

# The Courier

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



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*"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"*

*September, 2009*

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## **If I Were Looking For A Church . . .**

Guest Columnist, Adam Metzger

I've been thinking about attending another church. Hypothetically. I mean, if I were looking for a church, what would I look for? Call it church shopping or whatever you want to, if KingsWay were not my place of worship (and if I were not the pastor) what would grab my attention and cause me to want to return, invest and get involved. What would *you* look for? The question might sound carnal, unspiritual, and reek of consumerism, but to an extent, everyone does it.

So the list began. It wasn't a written list per se--more of one in my head. I thought through qualities and characteristics that began to sound a whole lot like "amenities"—those things you look for when comparing hotels side by side like on Expedia.com. In fact, part of the way through the list, I felt unspiritual as I wrote down, "I'd trade everything in for the reality that God was present and people knew it." You've been there and I've been there: churches where God seems to be absent. Ezekiel might call that church "Dry Bones Community Church." I'm convinced that churches may even do a good job at the "amenities": ample parking, good sound system, safe nursery, air conditioning, branded children's area and cool worship count-downs, but may still be missing the "one thing." As an agent of transformation for the community and for individual lives, if God does not show up in such a way where the people cannot proclaim "God is really among you," then the church is dead. Dry bones.

As we launch [our ministry] in September, we're working our best to provide the "amenities." The children's team is working hard to train leaders. The setup team is trying hard to create a good environment for the Sunday morning gathering. I study in my office and work hard to create good messages. The worship team re-hearses weekly so that the right notes are played and a good environment achieved. (Ann even works hard to arrange for those donuts, too.) But we know that without a strong stirring of God's Spirit, everything is for naught. Brilliance could permeate

everything we do. Excellence could define all our efforts. But if God is not perceived to have moved as we gather and minister, we're just another "group" that happens to meet on Sunday morning in the Little Miami Schools.

I love the simplicity, yet power of Elijah's worship experience on top of Mount Carmel: It was Elijah, 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah. The prophets of Baal danced around an altar for hours and hours calling on "God." It was probably quite a spectacle to see. Tribal dances, flowing blood, prophesying. It may have even gathered a crowd of interested people who were wondering what was going on. After a while, Elijah told them to stop. He rebuilt the altar, prayed (it wasn't even that long of a prayer) and BAM! God showed up. Fire consumed the drenched altar. What's more, all the people realized God was there and responded! They proclaimed "The LORD—He is God! The LORD—He is God!"

Forget everything else! If nothing else happens on Sunday morning, I want to be a church where people know without a shadow of a doubt that God is among us. That's the kind of church I want KingsWay to be. That's that kind of church I want to go to. That's the kind of church I want to lead. All other activity flows from the energizing experience that takes place when you know God has met and moved within his people. True worship happens. Genuine spiritual growth happens. A deep desire for mission and evangelism ("being sent") develops. I hope that each time we gather as "KingsWay," you can say "God is here." Pray for it. Prepare for it. Expect it.

Adam Metzger  
Pastor, KingsWay Community Church  
(Part of the FBC Missions Outreach Support)



## American Baptist Women's Ministries

### Be Part of A Women's Circle

Take the opportunity to be part of one of our American Baptist Women's Circles. As the Circles begin to meet again, join and experience the fellowship and joy of service, particularly in support of our missionaries. Circles meet on the second Tuesday of each month. The Doris Holloway Circle meets at 10:00 a.m. at the church. Evon Laubenstein is the chairperson. The Norman Abell Circle meets at 7:00 p.m. with Carolyn Dudley as the chair. Carol Howard chairs the Smith Circle which meets at 7:00 p.m. Be a part of one of these Circles.

In God's Service,  
Nancy Whipple, ABW president

### Miami Association ABW Fall Rally

We would like to take a large group to the ABW Fall Rally on Saturday, October 3rd, at Matthew 25: Ministries in Cincinnati. We will leave the church at 8:15 a.m. to arrive for registration at 9:00 a.m. with the business meeting at 9:30 a.m. Bob Bishop will be the guest speaker. Lunch will then be served. We will also be touring Matthew 25. Contact Bertha Campbell (893-9808), Lil Wilson (858-1585), or Nancy Whipple (863-2309) with your reservation.

Missionaries for the Month of **September**:  
Thailand  
Kit Ripley  
Democratic Republic of Congo  
William and Ann Clemmer

### Bible Book of the Month . . . . . Revelation

*"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth."*  
Revelation 21:1 (TEV)

Revelation is a series of visions about what must take place. The writer designs the material for Christians facing persecution and death because of their loyalty to Jesus. John centers his scenes around two cities: Romek, the incarnation of evil, and the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from God.

**PRAY** for the Board of Educational Ministries with special emphasis on their work with children and youth.

-Madge Walters

## KeenAger September Outing

Plans are being made for the KeenAgers to go on a church tour to Columbus, IN, Monday, September 21st. The cost is \$12 plus lunch. We will leave the building at 7:15 a.m. Please sign the list on the bulletin board by September 7th. There is a limit of 18.

