challenge and joy.

Serving our Lord with all my soul, mind, and strength, and you with all of my heart. Pastor

KeenAger May Outing

The KeenAgers will be going to Dayton to see *Titanic*, Thursday, May 21st. Please watch the weekly bulletin for further details.

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



Church Family Picnic

Sunday
May 24th
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Holloway Park

Fish Fry, Hot Dogs, & Drinks provided
Bring 1 covered dish and dessert
Children's activities
Adult fellowship time

Budget Status Report

The Month of March, 2009

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$61,085
Offerings	<u>57,588</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$3,497)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$60,980
Offerings	<u>57,588</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$3,392)

The Year Through March, 2009

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$187,597
Offerings	<u>166,333</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$21,264)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$191,611
Offerings	<u>166,333</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$25,278)

–The Board Of Trustees

Tisha Patton Retires

Tisha, our church pianist for several years has announced her intention to retire effective June 7th. We have come to know and love Tisha, Jim and Iris over these years and her departure will certainly create a void in our music ministries. From a musical standpoint her technical ability (meaning she can sit down and play anything!) has been a blessing to our choir and worship team ministries, as well as, to the countless soloists and groups that she has provided accompaniment for. As much as her technical ability, we have appreciated her interpretation and spirit of ministry; carefully providing just the right accompaniments whether it be a song of deep intimate worship and meditation or a bold and energized song of praise that gives honor and glory to our Lord Jesus Christ. We have truly been blessed by her ministry!

To honor her contributions to First Baptist we will recognize Tisha during the morning worship service on Sunday, June 7th. We know you will want to be present that Sunday. In the meantime, we know many of you will want to offer Tisha personal notes of thanks and appreciation. Let's get those cards and pens out and shower her with love and best wishes as she concludes her ministry with us. Cards and letters of appreciate may be given to Roger Chamberlain, Mike Wallick or Laurin Sprague to be given to Tisha on the 7th.

God bless you, Tisha, and your family, and know we have appreciated your friendship and musicianship, and will be praying for you as you enter yet another new chapter in your life.

–The Music/Worship Committee

An Opportunity For All



Saturday morning, May 2nd, at 8:30 a.m. we will gather at the church for our Annual Spring Clean-Up of our grounds. Weeds need to be pulled, shrubs, trimmed, flowers planted, mulch spread, litter picked up, etc., etc! There is a job for every one. Please bring hand spades, weed eaters, rakes, blowers, pruning loppers, shovels, pruning shears, etc. Come when you can, stay as long as your schedule will allow. We will be here from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Thank you for using your time and talents to beautify the Lord's house.

–The Trustees



Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



Silent Dinners

The Silent Dinner for May will be held on Friday evening, May 1st at Florence Mall. See you there!

Interpreter Schedule for May

May 3 Jo Manson
May 10 Jo Manson
May 17 Jo Manson
May 24 Jo Manson
May 31 Jo Manson

Maria Miller
Maria Miller
Maria Miller
Maria Miller
Maria Miller

Happy Birthday



May 9 Mary Ella Hudson

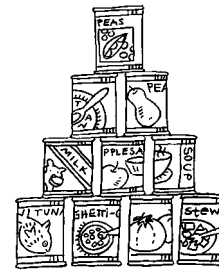
—Maria Miller
Director of Deaf Ministries

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.

Linda Gibbs
50 Horizons Dr
Hamilton, OH 45013

Kathy Reynolds
1410 Mallard's Cove Drive # 3201
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246



FOOD DRIVE

Letter Carriers' Food Drive

With unemployment around double digits in some local communities, Shared Harvest Foodbank faces a major challenge this year in providing sufficient food for families who are seeking help from local food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters.

You can do something to help. Members of the National Association of Letter Carriers throughout Butler County are preparing for the largest one-day food drive in America. The National "Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive" takes place Saturday, May 9th.

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

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

Stamp Out Hunger is the largest one-day food drive in America. Butler Countians contributed over 67,000 pounds of food in the 2008 campaign. The food is distributed during summer months when children in need are home from school and parents are faced with providing additional meals for them. God bless you for your generosity.



