

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

June, 2009

"Let There Be Light: And There Was Light" by Dr. Steve Turner

My wife Judi and I have had the wonderful opportunity to visit some of the most magnificent cathedrals in Europe. Every year countless tourists enter into their massive doors to be enveloped in a spirit of reverence and awe. Almost immediately upon entering, you are overwhelmed with a spirit of the presence of holiness and your attention is directed to the amazing stained glass windows. We were fortunate to visit the cathedral in Tralee, Ireland, when the choir was practicing. Their voices still fill my soul as I remember how the angelic sounds echoed throughout that massive cathedral. When we entered Salisbury Cathedral in England, I saw several people sitting or kneeling in pews with heads bowed in prayer. There was an enormous pipe organ in the front of the cathedral, but I was mesmerized by the amazing stained glass windows that seemed to be everywhere and allowed streams of colored light to flow into the dimness of the interior. The fact that people took time out of their weekday to visit the cathedral to pray reconfirmed my faith in the power of God throughout the world.

When you visit the cathedrals of Europe, you begin to think about their history and what each withstood over centuries plagued by war. I especially remember Coventry Cathedral in England. It was bombed by the Germans in 1940-1941 and now is just a shell of its former magnificence, as only the walls remain. But as I stood in its interior, and imagined the bombs dropping from above, I could feel that the presence of the Lord was still in this sacred place. They have built a new cathedral next to the remains but have decided to keep those remains standing. It reminds us all that despite the devastation of evil that exists in our world, those who love Christ with an undeterred devotion will endure and build and re-build because of their undying faith and hope in their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

When the new sanctuary was built at First Baptist, I was immediately taken by the beautiful stained glass windows. Each Sunday I find myself attracted to their beauty and craftsmanship. How must the craftsman have felt as he created the glass and placed the pieces together, knowing the holy and spiritual commission he had been given? How must he have felt as he stood

back and examined his finished task? Did he wonder if it was worthy in God's eyes of the amazing assignment he had been given? Could he have ever known that his work would make its way to a place called Hamilton, Ohio, where it would bless so many lives?

For me these windows are so much more than mere glass, so much more than a way to make our sanctuary more beautiful. No matter what the weather is outside, there is a light that seems to come from the window of Christ. As I cast my eyes to that window each Sunday, I truly know what Christ meant when he said in John 8:12, *"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."*

We as Christians live in a world that is filled with the darkness of evil and desperation. What a blessing it is to know in our very souls that whatever pain, disappointment and confusion we are struggling with in our lives, we can come to a place where the light of Christ can uplift us in the fellowship, the music, the pulpit and yes-even from a magnificent stained glass window that looks down on all of us.

-Dr. Steve Turner



Deuteronomy 5:16



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 p.m. 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

June Missionaries of the Month:

India

David & Elizabeth Perkins

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

Nepal

Charles & Carole Sydnor

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

Bible Book For June 1 Chronicles

"He will be the one to build a temple for me . . . "
I Chronicles 17:12 (TEV)

I Chronicles in part relates the same events as II Samuel, but from a different viewpoint. It contains the story of David, prefaced with nine chapters of genealogies. The genealogies cover the period from

Adam to the Jews' return to captivity. Repetition means importance. It is a caution not to neglect this part of the Bible.

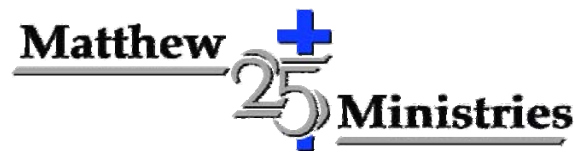
PRAY that American Baptists become actively concerned with the violence that surrounds and penetrates the family. Pray for volunteers that serve in various fields of American Baptist mission work.

—Madge Walters

Young Women of Hope

On Sunday, May 17th, four of our girls and two leaders headed to Wright State University to see the *Titanic*. It was fantastic!! We also made a donation of dish towels to the church kitchen. The next meeting will be on June 21st after the morning worship service.

—Marilyn Bowling, Nancy Whipple,
Mindy Hazelwood



The next scheduled Work Day at Matthew 25 will be Thursday, June 25th. We will leave the church at the usual time, 8:30 a.m. Bring your sack lunch and beverage and be prepared for a good day of work and fellowship.

—Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham

June 14, 2009



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To Be An Inviting People... A Summer of Invitation

It may have been a day similar to this one—the sun bright; a breeze blowing; a day of promise and hope; a day of beginnings. Jesus may have stood on the deck outside the place where he was staying, coffee cup in hand, anticipating what the day might bring.