-KeenAger Co-ordinator  
Bernie Griesinger



We will be making our monthly trip down to Matthew 25: Ministries for a wonderful day of fellowship, fun, and WORKING FOR THE LORD Thursday, September 24th. We will leave the church at 8:30 a.m. returning at about 3:00 p.m. Come dressed to WORK - bring your own sack lunch and beverage. Everyone is welcome to be a part of this ministry.

-Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham

### Bread of Life Ministry

It has been our privilege to take a loaf of nut bread to first time visitors to our services on a Sunday. They are so thrilled to be remembered in this way. It also gives us an opportunity to welcome them and trust they will return. If you would like to be on the list to bake the bread and deliver it, please call me soon (868-7715). We are in need of **more volunteers**. God bless you for sharing in this ministry.

-Bert Brantingham

### Misplaced Ladder

A 6 ft. blue Werner ladder with Tuley written on the side is missing. Durb Tuley used it Monday, July 27th, when the men were painting the sanctuary. If you took it by mistake or have seen it, please call Durb-896-5483.



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## “Closing the Back Door”

They swarmed over the wind chimes hanging by the back door. Not a huge number, but enough to make a person a little wary as they hiked the twenty to thirty steps from the driveway to the back door. The warning was clear: “Be careful, and make sure the back door is tightly closed as you enter the house.” That was our welcome as we arrived at the home where Ruth’s parents once lived in Cadillac, Michigan. John, Ruth’s younger brother, purchased the house last fall after their mother passed away in June, 2008. A few days before we arrived, John had been stung spraying the yellow jackets and trying to remove the nest from the wind chime. So, we were glad to comply with his warning. Actually, we often exceeded the warning by entering the house through the garage or another door just to avoid the whole scene.

Sunday before church, though, was a different story. The developing new hive was quiet. I thought, “*I’ll bet with a little care, I could remove the wind chime and save us from this swarming peril and inconvenience.*” So, I found a step ladder, carefully removed the chain from the hook without creating any disturbance, and gave the chime a toss about 25 feet from the door. Success! That’s when I felt it—a stealth bee found my left hand and gave me a good-bye remembrance. Such a tiny thing—a bee sting. But two days later, I was once again awakened from sleep, venom still swelling the hand a little and causing a mild itching. But the whole episode was worth it—for the rest of the family, at least!

This morning, I was thinking about John’s warning—“*Keep the back door closed or you will get stung.*” Church life is a lot like that back door. People join us for worship, Sunday school, fellowship, programs, etc., and take their place among us. Over the months and years, many of these people settle in, finding First Baptist exactly what they are looking for in a church home. Some stay for a while, then move on to greener pastures (and pastors), choosing a different item from the many offerings of contemporary church menus. And too often others (some of whom have been members for a while) slip out the back door unobserved, until the question surfaces among us: “*What happened to the Murphys? I haven’t seen John and Ellen for a while.*” And we get stung by the answers that filter back.

**Churches across the land struggle to close the back door of membership and participation losses.** It is not an easy door to close. But there are many issues to which we can give attention that can assist us. And it is important that all of us are on the same page regarding these issues: For example:

**1. In the familiar text describing the emerging life in the first century Jerusalem church, there were exciting things going on:**

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common...Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:42-47).*

In this passage, Luke reminds us of the five purposes of the church which we have all examined over the years, especially through our *40 Days of Purpose* emphasis back in 2004—**worship, discipleship, fellowship, evangelism, and ministry**. Closing the back door requires that we continue to be committed to these purposes in every program, every emphasis, every gathering. These purposes are the life-blood of all that we are about in church ministry—the reason God has called us to life together in the church.

(Continued...please read on...)

*(From the Pastor's Heart, cont.)*

**2. Closing the back door requires that we more completely commit ourselves to the activity of genuine prayer.**

This is the most significant discipline we can practice as a group of God's people. We all know that prayer is important, and in principle, we are committed to such prayer. But one thing is yet needed. We must actually do it. Prayer must permeate our very lives. We must remember the prayer-principle we examined some time ago: *God has hardwired this universe for us to partner with Him to accomplish great things that He has in mind for His Kingdom.* This partnership is accomplished as we respond to God's invitation to enter into serious and committed prayer for others, ourselves, and our church ministry.

**3. Closing the back door requires that we are intentional about how we go about genuine worship.** Effective worship includes:

- Music and preaching that will speak to a multi-generational people. We want to provide an atmosphere where we sense that **God has come among us**, and offered Himself as one whom we might shower with worship and praise. (Take a moment to read Adam's guest article on page one of this Courier issue. Adam serves as pastor of the KingsWay Community Church, a ministry we support through our missions budget).
- Instruction to the worshiping community about how to treat our guests—expressing our faith as a caring, loving, interested, genuinely Christian church family. People visit a church because of its good reputation (49% say this is important); 82.7% visit a church through the invitation of friend, family, coworker.
- An effective greeter ministry where guests are absolutely certain that they are welcome among us. We may have to rethink the impact of our welcome center.
- Effective follow-up of guests.
- Reconnecting with those who have drifted away from gathering with the Body of Christ as we worship the Lord;
- A **“No Body Absent” (NBA) Sunday in early fall**, as we call men, women, and children back to experiences of worship, Sunday School, small groups, CREW, and children's programs.