Serve City Dinner

There is an opportunity for service as we provide another meal for the Serve City Shelter on Friday, May 29th, at 6:00 p.m. You may sign up at the table in the connector by May 10th. We are in need of people who can come to serve, prepare food, and/or make a monetary donation. This event is sponsored by the Women's Ministry Council. Thank you for your help and support.



Awana May Calendar

6th - Regular Club Night
13th - Last night to finish handbook sections
20th - Awana Fun Night
27th - Awana Awards Night

Awana Fair

The Awana Fair will be held Wednesday, May 20th during club time. Thanks to all who have purchased items to contribute to the final Awana store. It's been a great help! If anyone would still like to contribute, just drop items off to the church office or to Children's Directors' office. We will also be in need of some snack items for our clubbers, parents, and helpers to munch on, so if you would like to donate something for the snack bar, that would be appreciated as well! We would like to ask that all participating clubbers please bring a snack to share at the snack table. The snack can be whatever you choose—a healthy one or a not-so-healthy one. Let's see what interesting things turn up to nibble on!

Awards

Awana Awards Nite will be Wednesday, May 27th. The entire church is invited to celebrate with us the accomplishments of all of our clubbers! The awards will be followed by a little reception in the Family Center.

While the Awana year is drawing to a close, we are already thinking about our new year beginning this fall. Our vision is to increase the Awana staff by nearly double. By adding to the staff, the workload is reduced for everyone, therefore making the experience that much more enjoyable for all! Here is a list of positions available, followed by some job descriptions.

- ***handbook listeners**-ages Kindergarten through 6th grade (can choose age groups)
- ***Sparks leaders**-ages Kindergarten through 2nd grade
- ***T and T leaders**-ages 3rd grade through 6th grade
- ***Bookkeepers**--mainly for Sparks

We can always use more "**listeners**" for all age groups. This involves listening to the children's verses, signing off on completed sections, and helping those who did not get to practice during the week. This is somewhat of a part-time position, as it allows listeners to return to the service if they so desire. By increasing our listening staff, this allows for a quicker handbook time, as well as more time for whole-group lessons and recreation.

Leaders work together to run the opening meeting, organize listening groups, keep track of birthdays, manage the kids, and plan events (such as kick-off, store nights, Grand Prix, fair, and award night). Working in groups makes the planning go very easily.

Bookkeepers keep track of sections completed, help with ordering supplies, and record and collect weekly dues. Bookkeepers are really essential for beginning of the year registrations, new books/uniforms, and end-of-the-year records.

If you are interested in serving in some capacity, but are unsure about "how it goes", please do not hesitate to ask. You could also come down to our AWANA program and do some observations to see how things work. The current staff is fabulous, and we all work together so well. So, do not be overwhelmed by the job descriptions. Everyone does little parts, and when combined, we have a great program. But, when we add more hands and hearts, it will be even better!

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

Congratulations!!

Alexander Sprague won Hamilton Schools' Elementary Chess Tournament in March. Last year in came in second place, but was able to win this year. He is playing in the Queen City Chess Tournament at Paul Brown Stadium on Saturday, April 18th.

Alexander also was a qualifier to the Ohio Geo Bee competition in Mansfield, Ohio on April 3rd. This is sponsored by National Geographic and tests students on their knowledge of global geography. He is the first student from Hamilton to ever compete at the state level.

Congratulations to **Megan Miller** who on May 3rd is (was) inducted into the National Honor Society. Megan is a junior at Lakota West High School. Megan was also appointed to serve on the West Band Leadership Team for next year where she will lead the clarinet section for Marching Band.

Congratulations to **Emily Miller** who was recently awarded a district honor (6 counties) for her essay about teachers and Martin Luther King. She was chosen by Lakota Plains facility to submit her winning entry for the 7th grade class. Also Emily plays fast pitch softball for the Junior High team where she is the catcher.



VBS 2008 July 13 - 17

Studio Go!

VBS 2009 is based on a game show that shares real teamwork, real service and real FUN! With games, challenges and music our children will be introduced to Bible stories that encourage them to GO LEAD, GO RISK, GO TELL, GO OBEY, and GO SERVE! This year's theme is something that every child, no matter how old, can relate to - especially when you consider all of the game shows and reality quizzes that promote winning and competition. STUDIO GO is relevant and will allow us to reach out and teach children that everyone is a winner when they accept Jesus and that God does not require anyone of us to have special abilities, rather that we just trust in Him.