His cousin, John, had been preaching near the Jordan where people responded to his challenge to get their hearts right with God. They followed their confession and repentance with baptism—a public symbol of the spiritual cleansing that had taken place deep in their hearts. But the fiery preaching of the prophet had another effect as well—hearts were becoming prepared for the arrival of God’s Messiah, the “*lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world*” (John 1:29).

As Jesus left His home that day, seeking the growing crowds of the curious, things would never be the same. His ministry was about to be launched in earnest, and people would be changed. It all began with an invitation. You know the familiar text in John:

“...the two disciples [John and Andrew] followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi, where are you staying?” “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour” (John 1:37-39).

In the verses that follow, the operational word is “**invite**”—one person discovering the wonder of Jesus, inviting another to experience the same joy. And one by one they came: John and James coming together; Andrew bringing Peter; Philip bringing Nathanael (Bartholomew). Then, added to their numbers were the names we all know—Matthew; Thomas; James, son of Alphaeus; Simon the zealot; Judas, son of James; and Judas Iscariot.

Shift scenes. And chapters (John 4). Jesus takes His men into new territory, literally, and into an old prejudice among a people shunned by the committed Jew. There, in this despised Samaritan place, Jesus sends His men into town to buy lunch (in itself a soul-stretching experience). While He awaits their return, He meets her—a Samaritan; a woman; an outcast, trying her best just to get by, tarnished by a morally-challenged lifestyle. In the encounter, she comes to know the Messiah deep in her heart. For the first time in years, she found someone who accepted and loved her for herself—no other strings attached. The text:

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” They came out of the town and made their way toward him” (John 4:28-30).

Before the night was over, John offers this report:

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony...” (John 4:39).

A changed life. A testimony. A willingness to share the truth of a heart melted by understanding and love. And an invitation: “*Come meet the man who changed my life.*”

It is important that we not underestimate the power of the invitation. In a number of conversations among our leadership over the last several years, we have agreed that First Baptist would like to do a better job in attracting, retaining, and assimilating people into our worship services and ministries.

Church growth studies have something to say about this issue. Statistics and the things behind them are the kind of subjects that excite some people. Here is what I discovered.

This year, 2009, Lifeway Research surveyed over 15,000 people asking about the ways **they are most willing to receive information about a local congregation.**

(From the Pastor's Heart, continued)

The survey found...

- 63% would be willing to respond positively to personal conversation about a church with a family member;
- 56% would respond positively to a friend or a neighbor from the church

In an older study, Peter Wagner comments that in a survey of twenty-two congregations in three major cities, newcomers were asked, "*What brought you to this church?*" Here are the results:

- 2% indicated an advertisement;
- 6% indicated an invitation by the pastor;
- 6% indicated an organized evangelistic program;
- 86% stated an invitation by a friend or family member.

Think of that! Both studies bear out **that the most effective method of reaching out to the unchurched is a simple invitation born out of love and friendship.**

In another study, it was discovered that for people in our culture to "buy" anything, **they had to be exposed to a product at least seven times.** Gone are the days when a single contact by a pastor/evangelist can grow a church. Today in the church, people need approximately **five significant encounters with the Gospel before accepting Jesus as Savior.**

Setting statistical details aside, it takes more than creative advertising, a pastor, a good reputation, or a great facility to expose people to the encouragement of the Gospel. **It takes a caring friend who is willing to simply say, "Would you like to join us for worship this Sunday? This is what is going on..."**

You might tell them that after Father's Day, your pastor will be sharing a series of practical messages from the book of James entitled *Developing a Faith That Works*. If they have "faith questions" they would like to have answered, this might be the place to start.

While most people will not seek out a church on their own initiative, two-thirds of those who are invited by a trusted friend will respond with a "yes!" Arrange to stop by their homes and pick them up for worship. Sit with them. Introduce their kids to Jeremy or to Claire and Brandi. Make them feel comfortable in this new setting. With just a little effort on your part, they might be willing to return, and in doing so, hear a word that will minister to their hearts.

This is a great time of year to be thinking about people who might be open to such an invitation. The weather is wonderful, and the sunshine warms the spirit to the invitation. But the summer is also the time of year when people are looking for a

church to attend. Whether there is a lurking "oughtness" from childhood that they should be in church, a seeking of answers from a string of secular books and films, or a genuine desire to establish some spiritual roots, **people are amazingly open to our invitations.** Think of how wonderful it would be to have played a significant role in exposing your friends to the wonder of the Gospel message! We have the opportunity. We have family and friends whom we love. In the face of that love, what will we do?

May I suggest that this summer you create a "hit list" of those you might invite to join you. Pray about the opportunity. Plan how you might make the day a little more special than usual. Ask the Lord to enable you to be bold as you offer your invitation. You may be surprised what God could do with that simple, but caring effort.