**4. Closing the back door requires that we are intentional about church membership.**

It is my plan to once again offer a fall elective class

during the Sunday School hour **beginning September 13**, dealing with issues of church membership. **The class is called “FBC 101.”** This class will describe our high expectations for new members (and ourselves) which includes issues such as becoming a follower of Jesus Christ; church attendance; Biblical tithing; spiritual gift identification for ministry; a summary of our common values and doctrine; a brief history of FBC; a summary of church polity and practice (how we organize ourselves for work); a description of our missions effort and support; a conversation about our opportunities for service; meeting some of our church officers; introduction of church staff; and a description of the ordinances of the Lord's supper and baptism. Members are also welcome to attend as a refresher course on what we are about at FBC.

**5. Closing the back door requires that we build on past successes in our programming for children and youth.**

- Children—emphasis on summer ministries; building up Awana staff for fall; increasing participation in KingsKids.
- Youth—continuing relationships; going deeper; enabling lifetime commitments.
- These ministries require from our church family an understanding of personal gifted-ness and a willingness to invest time and energy in the lives of our children and youth.

**6. Closing the back door requires that we revisit the effectiveness of our Sunday School and small group ministry.**

- That we make certain that we are organized for invitation of new/inactive members; careful follow-up of visitors, and caring for the expressed needs of the class membership.
- That we return to more frequent opportunities of relationship-building in times of fellowship
- That we offer new electives for creating greater interest in participating in the Sunday School or small group experience.

We do many things well here at First Baptist. But one of the things we want to do more effectively is to close the back door. If our first priority is ministry and building relationships (and it is), it would be a good thing to be and to do all that we can so that our Lord continues to be honored among us.

Working to close the door, and inviting you to do the same, Pastor.

## Budget Status Report

### The Month of June, 2009

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$55,053
Offerings	<u>42,231</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$12,822)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$57,211
Offerings	<u>42,231</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$14,980)

### The Year Through June, 2009

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$369,135
Offerings	<u>307,658</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$61,473)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$364,270
Offerings	<u>307,658</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$56,612)

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### The Month of July, 2009

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$65,501
Offerings	<u>49,281</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$16,220)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$65,288
Offerings	<u>49,281</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$16,007)

### The Year Through July, 2009

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$434,636
Offerings	<u>356,940</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$77,696)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$429,558
Offerings	<u>356,940</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$72,618)

–The Board Of Trustees

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## Fall Trip To Oneida, KY

Jerry Hampton and Ken Hendricks will be making their fall pilgrimage to Oneida Baptist Institute on Monday, October 12th. The campus has approximately 450 teens grades 6-12 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 September 30th. Please put the items in plastic trash bags and mark them for Oneida. For more information, call Jerry Hampton-844-1967 or Ken Hendricks-863-2628. (Please, because of storage problems - NO donations after Sunday, October 11th.) They will be accepting donations to help cover the expense of gasoline for the trip. See Jerry or Ken.



## Collecting Used Stamps For Missionaries (UK)

The proceeds from old used stamps fund the purchase of medical supplies for missionaries mainly in Africa. They are collected by Medical Missionary News (MMN) who do a great work in organizing the transport of containers with equipment, medicines, food supplies and other essential goods to missionary stations and hospitals. In 2003, MMN sent 42 containers to Zambia, 11 to Angola, 4 to Congo, 3 to Rwanda, 1 to Uganda as well as 1 to India and 3 to Peru. The used stamps are stripped and packaged and sold to dealers and collectors to raise funds. Foreign stamps fetch the highest price and old coins, banknotes and medals are also useful.

There will be a box in the narthex for your convenience. Please bring in your used stamps for this project. See Chris and Claire Metzger for further details.



## Women's Christian Book Club

The Women's Christian Book Club meets the second Monday of each month at the Fairfield Lane Library from 11:00 - 12:30 a.m. The following dates and books to be discussed are:

September 14 - *The Yada Yada Prayer Group* by Neta Jackson

October 12 - *Proper Pursuit* by Lynn Austin

November 9 - *First Light* by Bodie & Brock Thoene

December 14 - *A Moment of Weakness* by Karen Kingsbury

January 11 - *Any Minute* by Joyce Meyer & Deborah Bedford

–Nancy Follmer & Judy Farris



**New Chancel Choir Season  
To Begin September 9th  
Think About Sharing  
Your Musical Gift!**

It is hard to believe that summer has flown by so fast and fall will soon be upon us. With the coming of fall also comes the beginning of a new Chancel Choir season at First Baptist Church. All persons who may be interested in joining the choir are asked to attend our first rehearsal, September 9th, at 8:00 p.m., after the Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting. Come share your musical gifts with the church and in the process have some fun and fellowship! I hope to see some new faces in the choir loft on September 9th.