So clear your calendars for July 13th - 17th, and find a shiny tie - we thought that all staff members could wear a "game host" style tie to show who they are - we need you to come on down and help us open the STUDIO GO box this summer. We plan to have a decorating day sometime in May to get things rolling before summer hits us.

4th July 2009

Thinking towards the summer, we can almost smell the BBQ's and the suntan lotion. A lot of hard work went into our 4th July Parade participation last year and we would like to be involved again this year. Walking through the crowded streets with the church group, hearing our kids sing about Jesus' love was such a special time. We were able to pass out several flyers advertising VBS and other programs and heard through some families that they came to VBS as a result. If you feel that this is something you can do, whether it is prayer, making flyers, decorating, or walking amongst the crowd then let us know - we have a job just for you!

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

Wild and Wacky Wednesdays (aka WWW)

Wild and Wacky Wednesdays (aka WWW) will begin on Wednesday, June 10th from 6:30 - 8:00 in the Kinderchurch room. Please join us for a variety of activities throughout the summer.

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

Totally Terrific Tuesdays (aka TTT) are tentatively scheduled to begin on Tuesday, June 16th. Proposed dates are as follows: June 16th, June 23rd, June 30th, July 21st, July 28th, August 4th, and August 11th. We will be off the week before VBS and the week of VBS. If you are interested in chaperoning any of these events, please let Brandi know!

Speaking of VBS, we will begin setting up the week of July 6th, with VBS being held the week of July 13th, from 9 am to 12 pm. If you are interested in volunteering with VBS in any way, please be on the lookout for a signup sheet soon!



A big, huge, wonderful, grateful, thank you to all those who made Nic at Night possible. The children delighted in performing with the black lights and all the choreography and the adults taking roles in the musical. They are precious children and I enjoy working with each one so much. We hope that the mystery of salvation available by faith to everyone was communicated in a meaningful yet entertaining way. We are so reluctant to let our 6th grade graduates go but hope they will join the youth choir and help lead worship and praise on Sunday morning. Good-bye and congratulations to Alexander Sprague, Samuel Wallace, Matthew Riczko and Kasey Jenkins. We'll be looking for you in the youth choir. Thank you to the following indispensable people: Debbie Allen, Lauren Schwartz, Todd Keith, John and Cheryl Motzer, Jeremy and Aleesha Spence, Bob Arnold, Earl Gabbard, Rod Anderson, Bill Imhoff, Irene Schilling, Karen Buchanan, Roger Chamberlain, Laurin Sprague, Chris Metzger. Thank you, parents, for providing treats each week and for supporting and encouraging your children in this venture. There were 10 new King's Kids this year who sang solos and memorized parts for the first time and did so wonderfully. After a summer break we're looking forward to returning with another Christmas musical.

-Ruth Metzger

National Nursing Home Week

May 10-16, 2009

Perhaps most of us remember the earlier days of the Nursing Homes. Maybe they were not too well lighted. They were more than likely not free of the unpleasant odor of humans who could not take care of themselves and the caretakers were probably not too well trained and too few. The homes were understaffed and the rooms were mostly crowded.

Those conditions have changed, at least in this section of Ohio. Most of the homes are clean and bright. Most have well trained staff and medical personnel. Meals, while not exactly home cooking, are directed to be nourishing and no doubt, more healthy than we would ourselves choose.

The people who live there are of the same cut as the ones of earlier generations. They are Moms and Dads. They are Grandpa and Grandma. They are brothers and sisters and Aunts and Uncles. They used to be neighbors and people we saw and knew in Church. Sometimes, they are very young. Almost all would rather not be there, but at home as they used to know it. Someone else tells them when to eat, when to sleep and when to take their medicine. They have lost the control of their lives, even the little things.

Almost all share two other feelings, at least at first. They are homesick and they are lonely. How can they be lonely with all those people in one building? They long to see someone they know and can review their earlier lives shared with loved ones.

For many, memory tends to slip away, and names are forgotten. But a friendly face and a loving touch can make a sad face become bright with smiles, for someone has come to see them. Someone has come to see them! Someone has come to see them!

How long has it been since you visited a Nursing home to visit with your relatives or friends? Or how long has it been since you visited a "home" because somebody's Grandpa or Grandma is there who hasn't had a visitor for a long, long time?