From the first hours in the Garden when God invited Adam and Eve to walk with Him in the cool of the evening, through the final pages of Scripture, **God has always had an invitation on His heart.** Listen to this wonderful and final invitation:

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life" (Rev. 22:17).

Whom can you invite to join us on this journey of serving and blessing our Lord? Our task, as the people of God, is to continue to act on the Father's behalf to become "an inviting people." It is an exciting challenge and an awesome privilege. It is also a way that we can play a part in helping First Baptist grow. I hope you will join me as we take the task seriously.

Because of your invitation, I share in your love,
Pastor

I  Dad



On Sunday, June 14th, during the morning worship service, it will be our joy to honor those in the church family who are graduating this spring or have recently graduated. A special recognition has been planned with Jeremy Spence speaking. We trust that you will be present to encourage these who have completed an important part of their lives. A luncheon to honor our graduates will be held immediately following the morning worship for the graduates and their families in the Family Center. Please join us as we encourage and challenge our grads. The following is a list of all those who are graduating from high school, college, or graduate school from our church family. If your name is not on this list, please contact the church office so we know and may recognize you at our Baccalaureate Sunday Service.

University of Kentucky

Susan Thomas B. A. & S. in Communications

Miami University

Amber Allen B.A. in Sociology
 Rachel Keller B.S. in Family Studies
 Ashley Wilson B.S. in Health & Sports Studies

Ohio State University

Jennifer Wallace B.S. in International Studies

ITT Tech

Scott McRoberts A.A. in Applied Science
 & Software Applications and Programs

Hamilton High School Edgewood High School

Andy Cain	Joey Braun
Sara Cain	Rachel Harris
Teresa Hoff	Jeff Hazelwood
Katie Scott	

Fairfield

<u>Talawanda</u>	Brian Chamberlain
Noah Krall	Lauren Keith

Budget Status Report

The Month of April, 2009

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$62,839
Offerings	<u>53,650</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$9,189)
Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$59,836
Offerings	<u>53,650</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$6,186)

The Year Through April, 2009

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$250,436
Offerings	<u>219,983</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$30,453)
Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$251,447
Offerings	<u>219,983</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$31,464)

–The Board Of Trustees

Corrections and Additions To The Directory

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

Brown, Ann

Email: annbrow@gmail.com

Dawson, Carol

Email: cda73198@gmail.com

Gibbs, Linda

50 Horizons Dr
 Hamilton, OH 45013

Reynolds, Kathy

1410 Mallard's Cove Drive # 3201
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45246
 Phone # 771-1733

George Scripture
A Poem Written by
Ruthie Wallace, Granddaughter

He was a great man of God,
this man whose God is the LORD.
A man who, forsaking all else for his King,
trusted in Christ alone to bring salvation unto him.
Each morning anew did God's Spirit renew
the heart of this man of God;
while humbly he bowed not his head,
but his heart, to worship the great Thou Art.

He was a great man of faith,
this man whose God is the LORD.
A man who fearlessly faced the storm,
and trusted the One who had already borne
every trial, adversity, conflict and scorn.
He was secure in the great I AM.
With victory sure He stood on the Word,
and claimed every promise his own.
With his shield in place, he continued in grace.
The joy of the Lord was his strength.

He was a great preacher,
this man whose God is the LORD.
A man who seated himself at the feet
of the One called "Master Teacher."
He grew greater in wisdom till the finish;
his fear of the Lord never diminished.
He prayed to impart what was placed in his heart by
the breath of the Spirit within.
Zeal for the Lord's house consumed him;
to speak for the Lord his great joy.
To the end without despair,
the love of Christ he chose to share.
The Living Word is his portion forever.

He was a great pastor,
this man whose God is the LORD.
A man equipped to shepherd the flock;
he called them to one accord.
With a heart for his own, he was gentle;
resolutely he sought those who strayed.
His voice could be heard speaking the Word, inviting
all men to obey.
He comforted many broken hearted;
and prayed the weak be made strong.
He was a friend to the poor as he stood at the door,
calling, "Hunger and thirst no more!"

Curio Cabinets...History and Changes

I hope you enjoyed the items presently on display in the curio cabinets, placed there to celebrate our Lord's resurrection by recognizing the spring season. But it's time to change them once again.

The curio cabinet located on the sanctuary side of the connector was donated to the church by Doris Schaney, a former member who is now with the Lord. It was her desire that it be used to honor missions and missionaries, and that is the theme I want to use for the next few months. Many of you have traveled to various areas of the world and purchased souvenirs as reminders of the journey. Would you loan them for display in the missions cabinet? Jesus said all people everywhere should hear the "good news". It would be nice to represent as many nations as possible. If there is a story or bit of information regarding your item, please write it out and include it with the article.