In Our Savior's Love,  
*Mike Wallick*  
Chancel Choir Director

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**Cherub Choir  
Evening Schedule  
6:00 p.m.**

- September 6 - Canceled
- September 13 - Cherub Singing & Fellowship Time
- September 20 - Cherub Singing & Fellowship Time
- September 27 - Cherub Singing & Fellowship Time



**Youth of Praise Choir  
Begins September 13th**

Any interested 7th through 12th grader is invited to join the Youth of Praise Choir. We will meet in the choir room from 5:15 p.m. to 5:50 p.m. on Sundays beginning Sunday, September 13th. If you have any questions please see or call Laurin Sprague, 896-7911.



**King's Kids Kick-off  
For Christmas Musical  
Sunday, September 20  
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Calling all King's Kids!**

Our musical this year has been personally selected by our new 6th graders. We're going to have a Christmas County Spelling Bee along with a Christmas Pageant. The words used in the competition are the names for Jesus that describe His character. Although many scholars believe that there are over 700 different names and titles given to Jesus in Scripture, we'll focus on those mentioned in Isaiah 9:6. All these names will help us grasp just how truly awesome the gift of His Son is!

Kick off will be Sunday, September 20, from 5:30 - 7:00 PM. Rehearsals will be every Sunday from 5:30 - 7:00 PM. Performance will be Sunday, December 6 at 6:00 PM.

Come sing with us and learn how you spell LOVE. (It's not what you may think!)

—Ruth Metzger, Debbie Allen, Lauren Schwartz

## ABWM Ohio Conference Report

The ABWM Ohio Annual Conference was held at Heartland Conference Retreat Center June 24-26, 2009. Many times during the conference we were reminded of our theme for the past two years *"Come To The Edge"* and asked if we were stepping out to go beyond our comfort zones to do what God has called us to do. We were reminded that our theme scripture Joshua 1:9 says: *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* Matthew 14:26-27 tells us *"When the disciples saw Him walking on the lake, they were terrified...Jesus immediately said to them 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'"* I Corinthians 16:13-14 tells us to stand firm in the faith, have courage and be strong. And, *"do everything in love."*

Now we move on to our new theme *"Women...Destined for God's Purposes."* Let's remember our theme that tells us to *"Come to the Edge"* and embrace our new theme *"Women... Destined for God's Purposes"* and be ready to step out and go beyond our comfort zones to do what God has called us to do.

We gathered to the first session with music by Sheryl Wise and Ann Hartshorn. Pam Leonard led us in worship music throughout the conference. We were welcomed by Mariann Curl, Ohio ABW President, and enjoyed our first Bible study presented by Blythe Ann Cooper. Our mission speakers were Bob Bishop, Dayton Christian Center, and Kim Travis, Neighborhood Ministries.

Judy Douglas, Coordinator of Mission and Service, reported that donations for State Project 2008-09 *"Break the Chains"* was \$16830.16 and total donations for the two years of the project were \$35,280.14. The national total was \$327,814.71. She reported the State Project for 2009-10 is Dayton Christian Center and our goal is \$20,000. The money will provide for Preschool and Toddler Flooring, Preschool bathroom, Computer upgrade and server, and curriculum materials.

Care and Share reports were given by representatives from Book Depository, Judson Village, Dayton Christian Center, and Neighborhood Ministries.

Sheryl Wise presented a power point history of ABWM and we enjoyed a 75th Anniversary party.

There were 124 registered attendees at the conference. There were 11 AB Girls and 9 guests present. The general offering was \$629 and Love Gift offering was \$517.50.

Next years conference will be July 10-15 at the Ramada Inn Plaza in Columbus. It will be held in conjunction with the National 2010 ABWM

Conference that will be held in Columbus. It is in the works to provide one day set aside for Ohio Day to hold the Ohio Conference. More information will be coming as it is available.

It is evident by reports throughout the conference that the current economic downturn has placed a hardship on all aspects of the ABWM programs. I encourage you to continue to pray and work to support the program needs. Materials for White Cross, Care and Share, State Project, and Scholarship Student will be coming to you soon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lillie Wilson, ABW President, Miami Assn.

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### Upcoming Women's Events Opportunities for Fellowship, Encouragement, Spiritual growth, and Service

**September 8: ABW Circles meet** (always the 2nd Tuesday of the month). See ABW page for details.

**September ??: Morning Bible study begins** - Watch the weekly bulletin for beginning date and name of study book. Dale Braun is the facilitator. Contact her at 726-4000.

**September 10: Evening Bible study begins** - the group will be studying Beth Moore's Living Beyond Yourself-Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit. Teri Horsley will serve as facilitator. Contact her at tlhrsl@cinci.rr.com or 896-7921 for more information.