Maybe you could squeeze in a visit to a Nursing Home on this special week. Visit someone you know and some that you don't know. Most would be thrilled to see you. Most would be glad for a chat and a prayer! Try it, you might find that your spirit will be lifted! Theirs most certainly will be!



Tickle Me Pink Luncheon

Saturday, May 16, 2009

11:00 AM

Wear something pink and be made joyful by

◆ Holy Humor ◆

*** Kim Werk, the Costume Lady ***

♥ Our younger ladies on the pink carpet ♥

Lunch by Lisa Dulli and friends

**Tickets may be purchased at the table in the connector beginning April 19:
\$8 adults, \$3 children 12 and under,
\$15 families living in the same household**

Sponsored by the Women's Ministry Council



"The One enthroned in heaven sits and laughs."

Psalms 2:4



We Are Looking For You In Sunday School!

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

Congratulations to those who had perfect Sunday School attendance for January, February, and March, 2009.

Nursery

Ruth Gaskins

Beginner

Emma Imhoff

Kindergarten

Logan Gipson

Hannah Imhoff

Primary

Nellie Roberts

Middler/Junior

Lisa Dulli

Lauren Imhoff

Senior High

Jeremy Spence

Aleesha Spence

TNT

Chris Metzger

Homebuilders

Brian Begley

Sandra Imhoff

Bruce Soldano

FOCUS

Mike Gipson

Jean Grimes

Paul Grimes

Loretta Hampton

Everett Hoskins

Dolly Houser

Bill Roberts

Keystone

Ron Gerth

Kathy Chambers

Ray Chambers

LaVerne Gerth

Evelyn Maddox

Jack Maddox

Mary Petry

Walter Petry

Fred Schilling

Connie Taylor

Carpenter's Hands

Robert Williams

Office

Dennis Metzger



This summer's mission trip will be to Richwood, West Virginia, July 19th through the 25th. Richwood lies east of Charleston, WV and is one of the most impoverished areas in the nation. Our mission team will be working alongside local residents and mission teams from California and Virginia. Plans are to do home repair, roof homes, assist with a sports camp for children and to possibly do a women's ministry that week. This trip is intergenerational and will include participants from all age groups. More information can be found about this mission trip at www.worldservants.org.

We are excited about this opportunity to serve these people and to fulfill the Great Commission. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please see Mike Braun or Laurin Sprague.

"Something's Afoot"

...a musical spoof that takes a satirical jab at the Agatha Christie "who dun it?" murder mysteries.

Presented by Greater Hamilton Civic Theater
Parrish Auditorium
Miami University Hamilton

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday - April 30, May 1, &
2 - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 3 - 2:00 p.m.

Keyboard: **Bob Borden**

Tickets: call 737-PLAY

Adults - \$15, Sr. Citizens/Students - \$14

Additional Thank You!!

From Bernie Griesinger

Thank you so much for all your cards and prayers while recovering from hip surgery. I really don't recommend breaking your hip or anything else while on vacation even though it was in Florida. All is going well now.



Sunday School Promotion Day!

Sunday School Promotion Day will be during the last part of the Sunday School hour on May 31st for all children completing grades 6 through 12. On June 7th, these students should report directly to their new class. All other school age children will be promoted in September at the beginning of the new school year.

—Barb Arnold
Sunday School Superintendent



Kirkwood Camp Schedule 2009

ABC/OHIO summer camps at Kirkwood will be:

- June 14-19 - Junior Missions Camp (Gr. 4-6) \$245.00
Director: Ken Atchison
- June 19-20 - Beginners' Camp #1 (K-2) \$95.00
Director: Kim Flach (Registration includes parent)
- June 28-July 3 - Junior High (Gr. 7-9) \$245.00
Director: Linda Miller
- July 5-10 - Senior High (Gr. 9-12) \$245.00
Director: Jean Sharp (Judson College)
- July 5-10 - Guitar Camp (Gr. 7-12) \$255.00
Director: Ben Kelly
- July 19-22 -New Adventure #1 (Gr. 3-4) \$160.00
Director: Tim Lee
- July 24-25 - Beginners' Camp #2 (K-2) \$95.00
Director: Kim Flach (Registration includes parent)
- July 26-31 - Paintball Camp (Gr. 6-124) \$460.00
Director: Jay Williams
- July 26-31 - Extreme Camp (Gr.7-12) \$390.00
Director: Jeremy Spence

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

For additional information or registration forms, contact Jan Smith, 844-2918 or see her at church.