The cabinet on the educational side of the connector was donated by Janet Messer in memory of her husband, Oscar. I would like to use this cabinet to display trophies or awards you have received for various reasons...sports, academics, any of the arts, etc. This is a request open to everyone in our congregation, whatever your age. We would like to display the trophy that represents your achievements. Tell us in a note how you won the award.

Remember to put your name on the bottom, and it shouldn't be over 12-13 inches tall.

I'm grateful to all who have donated keepsakes for display in our cabinets. You've loaned hand-crafted items, items with both monetary and sentimental value. I feel very responsible for your valuables and was disturbed to learn about an attempted theft (by a stranger in the building), but thankfully they did not succeed. To my knowledge, only one item is missing. Since this incident I have kept one cabinet locked. The other does not have a lock on it.

Please call me at 887-9415. Thank you.
Carol Howard

**First Baptist Church
KeenAgers' Monthly Activities - 2009**

Date	Activity	Leave Church	Cost*	Sign up by**	Pay by
06-15-09	Tour of Hamilton Jim Blount-Local Historian	9:45 a.m.	\$10 donation plus lunch @ Golden Corral	06-08-09 Limit 30	06-08-09
07-22-09	B&B Riverboat	9:15 a.m.	\$30 includes lunch & gas	07-15-09	07-15-09
08-17-09	Der Dutchman Waynesville	10:30 a.m.	Lunch	08-10-09	
09-21-09	Columbus, IN Church Tour	7:15 a.m.	\$12 plus lunch	09-07-09 Limit 18	09-07-09
10-21-09	Train Ride Lebanon to Monroe & return	8:30 a.m.	\$12.50 (\$10 if have 30 people) plus lunch @ Golden Lamb	10-14-09	10-14-09
11-18-09	Rumpke Landfill 45 minute tour	9:00 a.m.	Lunch @ Eli's in Ross	11-11-09 Limit 24	
12-03-09	LaComedia Springboro	9:30 a.m.	\$38 includes lunch & play	11-12-09 Limit 26	11-12-09

* Gas money will be collected prior to leaving church date of event.

** Sign-up sheet will be posted on bulletin board one month prior to event.

–Bernie, Bert, & Bill

KeenAger Monthly Trip

The KeenAger trip for the month of June is a Tour of Hamilton with Jim Blount, local historian. Meet in the Golden Corral parking lot at 9:45 a.m. on June 15th. We will board the bus there for the tour. After the tour we will return to the Golden Corral for lunch together. The cost is \$10 and we are collecting now in the connector. There is a limit of 30 so sign the list on the bulletin board by June 8th.

**Special Thanks From
Daniel French**

Thank you to all who attended the gospel concert I gave at church on May 3rd. And also thank you so much to those who took part in the love offering. It was completely unexpected and I truly appreciate it. The support of First Baptist means a great deal to me and I hope to sing for you again soon.



From The Heart Of Marilyn

College Corner

Dear God,
Please help me discover
my purpose in life.
Give me the directions to open the roads
you want me to travel.
Please help me discover
the treasure of being on my true course.
You have created me
with a certain purpose.
Lead me to recognize my path
so that my life will have true meaning.
Thank you for listening to my prayer.

Amen

—Marilyn Bowling
College Coordinator



Another AWANA year has drawn to a close, and what an exciting year we have had! We had so many wonderful children come to our program, with several "regulars" from years before, as well as several new faces. On awards night, we gave participation certificates to about 80 kids, with over 24 students completing their handbooks for this year. What accomplishments! This program could not have been possible without the dedication of our fabulous leaders, listeners, secretaries, and parents! With our busy lives, it can be challenging to commit to a nine-month program, but we did it! Because of their dedication, we have made connections and built relationships which will have an impact for the rest of these kids' lives! THANK YOU so much for your service to this valuable ministry. Thanks also to members of the church who donated items or stepped in to help when you were asked. Thanks also to the church for its financial support to this ministry. New commitments to Christ are being made through this program, which is our ultimate goal! Again, thank you, and we look forward to everyone's return for our Kickoff Wednesday, August 26th, with the official AWANA year beginning Wednesday, September 2nd! It will be here before we know it! ☺



Our final meeting of the 2008-09 MOPS year was held Tuesday, May 19th and what a meeting it was! Our theme was "A year of growth." This month's meeting was a time to reflect on where we have been as a group, as mothers and as individuals. Four of our mom's "graduated" from the preschool stage to the school aged stage and were presented with birdhouses, a symbol of remembrance of leaving one stage of motherhood and beginning a new stage.