**October 3: ABW Fall Rally @ Matthew 25**

Newsletter  
**DEADLINE**

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

## **FBC 101: Who Is First Baptist Church?**

It is my plan to once again offer a fall elective during the Sunday School hour **beginning September 13**, dealing with issues of church membership. **The class is called "FBC 101."** This six-week seminar will describe our high expectations for new members (and ourselves) which includes issues such as becoming a follower of Jesus Christ; church attendance; Biblical tithing; spiritual gift identification for ministry; a summary of our common values and doctrine; a brief history of FBC; a summary of church polity and practice (how we organize ourselves for work); a description of our missions effort and support; a conversation about our opportunities for service; meeting some of our church officers; introduction of church staff; and a description of the ordinances of the Lord's supper and baptism. Members are also welcome to attend as a refresher course on what we are about at FBC. **If you ever wanted to know something about First Baptist, this is the gathering for you. We will meet in the Family Center from 9:15-10:10. All are welcome. Please express to Pastor your interest in attending.**

–Pastor

### **Family Camp Labor Day Weekend September 4 - 6, 2009**

Come for a weekend of family fun, worship, and teaching. Learn how to strengthen your family and build a healthy marriage. Financial and estate-planning workshops. Come for the day; come for the weekend! Our guest speakers for the weekend are Michael and Amy Smalley from the Smalley Marriage and Family Center. [www.smalleymarriagecenter.com](http://www.smalleymarriagecenter.com). Bring your family or bring yourself. Family fun for all ages; games, swimming, crafts, inflatables, and great teaching. We are all part of God's family!

Camp Kirkwood  
5719 State Route 73 West  
Wilmington, OH 45177

## **Totally Terrific Tuesdays**

Well, the summer has just flown by but we were able to cram in a lot of civilities on our Tuesdays. We created master pieces, ate ice cream, swam leagues, bounced miles, bowled strikes, smelt treated water (one of the most interesting events by far!), putted for hours, laser tagged everyone and generally made the most with all our energy and enthusiasm! Many, many thank yous to all who made these fantastic days possible!

## **Wonderful Wacky Wednesdays**

Wow to Ruthie Wallace for being faithful in coming each week and sharing a lesson from the heart with our children. All the children were occupied in different activities, our favorite being painting using water pistols, and were taught with a gracious heart.

## **New Believers Class**

We had an average of 11 new believers as we worked through what it means to be a Christian and exactly what baptism is. We discovered how mathematical the Bible is with triangles, consisting of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, and looked at how to live life as a believer in school and at home. We will be pleased to announce baptism dates soon.

## **News, News, News!**

It is with news that we share that Brandi is taking a hiatus from being Children's director. She has accepted a job in Ross and will be sorely missed. Brandi has promised that she will still take an active role in supporting our children and blessing others at church. I feel like I am losing a limb - my America part - as we were able to connect and work as such a unique team. If you see Brandi be sure to encourage her and let her know how appreciative you are of her abilities and enthusiasm. We'll still be able to work together, just in a different light. As Pastor says, "Christians never retire!"

**Cheryl Motzer** is stepping up to work with the "Brit". She brings many skills, a positive attitude, creativity, **and John** (also the rest of her talented family:) with her! Cheryl's years of experience are numerous from working in Cubbies, to organizing Family Fun days, chairing Family Life Committee, going on field trips, teaching and motivating others. I know I am blessed for the opportunities to work more closely with her.

–Claire Metzger  
Co-Director of Children's Ministries



## 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 April, May, and June, 2009.

### Nursery/Toddler

Marsha Helton  
Ed Emerick

### Primary

Nellie Roberts

### Middler/Junior

Anna Wallace  
Noelle Wilson

### Senior High

Jeremy Spence

### Homebuilders

Debbie Allen  
Bruce Soldano  
Judy Wallace

### Parenting

Stan Brown

### Keystone

Kathy Chambers  
Ray Chambers  
Betty Eicher  
Bob Eicher  
Isabell Johnson  
Mary Petry  
Walter Petry  
Fred Schilling  
Irene Schilling  
J.K. Walker

### FOCUS

Don Gingrich  
Jean Grimes  
Paul Grimes  
Carol Howard  
Bill Roberts

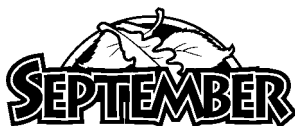
### Office

Linda Gibbs



Sunday School Promotion Day for those completing Kindergarten through 5th grade will be August 30th during the last part of the Sunday School hour. These students will begin their new class on September 6th. Children under Kindergarten age are permitted to advance to the next age level on their birthday when the parents and teachers feel they are developmentally ready for the next class.

—Barb Arnold  
Sunday School Superintendent



## Corrections and Additions To The Directory

Please call the church office with additions or changes to your address, phone number, or e-mail address so that everyone can update their directory.

### **Bowling, Brent & Kristen**

2150 Scott Road  
Oxford, Ohio 45056

### **Bowling, Deron & Monica**

Phone # 513-885-8817

### **Gambrell, Mandy**

1683 Eden Park Drive, Apt. 12  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

### **Lakes, Fred & Lil**

43 Warr Court  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

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## Missionary Guest—September 20th

On September 20th, it will be our joy to have with us a special missionary guest who is no stranger to First Baptist Church—**Kit Ripley**. Kit is an American Baptist missionary whose primary ministry involvement is with the New Life Center Foundation in northern Thailand where she works in a wide variety of ways with ethnic minorities from the hill tribes. The New Life Center works with tribal minority girls who have come out of exploitative labor situations or are at risk for becoming victims of labor exploitation. Her work there includes teaching residents Bible and personal budgeting classes, directing the handcraft program and providing pastoral care and leadership development for New Life Center staff. She also leads therapeutic art classes and does clinical consultation with victims of human trafficking.