-Jan Smith
Camp Coordinator

On Tuesday, April 21st we held our eighth meeting of our MOPS year. We welcomed a total of 23 moms with 3 new moms visiting our group. God is so good! Our meeting consisted of a presentation by the Hamilton AAA office on local trips that we can enjoy this summer with our children. That was followed by craft projects we can do with our little ones which was presented by Sandra Imhoff. All the moms really enjoyed socializing with each other along with the meeting topics.

On Friday, May 1st we will hold an extra special mom's only outing as we venture to the annual Vera Bradley outlet sale which is held in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Preregistration tickets are \$5. If you are interested in attending this event please let me know as soon as possible. We will also hold a mom's only evening of Bunco on Thursday, May 7th from 7 - 9. For those of you who are familiar with the game of Bunco know this will be a fun evening!

Our last meeting for the 2008-09 year will be Tuesday, May 19th. At that time we will see some of our moms graduate and reflect on where we have been the past year. We will also have our summer events planned.

Even though our year will be coming to a close we will soon begin the process of planning for next year. Please be in prayer for our current and upcoming steering members, mentors, Moppet workers and for those moms who attend and those who have yet to attend. May our MOPS ministry continue to enrich the lives of moms and draw them in a closer relationship with Him.

Enjoying the Adventure with Him-
Elise Martin, Coordinator

Attention all Moppet workers and office staff. In place of our annual Moppet appreciation luncheon we will be hosting a breakfast in your honor.

When: Tuesday, May 19th
(during our regular MOPS meeting)

Where: Breakfast goodies will be available
In the Narthex for you to enjoy!

Why: In appreciation for your dedication and service to our MOPS ministry





From The Heart Of Marilyn

College Corner

E-Mail From God

Have I Got A Plan For You!

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

Dear Child,

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

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

Your Trail Guide,
God

—Serving in His name,
Marilyn Bowling
College Coordinator



Alex Thiel made The Ohio State University's Engineering School's Dean's List for Winter Quarter. Alex is studying Manufacturing Systems Engineering.



May 7, 2008



Men's Soft Ball Schedule (First Half of Season)

April 14	# 4 @	8:50 p.m. vs. Paducah
April 21	# 3 @	8:50 p.m. vs. 1st Church Green
April 28	# 4 @	7:40 p.m. vs. Ham. Chris. Ctr.
May 5	# 4 @	7:40 p.m. vs. Fairfield Comm.
May 12	# 4 @	8:50 p.m. vs. Ham. Chris. Ctr.
May 19	# 4 @	6:30 p.m. vs. 1st Church Green
May 26	# 4 @	6:30 p.m. vs. Indian Springs

—Jeremy Spence

Wright State University Musical presented by the Musical Theater Department

“TITANIC”

Festival Playhouse, Creative Arts Center
Wright State University Campus
Dayton, Ohio

Drew Helton in the role of Isador Straus,
the owner of Macy's

May 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 28, 29 - 8:00 p.m.
May 17, 24, 31 - 3:00 p.m.
May 20 - 7:00 p.m.
May 23, 30 - 3:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

Group rates: 10 or more Adults - \$17

Seniors over 60/Students through college - \$15

Non-group rates: \$2 more for each category

No group rates for afternoon matinees. This is the Premier performance of this musical in the Dayton area.

Other Wright State students in the cast from Butler County are: **Zach Cossman**, **Lindsay Flick**, and **Alex Horton** from Fairfield HS, and **Zach Brown** from Edgewood HS.

For further information, contact the Heltons @ 988-6814.



Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

May 3 - Kathy & Dick Inloes & Joey
 May 10 - Cheryl & John Motzer
 May 17 - Jenny & Rob VanMeter & Justin
 May 24 - Debbie Gibson & Maddie Hall
 May 31 - Jerri & Brad Begley

One & Two Year Olds

May 3 - Linda & Emily Cain
 May 10 - Ruthie & John Wallace
 May 17 - Mary & Stan Brown
 May 24 - Aleesha Spence
 May 31 - Kim & Erin Gingrich

Kinderchurch

May 3 - Vicky Baker & Dorothy Hollowell
 May 10 - Barb Keith, Heather & Lauren
 May 17 - Vicky Baker & Dorothy Hollowell
 May 24 - Ruthie & John Wallace
 May 31 - Debbie Allen & Lauren Schwartz



Attention All Morning Worship Child Care Workers

Just a reminder that all child care workers should try and trade with someone on their schedule sheets when something comes up and they are not able to keep their scheduled Sunday. Also, it would be extremely helpful if child care workers would be in their scheduled room by 10:15 a.m. to help with the transition time between Sunday School and Morning Worship time. Several of our Sunday School teachers need to be relieved for choir and the adult worship service. When you have difficulty finding someone with whom to trade, please call the following Child Care Coordinators:

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

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



Wednesday Family Dinners

May 6

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

May 13

Menu: Spaghetti and Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert
 Hosts: TNT (Seekers)

May 20

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

May 27

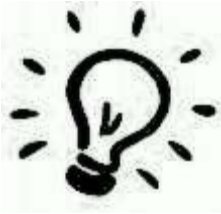
Menu: Chicken and Noodles, Honey Glazed Carrots, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert
 Hosts: Keystone II

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.

May Greeters

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



Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

He Said What?!

Most of us, if not all, have said the phrase above at one time or another. It is a statement of disbelief, confusion, excitement, and startling at all the same time. Typically we feel disbelief first and can't believe what was told to us and it obviously can't be true. Or we think I believe it was said but that can't be what should have been said. Are you tracking with me?

Well, this past week I caught myself saying those words. No, I wasn't talking with a teenager or another person when it happened but instead I was reading a story. The plot was thickening as a whole group of people were sandwiched between a huge body of water on one side and their enemy, which they just left their territory, racing towards them ready to not give up without a fight. (Hopefully you are able to picture this scene now in your mind.)

The group of people look to their leader for some advice, who wouldn't, and their leader comes back with these words; "I'll fight for you don't worry, just be still about things, okay." Now for a unison, "He said what?" Yep, that is exactly what this leader told his group of followers, trust me I'll take care of things. Most of us, and just like this group probably was, would have gone nuts and wanted to complain and be assured of what was going to take place. The story doesn't give all the details, wish it would, instead it leaves us with the just be still note. Believe it or not this was truly the only option, and best option, the group of people had. They obeyed their leader and their enemy was destroyed just a day or so later. Amazing isn't? Do you want to know the book's title? Could that be your story?

Some of you aren't interested and others would like that be your story. Your "enemy" is all around you and you do not know what to do. Well let me tell you the story and maybe that will help. We read this story in Exodus 14. Yes, the group of people are the Israelites, the enemy is Egypt, and the leader is God. God is the one who told the Israelites to just be still. Amazing!

I never noticed that before but it struck me this time around. It was as if God was telling me to just be still right now and watch Him work. In the midst of trial, problems, issues, life, it is hard to be still yet I am becoming more and more convinced that is what God wants. May you and I learn what it means to be still. Be still when things are going well, be still when things are not, and be still when God commands us so that we will know, see, and experience the great things

God has in stored.

Being amazed by God's story one page at a time,
Jeremy

Upcoming Events:

Compassion Child: Just a reminder that we need to be doing a little better job at supporting David, our Compassion child. Please put your money in the bucket down in the CREW room each week so that we can take care of him and his family. If you have any questions please see Jeremy.

Lifeline: Don't forget about Lifeline each Wednesday starting at 6:45pm. We are learning about how the media we interact with affects us. Come learn from each and the Word of God.

Sunday Nights at 5:15pm: Youth Choir is canceled until fall. See Laurin Sprague for more information and to sign up for next season.

Small Groups: Don't forget to be a part of your small group each and every Sunday night at 6:00.

Spirit Song Tickets: Once again we will be heading out to King's Island for Spirit Song this July 10th through 12th. The cost for the three days is going to be \$50 per person, regardless if you have a pass or not. All \$50 will be due sometime soon so we can get better seats than last year. Money will not be refunded unless we can find someone to go for you or in extreme cases. Please be thinking about whether you can attend and start saving. If any adults want to go as leaders please see me. We will be camping out on Friday night but you will go home Thursday evening. See Jeremy Spence for more information.