This past MOPS year has been such a blessing! We have welcomed new moms every month, including our May meeting where three new moms attended. Several of our moms are now attending services at First Baptist, some back in church for the first time in many years. All because they came to a MOPS meeting! How amazing is our God! Thank you to all who have prayed for this ministry for it has been evident all year that those prayers have been heard. It has always been our hope and prayer that each mom that comes to this MOPS group not only finds themselves and new friends but ultimately a relationship with our Heavenly Father. One of the graduating moms testified at this month's meeting just how that was the case in her life.

With the year over a new year is beginning. We will start preparing and planning for the 2009-10 MOPS year this month. Please continue to pray for the steering team, mentors and for all the moms that are involved in MOPS and those who have yet to attend.

We have several summer activities planned that include both mom's only and mother/child. Be sure to pick up a calendar of events outside the sanctuary. We also hope to begin offering a devotional exercise class and bible study for the moms. There was a huge interest in both of these, evidence that He is working in the hearts of each mom.

Thank you again to all of you who have been involved in the MOPS ministry this year, for watching our children, setting up the AV equipment, praying and even making copies. Especially thank you for being the chartering church of this ministry. None of this would have been possible without any of you. May you also have been blessed by being apart of MOPS.

Enjoying the Adventure with Him-
Elise, Coordinator

Totally Terrific Tuesdays

Activities for kids who have completed kindergarten through completed 5th grade.

Younger children may attend if accompanied by a parent.

First Baptist Church of Hamilton www.firstbaptisthamilton.org 868.1412

Children's Directors: Claire Metzger and Brandi Emenaker

TTT shirts mentioned below are the Totally Terrific Tuesdays Tie-Dyed shirts, which identify members of our group. Every year, our shirts are a different color. This year's shirts will be red, white, and blue, and will be \$2 each.

June 16: Outie--Miami University Recreation Center in Oxford for swimming and play time; \$6/person for over 4 hours of fun! Wear your TTT shirt, bring a sack lunch, modest swim suit, gym shoes for the soccer/basketball/volleyball courts, shower necessities (if you want to take one), plastic bag to put wet suits in; lockers are there for storage. Meet at church at 9:00 am. Pickup at church at 3:00 pm.

June 23: Innie--Pottery/"Make It and Take It" Day at church; make lots of fun things to take home, as well as a pottery piece to take home later; wear old clothes as we will be getting messy! \$10 covers pottery, lunch/dessert, and crafts. Creativity begins at 10:00 am and ends at 2:00 pm.

June 25: Outie--This is a "Thrilling Thursday"! This will be one of our service activities for the summer, as we go with the KeenAgers to serve at **Matthew: 25 Ministries**. We will be helping with a variety of projects which will be delivered throughout the world. This is for kids who are able to handle multi-step directions and understand safety rules, as we will be working in a warehouse. Wear your TTT shirts and bring a sack lunch. We will LEAVE church at 8:30 am, so get here early. Pickup will be around 2:30 pm.

June 30: Outie--Butler County Water Treatment Plant; tour the facility to see what happens with our water once it leaves our houses! Wear your TTT shirt and bring a sack lunch. We will go to a local park for lunch after the tour. FREE! Meet at church at 10:00 am. Pickup will be at 2:00 pm.

July 4: Our church will be participating in the **4th of July Parade** in Hamilton. If your child would like to participate, please see Claire.

July 7: No TTT this week, as we will be setting up for **VBS**. Helpers are always needed! ☺

July 14: No TTT this week, as it is **VBS WEEK!** Come join us Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 12 pm. Register at www.firstbaptisthamilton.org.

July 21: Outie--"Bananas"—an inflatable jump and play place in Liberty Twp.; \$5.50 for 2 hours of play time; will visit a local park for lunch and more playtime; wear your TTT shirt and bring a sack lunch and sunscreen! Meet at 9:00 am. Pickup at church at 2:30 pm.

July 28: Outie/Innie--Bowling/Field Day—bowling at Columbia Lanes, followed by lunch and games at church park. Weather permitting, we will have water games (swimming?) and other messy activities in our park. \$2.50 for 2 games/shoe rental. Wear your TTT shirts and bring a sack lunch.

August 4: Outie--Learning Tree Farm, near Dayton; 4 hours of hands-on fun; wear your TTT shirt and bring a sack lunch; \$8 per child; meet at 8:45 am, with pick up around 3:00 pm.