Kit serves as a member of the steering committee for the San Jai Network, a coalition of Christian organizations that engages in training, shares resources, and provides advocacy so that God-given honor and dignity of vulnerable children and women in the Mekong Sub-Region may be restored. In addition, she facilitates periodic training in conflict transformation. I hope you will be present that morning to support this choice servant of the Lord.

—Pastor



A new year and again new opportunities to take part in this timeless ministry! Our kickoff will have happened by the time you read this (August 26th) but the fun has only just begun. With the following dates we are eager to get back into the swing of learning verses, sharing stories, playing games, creating mess and of course fellowship:

Here are our dates and club nights planned for September and October:

**Awana September Calendar**

- 3rd - First Official Club Night
- 10th - Regular Club Night
- 17th - Awana Colors Night - wear red, blue, green & yellow
- 24th - Student Handbook Time/Recreation Time/Staff Meeting
- 30th - Regular Club Night

**Awana October Calendar**

- 7th - Mini Store Night
- 14th - Regular Club Night
- 22nd - Missions Night
- 29th - Fall Festival/Handbook time

**Canned Food Drive  
'Til Thanksgiving**

Again we ask you to pray for God's guidance for us and for yourself, as we are still in need of key people to share their talents and gifts in Awana this year. Our largest area of concern is finding a Sparks Director, with God's blessing by the time we are published we hope to already have a willing volunteer who feels led to work in this area.

We are still hoping to run a bus service to pick up our families for Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings, please see us if you are interested.

—Claire Metzger & Cheryl Motzer  
Co-Directors of Children's Ministries

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



**From The Heart Of  
Marilyn**

**College Corner**

**E-Mail From God**

**I'll Get Your Back**

*"The remnant of Israel . . . will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid."*

—Zephaniah 3:13

Dear Child of Mine,

In Heaven, nobody's afraid. No one will shoot at you there, because your body will be spiritual, not physical. No one will put you down, because in Heaven, we don't do that. No one will harm you in any way.

On earth, you sometimes need to be on your guard. There are some people you can't trust. But in Heaven, you could take a nap right out in the middle of the street, and no one would even bother you. The reason is, I control what goes on in Heaven, and I keep evil out.

I want to do the same thing here on earth. I want to protect you and guard you. Let Me take the controls of your life now. Trust Me to keep you safe.

Your Bodyguard,  
God

**Important!!** We need all college students addresses as soon as possible. **This year we also need their email addresses.** Please call Marilyn Bowling 863-2435 or the church office 868-1412.

—Marilyn Bowling  
College Coordinator

**Midday Music in Oxford Begins  
2009-10 Season of Free Concerts**

In Oxford at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main Street, the Midday Music in Oxford series offers its first Fall concert at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16th, with a performance by the Hamilton Fairfield Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Paul Stanbery, and featuring organist Heather MacPhail in a rare performance of the Concerto for Organ, Strings, and Timpini by Poulenc. Information: 523-6969.



Our new MOPS year is just about ready to begin! First Baptist has been the chartering ministry and offering MOPS to all moms in the Hamilton/Fairfield/Oxford community for a decade now. With a new year comes new goals, new leaders, new moms and new relationships. Our theme for this year is ***Together on Planet Mom***. The foundation of being ***Together on Planet Mom*** is that God is with us and we are created for relationship with him and each other. We were created to "do life" together. This life together is the focus of our theme verse for the year, where Jesus promises: *"For where two or three come together ... there am I with them."* (Matthew 18:20). This year we have really put a focus on reaching out into the community and grabbing hold of those mom's who are searching for friendship, a safe environment and a relationship with Jesus. We have attended many public events to promote our MOPS group including the Fourth of July Parade, movies in the park and events at Village Green. We will also be hosting our First Annual Great Mom's Walk along the Hamilton Bike Trail on Saturday, September 26th. (Please check the flyers posted around the building for specific details on how to participate). MOPS International is also focusing on community service projects this year. Our MOPS group will be partnering up with One Way Farm, Oxford Pregnancy Center and Cincinnati Children's Medical Hospital.

We are asking our church family to be apart of this ministry and join us in reaching the lost and lonely mothers of our area. There are so many ways you can help us to help others! We are in desperate need of childcare workers to commit to two hours one Tuesday a month so we are able to hold our monthly meetings. We would also love for as many of you as possible to come join us on the day of our Great Mom's Walk. Most importantly we need you to pray for us - for our leaders, our moms, our children and for those who have yet to come. Your prayers were so evident last year in our group. Many of our moms have made a new or renewed commitment to Christ, we launched a summer MOPS bible study that had 15 moms in attendance and several moms have found a place where they feel safe and loved. Thank you for being and continuing to be a part of the MOPS ministry.

On Planet Mom - but not alone,  
Elise



## Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



### Silent Dinners

The **Silent Dinner** for **September** will be held on Friday evening, September 4th, at Florence Mall. See you there!

### Interpreter Schedule For September

<b>September 6</b>	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
<b>September 13</b>	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
<b>September 20</b>	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
<b>September 27</b>	Jo Manson	Maria Miller

—Maria Miller  
Director of Deaf Ministries



## Nominating Committee Elected

The following were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee at the second quarter business meeting on Wednesday, July 15th. The responsibility of the Nominating Committee will be to search out men and women of the Lord's choosing to serve Him and the church, beginning in 2010.