Summer Camp: I strongly encourage everyone to attend a summer camp this summer. It is a great experience to get away and just focus on your relationship with God and others for a week. Please check out the schedule for Kirkwood but also know there are other camps around that you may want to take part of. Young Life goes to camp each summer and may be an option for you. If you have any questions please see me.

Dates for the Summer Calendar:

June 6-7: Formal Night at church

June 10: First night for new CREW members

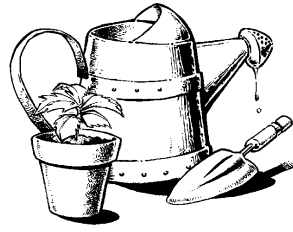
June 14: Baccalaureate Service in the morning

July 13-17: VBS here at Church

July 19-25: Mission Trip to Richwood, West Virginia

Still to be planned: 30 Hour Famine will happen this summer sometime. Keep a look out for dates, times, and activities.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2009</h1>					1	2 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering 8:15 ABW Spring Rally 8:30 Spring Clean-Up Day
3 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:45 Women's Council 5:15 Youth of Praise 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 CREW Small Groups	4 5:30 Spring Trip to Oneida	5 9:30 MOPS Steering 7:40 Men's Softball #4	6 5:00 ABW Meeting 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Club 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	7 National Day of Prayer! 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Music & Worship	8	9 Letter Carriers' "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive
10 Mother's Day 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	11 11:00 WMC Book Club	12 10:00 Holloway Circle 7:00 Abell Circle 7:00 Smith Circle 8:50 Men's Softball #4	13 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	14 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Board of Trustees	15	16 11:00 Women's Ministry Council <i>Tickle Me Pink</i>
17 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 AB Girls 4:30 Diaconate 5:15 Youth of Praise 6:00 Evening Celebration	18	19 9:30 MOPS 6:30 Men's Softball #4	20 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Fun Night 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	21 9:30 Ladies Bible Study KeenAgers to Dayton to see <i>Titanic</i>	22	23
24 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:00 Church Picnic @ Holloway Park	25 Memorial Day! Church Offices Closed	26 6:30 Men's Softball #4	27 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Awards Night 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	28 8:30 Matthew 25 9:30 Ladies Bible Study	29 5:00 Women's Ministry Council to Serve City	30 Wedding of Katie Buchanan and Bryan Simpson
31 9:15 Sunday School Promotion 10:30 Worship 4:30 CE Board 5:15 Youth of Praise 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 CREW Small Groups						



MAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

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.



First Baptist Church
1501 Pyramid Hill Boulevard
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
Phone: 513-868-1412

Personal Notes

From Peggy Avey

Thank you for your support during my recent surgery and recovery. Your prayers, cards, phone calls, visits from Pastor Dennis and Bill and the encouraging words you spoke to me at services were so very much appreciated. There were additional issues prior to surgery and on-going problems during recovery. Recovery has been much harder and gone on much longer than I had anticipated. I am so thankful, however, for the prognosis I received from the doctors and feel very blessed that Dick and I are members of such a loving church family.

From LaVerne Bradley and family

Thank you to the congregation of First Baptist Church for your prayers, your cards, and your visits during the passing of our loved one, Bob Bradley.

From Gloria and Mike Faber

Thank you for holding mom (Edith Sandlin) and our family up to the Lord in mom's final journey. Your prayers gave us strength and the celebration of mom's life gave us comfort. We thank God every day that we remember you.

From Dr. John Jicha (Friend and alum of Dennis Dudley)

I just wanted to thank you for your kindness during this difficult time. Your thoughts and prayers are very much appreciated.

From Lucille Lancaster

Thank you so much for all your prayers, cards, your loving concern, and visits by Pastor Bill for my daughter, Patti Gerhardt, also for your prayerful concern and cards

for my sister, Lorene Ozsvath, during her surgery for cancer. God does hear and answers prayer performing His miracles of healing for both of these, my bred ones. I don't know what I would do without you always there when the need is great. God loves you all and so do I.

From Nikki Ward (family of Heather Bostic)

Would just like to thank everyone at your church who kept Heather Bostic in their thoughts and prayers. It meant so much to our family. Her surgery was successful and she is doing good. Thanks again. God bless you!

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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