August 11: Outie--Laser Web; wear your TTT shirt and bring a sack lunch; \$9 per child; meet at 10:15 am, with pick up at 3:00 pm.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Participating kids MUST have a permission slip on file for this year. One slip will cover the entire summer. Kids from the same family may be on the same form. Forms can be filled out the morning of the event. Please allow extra time to do so. Please try to RSVP before the event so we can coordinate chaperones and transportation. You can make reservations by calling the church (868.1412) or emailing Brandi at br9@fuse.net. Also, please try to have the exact amount for fees. If transportation assistance is needed, let us know. Be sure to check out the church website for any updates. ☺

Studio Go!
Vacation Bible School 2009
July 13 - 17

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 you 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.

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 sig-up sheet soon!

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

Preregistration For VBS

Sign up at the "Studio Go!" registration table in the connector beginning Sunday, June 28th. Registrations will also be taken on Wednesday evenings, July 1st and 8th. Don't forget to take home registration forms for your friends also. Transportation will be arranged if needed. Contact Marsha Helton or Linda Gibbs for further information or questions.

**Donations For VBS
Teachers' Snack Room**

Please mark you calendars now for VBS: July 13-17. We will once again be having a teacher's snack room for our hard working teachers! Please bring snacks - baked things, fruit, cheese, anything - to the kitchen on Sunday or anytime that week marked "Teachers Snack Room." Thanks!!

-VBS Snack Room Coordinator

Wild And Wacky Wednesdays

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

-Brandi Emenaker
Co-Director of Children's Ministries



Soft Ball Schedules
(Second Half of Season)

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

-Jeremy Spence



From Marilyn Bowling

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Christian Education for honoring me on Mother's Day. It was such a shock, yet awesome experience, and I was so glad that I had my family present to share this with me. I appreciated the lovely corsage and generous gift card, but I was especially touched by the five who spoke at the presentation. Thank you Elise, Rachael, Lauryn, Amy, and Megan. I will always remember this very special Mother's Day. I want to express to my immediate family, and in particular Larry, how much your love and support has meant to me. I reflected on my dear parents, Flo and Al Potter, who raised me here at First Baptist and Jewell and Zeke who have loved me like a daughter and have been wonderful Christian mentors to me for so many years.

I want to express to Pastor Den how beautiful the baby and child dedication ceremony was on Mother's Day. I was so thrilled to see the awesome slide show that Ruth had put together and her lovely song as it was shown. It was especially special because of Deron and Monica bringing their son, Benjamin. Deuteronomy 11:18,19 ran through my mind as all the families indicated they wanted to train up their child in the love and knowledge of Lord Jesus Christ. We will need to love and encourage all of these families as parenting in this culture is so difficult.

In closing I want to express for all of my family a huge thank you for all the prayers and cards sent as Conner had his tonsils removed. He is doing well and we know it was the Lord having His hand upon him. Your love and concern meant so much to Conner, Brent, and Kristen. First Baptist is a family of such loving people who show their love in so many ways.

Blessings to all of you,
Marilyn Bowling



Fourth of July Parade

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



We need people who are willing to pass out goodie bags to children in the crowd. Because we cannot do this from the float, we need people to walk in the crowd as the float goes by.



We need people who can spare 1 hour (only!!) to help decorate the float on July 3rd. We will have all the equipment ready and will just need people to give 1 hour to put things together.



We need CHILDREN to go on the float!



We need prayer warriors!

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



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.



Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



Silent Dinner

The **Silent Dinner** for **June** will be Friday, June 5th, at Cincinnati Mills. See you there!

Interpreter Schedule for June

June 7	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
June 14	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
June 21	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
June 28	Jo Manson	Maria Miller

—Maria Miller
Director of Deaf Ministries

Once Upon A Mattress

a musical

Presented by Encore Summer Theatre

Parrish Auditorium
Miami University - Hamilton

Wednesday - Friday July 29, 30, 31 - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday August 1 - 2:00 matinee & 8:00 p.m.

Bob Borden - Orchestra Conductor
Tisha Patton - Keyboard & Rehearsal Pianist
Mike Wallick - Violin
Iris Patton - Chorus

Tickets - \$15, \$12 for kids & seniors over 60

To reserve tickets, check the Encore web site for information: encoreyouththeatre.net.

Make checks payable to Encore Summer Youth Theatre.

*Thanks
Dad!*

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



Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Deron Bowling** for completing the Flying Pig Half Marathon on Sunday, May 4th. This was his first time to run in the Flying Pig Race.



Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

June 7 - Jill & Dave Walker
June 14 - Judy, Amy, & Anna Wallace
June 21 -
June 28 - Janet & Mindy Hazelwood

One & Two Year Olds

June 7 - Juli & Katie Ford
June 14 -
June 21 - Ruthie & John Wallace
June 28 - Aleesha Spence & Teen

Kinderchurch

June 7 - Vicky Baker & Dorothy Hollowell
June 14 - Barb & Brian Begley
June 21 - Vicky Baker & Dorothy Hollowell
June 28 -



Attention All Morning Worship Child Care Workers

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

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

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



Wednesday Family Dinners

June 3

Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Gravy, French Toast, Hash Brown Casserole, Cinnamon Apples, Biscuits
Hosts: Chancel Choir

June 10

Menu: Ham, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Applesauce, Rolls, Dessert
Hosts: Deacons

June 17

Menu: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, California Blend Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert
Hosts: Deaconesses

June 24

Menu: Pulled Pork Barbecue Sandwiches, Macaroni and Cheese, Baked Beans, Potato Chips, Cole Slaw, Dessert
Hosts: TNT (Seekers)

Reminder: Adults should contribute \$4.00 per person for the meal; \$12.00 for a family. The cost for children under 12 years old who eat at the "Hot Dog" table is \$1.25. If they chose to eat from the main table, the cost is \$2.00. Be sure to make your reservation on the Friendship Folder each Sunday.

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

June Greeters

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



Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

Long Overdue

There have been many times in my life when it doesn't seem right that time goes by as quickly as it does. For instance, it seems like yesterday was my first day here at First Baptist, yet it has been almost six full years.

It seems like it only should be Easter, yet as you know it summer is just around the corner. I constantly lose track of time and there have been some days I don't know if I am coming or going. The sad part is sometimes I can't remember where I am going and why I am going there!

Another moment that seems like yesterday but in reality it has been about a year was Aleesha's and I's wedding. That's right she has put up with me for a year already. Some of you are shocked that anyone could put up with me for that long but she has, and it has been great. Even she would agree with that. She has stuck with me even though I still leave my dishes in the sink, don't always close the closet door, and at times can be very ornery and mischievous. Can you believe that I would be either or those two characteristics? Never mind don't answer.

As Aleesha and I have been thinking about the past year we have realized that we have yet to send out our personal thank you notes to all of you. This article is not meant, and will not, replace those but a "thank you" to our church family has been many months overdue. We will be writing those thank you notes very soon but I wanted to let you know some ways we specifically are thankful about.

Thank you for all the cards, warm wishes, hugs, gifts, and for your presence at the open house we had last June. We were extremely blessed by so many of you coming out and sharing your love with us. This is the most important thing you could ever do.

Thank you for the many prayers you have prayed for us and the little notes of encouragement we have both received over this past year. Prayer is what carries us both through the day.

Thank you for helping Aleesha feel a part of our church. She, and I, really appreciate and cannot truly express how much it means that you our church family reached out to her. It has helped through this year of transition that you have willingly and wonderfully embraced her as if she has always been here. A special thanks to the ladies missionary group, and the Women's council for their activities that helped make this happen.

Thank you for allowing me to not work the "normal" hours I have typically put in this past year as it has allowed me to spend more time at home. Definitely a good thing and I appreciate it.

Lastly, thank you for being you!! You our church family are some of the best people we have met. We are excited to be able to spend the time we do with you and hope you feel the same way. Thanks for all you have done and do for us.

What about you? What are you thankful but have yet to show your gratitude? May you take the time soon to express your thanks because like mine it is long overdue.

With a thankful heart,
Jeremy and Aleesha

Upcoming Events:

Compassion Child: Just a reminder that we need to be to bring in money to support 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.

Baccalaureate Service June 14th: This Sunday during our morning worship we will be honoring our graduates and helping them to know how much we appreciate and love them. Please see the list in the Courier and make sure your name is there. If you have not received a letter and a information sheet please contact me now.

Lifeline: June 3rd - Evon Laubenstein will be sharing with us. This is also the first night for our new CREW Members.

June 10th - We will be doing a bunch of team building and character building

June 17th - Relay Race night. Bring tennis shoes

June 24th - TBD

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 June 3rd. See Jeremy Spence for more information.

June 5th and 6th: CREW Formal night begins at 6pm on Friday and will go until 8am on Saturday morning. Cost is \$10 per person and then \$5 per extra sibling. Dress up for dinner, guys must be in a tie, on Friday but bring extra clothes to change into. Ladies if you need a dress but don't want to pay for a new one please let me know soon and I will pair you up with someone who does.

Sunday Nights: Sunday evenings during the summer we will be doing different activities and outings to help keep us busy but still able to enjoy spending time with each other. On June 14th we will watch Veggie Tales for our time together. Bring a snack item to share. No CREW on the 21st and on the 28th we will be going off site for our activity. More details to come.

Summer Dress: Parents and CREW members please remember that even though it is hot outside to dress respectful and decent for all youth outings, this includes the guys. Also remember for CREW outings that involves swimming that a one piece, tankini, or a 2 piece with a dark shirt is desired. If you need a t-shirt I will always have some to spare. Please remember we do this so we are respectful to each other and those that will see us.