- Larry Wallace . . . . . representing the Deacon Board
- Evon Laubenstein . . representing the Deaconess Board
- Mike Braun . . . . . representing the Missions Board
- Larry Bowling . . . . . representing the Trustees Board
- Linda Wallace. . . representing the Christian Ed Board
- Ken Hendricks . . . . . Member-at-Large
- Doug Wallace . . . . . Member-at-Large

Those filling offices for the coming years will help determine the direction of the ministry of First Baptist Church. The responsibility that this committee undertakes is an awesome one and your prayers are coveted as they begin this important task.



## Child Care Schedule

### Nursery (Morning)

September 6 - Mary Petry & teen helper  
 September 13 - Judy Wallace, Amy & Anna  
 September 20 - Debbie Miller, Megan, & Emily  
 September 27 - Andrea Mardis & teen helper

### One & Two Year Olds

September 6 - Ruthie & John Wallace  
 September 13 - Johnnie Wallace, Samuel & Audrey  
 September 20 - Betty Emenaker & teen helper  
 September 27 - Monica Rose & Hailee

### Kinderchurch

September 6 - Vickie Baker & Dorothy Hollowell  
 September 13 - Barb & Brian Begley  
 September 20 - Vickie Baker & Dorothy Hollowell  
 September 27 - Ruthie & John Wallace



## 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 with, please call the following Child Care Coordinator:

Ruthie Wallace - (887-8387)

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



## Wednesday Family Dinners

### September 9

Menu: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy,  
 Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Dessert  
 Hosts: Deacons

### September 16

Menu: Pulled Pork Barbecue Sandwiches, Baked  
 Beans, Cole Slaw, Potato Chips, Dessert  
 Hosts: Deaconesses

### September 23

Menu: Baked Chicken Breast, Macaroni and Cheese,  
 Peas and Carrots, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert  
 Hosts: TNT (Seekers)

### September 30

Menu: Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert  
 Hosts: Keystone I

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

## September Greeters

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

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## Updated 2009 Phone Directories

The updated 2009 Phone Directories are on a table in the connector in alphabetical order. Please get yours as soon as possible and any family member. If you are not in the directory and would like one, please call Ellie in the church office, 868-1412. The directories will be in the church office after Labor Day.



## Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

*What are you hunting for?*

The CREW and I just finished our annual CREW Video Scavenger Hunt which is always a load of fun. We take two hours and go around the county trying to "find" different areas in order to complete a list of around 40 tasks. This year we also did a "Where's Jeremy and Aleesha?" items where Aleesha and I drove to a place in town, texted the teams with a clue, then waited to see which team would find us first. This is one of my favorite events and it is always a blast to watch where and what our teens did through out town.

It is also surprising to realize just how quick time goes by, and how hard it is to complete all the tasks. Through the three years of this event no group has ever completed every tasks. The winning team is the one with the most points, each task has a point value known only to me, at the end of our time together.

A couple observations I have noticed about life from our scavenger hunts. Sometimes, time goes by so fast we are not able to get everything we want done. This summer has been that way for me. I can't believe it is the end of August, I have yet to complete all my "tasks". Where has time gone? For all of us, like the teams in our hunt, we must prioritize our time and daily schedules. A question I am pondering, maybe you want to as well, "How well do you intentionally prioritize your day?" If I don't prioritize my day and what needs to be done, the things I have to complete will prioritize for me, typically to my detriment.

Secondly, I have learned that before you now time is up. Our teams each year always want just a little more time to complete things and go another place, yet I never give them more time. I sit back at the end of most days and wish I had just a couple more hours then I could get everything done. In reality, I probably wouldn't be much more productive because I would find something else to do most days. Is that true for you?

This event also reminds me of the words of Christ when he said, "Seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6.33). Here Christ is telling us to be intentional and purposeful in picking God's kingdom over the other things which want to rule our life. If we don't do this each and every day we very well may find out that instead of seeking God we are just going through the motions. This is hard to do at times, especially when our to-do list is long and our time short, yet, seeking God is the most rewarding and beneficial task we could accomplish. With seeking God we will find the life we were meant to live. We will realize the worth he gives us, seek others as people who need him. However, this won't happen by accident you, as well as I, must daily choose to seek Him for He won't force you.

Choosing Our God Daily,  
Jeremy

### Upcoming Events:

**2nd at 6:30pm-** Kickoff to our new Lifeline Season. Food will be provided and we will start our Storying experience for the year. You will not want to miss this night as we start off the year in a new and great way. Fun begins promptly at 6:30pm and will be finished at 8:00 pm.

**6th:** NO CREW Activities at this time. There is a Family Camp out at Kirkwood this weekend that you are invited to

**11th-12th:** Revolve Tour for CREW girls. This year you will learn that God loves you, the Real You, For Real. Go to [www.RevolveTour.com](http://www.RevolveTour.com) for more information. Cost is \$50 per person and includes lodging, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, as well on conference fee. You will leave around 5pm on Friday night and be back around 9pm on Saturday. See Jeremy to register or with any of your

**13th:** CREW Small Groups kick-off for the fall season. Groups for 7th & 8th graders, 9th & 10th graders, and 11th and 12th graders all will meet at the church. Plan on being present for small groups.