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

Personal Notes



From Rod & Lois Anderson

Thank you to everyone who provided us with prayers, cards, and expressions of sympathy regarding the death of Rod's mother. We appreciate the visits of Pastor Den and Ruth, Pastor Bill and Bert, Marilyn and Larry Bowling, Ellie and Bill Dinger, and Johnnie and Jerry Wallace. The support of friends is a great comfort.

From Norbert & Helen Baker

We would like to thank you for your answered prayers for our brother, Allan. God answered and relieved him of his suffering and took him home. Thanks to our dear Bill for coming to our home and then he and Bert to the visitation. Thanks for the prayer card and for Pastor Metzger's kind words. We are blessed.

From Margie Braun

I would like to thank all my church members and friends for all the prayers on my behalf these past few difficult months. I have had a pretty rough time but am now feeling somewhat better. I still hope to have the knee replacements before long so keep me in your prayers. Thank you for your kindness and concern. Love in Christ.

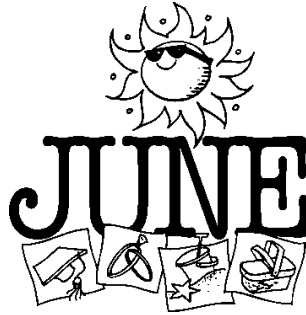
From Ruth Goble's family

The family of Ruth Goble would like to thank the church family, Dennis, and Bill for their visits, care, and concern over the past several years. Thanks to Pastors Den and Bill for a wonderful service and the funeral committee for a delicious lunch. That is such a testimony. Also for all the cards and concerns to the family. Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone!!

From Don & Mary Lewis

We want to thank the church family for their prayers, visits, and cards. We would like to thank all members at prayer meeting for the cards they sent. Don and I have appreciated very much. We thank Pastor Metzger and Pastor Bill for their visits and we can't thank Pastor Bill enough for the times he took us to Cincinnati and stayed all day at times with us. We glad to be members of such a loving church. Thanks again for everything. We appreciate it very much. Don is doing good and is now at home.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>June 2009</h1>						
	1	2 9:30 MOPS Steering 8:50 Men's Softball #3	3 5:00 ABW Meeting 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Lifeline w/Evon 6:45 <i>Wild & Wacky Wednesdays</i> 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	4 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Music & Worship 6:30 ONE Ministries	5 6:00 CREW Formal Night	6 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering
7 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:45 Women's Council 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 CREW SmallGroups	8 11:00 WMC Book Club	9 6:00 Joint Circles Covered Dish Meeting	10 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 <i>Wild & Wacky Wednesdays</i> 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	11 5:30 Board of Trustees 6:30 ONE Ministries	12	13
14 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Baccalaureate 12:00 Graduates' Luncheon 4:30 Board of Missions 4:30 Diaconate 6:00 Evening Celebration	15 9:45 KeenAgers meet @ The Golden Corral to tour Hamilton w/Jim Blount	16 9:00 Totally Terrific Tuesday "Outie"	17 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 <i>Wild & Wacky Wednesdays</i> 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	18 6:30 ONE Ministries	19	20
21 Father's Day 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 AB Girls No Evening Service	22	23 10:00 Totally Terrific Tuesday "Innie"	24 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 <i>Wild & Wacky Wednesdays</i> 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	25 8:30 Matthew 25 with Totally Terrific Thursday "Outie" 6:30 ONE Ministries	26	27
28 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 CE 6:00 Evening Celebration	29	30 10:00 Totally Terrific Tuesday "Outie"				



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

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

“Cause Daddy Wouldn’t Go”

Daddy had a little boy
His soul was white as snow,
He never went to Sunday School
‘Cause Daddy wouldn’t go’.

He never heard the Word of God
That thrills the childish mind,
While other children went to class
This child was left behind.

As he grew from babe to youth,
Dad saw to his dismay,
A soul that once was snowy white
Became a dingy gray.

Realizing that his son was lost
He tried to win him back,
But now the soul that once was white
Had turned from gray to black.

Dad even started back to church
And Bible Study too,
He begged the preacher
“Isn’t there anything you can do?”

The preacher tried and failed,
and said, “We’re just too far behind,
I tried to tell you years ago,
but you would pay no mind.”

And so another soul was lost
That once was white as snow,
Sunday School would have helped,
“but Daddy wouldn’t go.”

Dad’s, your influence in the lives of your children during these growing years is so crucial. They are watching and learning from your every move. They are building a value system that may last for the rest of their life based on the things they you do, and don’t do.

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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