**19th 12-4pm:** CREW Paintball Outing. Join us for an afternoon of paintball fun. Cost will be around \$30 per person, let me know if you are bringing your own gun and mask, and will include everything you need for the afternoon. Sign up soon to ensure we have a group to go. We must have around 8 people to go for us to be able to play. Let Jeremy know if you are interested and for more information.

**23rd:** See You At the Pole at each of the local schools. Join other students 30 minutes before the start of school to pray for each other, the administrators, teachers, and fellow classmates. Pray that Christ would be visible in your school by the way you treat others. This is a great way for you to make a difference in your school by praying for one another and taking a stand for Christ.

**Compassion Child:** Don't forget to bring in your offerings to help support David our compassion child. We are constantly receiving updates on him and his drawings keep getting better. It takes about \$45 per month to support him. The past couple months you guys have been doing an outstanding job, keep up the great work. His latest letter is downstairs with the others so take time today to read what he had to say. Also remember to pray for him, his family, and his village each day.

**CREW Calendar:** Don't forget to go online to [www.firstbaptisthamilton/student](http://www.firstbaptisthamilton/student) to see the CREW calendar for the next couple of months. Download it and hang it up so you know what is going on. Events have been posted all the way into February. See Jeremy for any questions.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September 2009</h1>						
		<b>1</b> 9:30 MOPS Steering Committee	<b>2</b> 5:00 ABW 6:30 Awana-1st Club Night 6:30 Lifeline-Kick-off 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  Family Camp @ Kirkwood	<b>5</b> 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering  Family Camp @ Kirkwood
<b>6</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship  Family Camp @ Kirkwood	<b>7</b> Labor Day! Church Offices Closed	<b>8</b> 10:00 Holloway Circle 7:00 Abell Circle 7:00 Smith Circle	<b>9</b> 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	<b>10</b> 5:30 Board of Trustees 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	<b>11</b> 5:00 CREW Ladies leave church for Revolve Tour in Columbus	<b>12</b>  9:00 CREW Ladies return to church from Revolve Tour
<b>13</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Mission Board 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:30 CREW Sm. Groups	<b>14</b> 11:00 Women's Book Club @ Fairfield Library	<b>15</b> 9:20 MOPS	<b>16</b> 6:00 Nominating Com. 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana-Colors Night 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	<b>17</b> 5:30 Music & Worship Committee 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 12:00 CREW Paintball
<b>20</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship-Kit Ripley 4:30 Diaconate 5:30 KingsKids Kick-Off 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:30 CREW Sm. Groups	<b>21</b> 7:15 KeenAgers' to Columbus, IN	<b>22</b>	<b>23 See You At The Pole</b> 6:00 Nominating Com. 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Handbook/ Recreation/Staff Mtg. 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	<b>24</b> 8:30 Matthew 25 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  9:30 MOPS Great Mom's Walk @ Bike Path
<b>27</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 CE Board 5:15 Youth Choir 6:00 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:30 CREW Sm. Groups	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:00 Nominating Com. 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir			



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1 - Linda Dunaway  | 14 - Jim Bell<br>Teene Campbell<br>Erin Roberts<br>Iris Patton<br>Bonnie Hanna        | 24 - Bob Eicher<br>Lee Roco Jenkins<br>Siera Jordon<br>Lillian Ruth Wallace      |
| 2 - Jenny VanMeter   |   |  |
| 3 - Claire Metzger<br>Ben Morris<br>Cleta Paragin<br>Mike Wallick                      | 15 - Linda Cain<br>Walter Petry   | 25 - Colleen Hefner<br>Guy Hefner<br>Donald Hines<br>Sandra Imhoff<br>Bill Merz  |
| 4 - Grady Rector   | 16 - Martha Helton<br>Barb Keith  |  |
| 5 - Richard Law  | 17 - Brent Bowling<br>Earl Cotton<br>Carlie Lin Day<br>Kevin Geiss                    | 26 - Nancy Follmer<br>Mandy Gambrell<br>Molly Gambrell                           |
| 6 - Michael Krall<br>Myron Mesler  |   |  |
| 7 - Kaitlyn Begley<br>Deron Bowling<br>Bud Conrad<br>Sandra McCartney<br>Martha Patton | 18 - Herb Cox<br>Jack Young   | 27 - Dana Diedrichs<br>Andrew Geyer<br>Jené Krall<br>Evelyn Mesler               |
| 8 - Makayla Witmer<br>Dave Hurst   | 20 - Ashley Adams<br>Karen Buchanan<br>Carm Glover                                    | 29 - Shawn Lee Bailey<br>Blake Hendrickson<br>Carolyn McAllister<br>Megan Miller |
| 9 - Carla Metzler<br>Lisa Sprague  | 21 - Bob Braun<br>Hunter Michael Day<br>Lisa Hampton                                  | 30 - Angie Inloes  |
| 10 - Carolyn Gabbard<br>Mikayla Laney  | 22 - Barbara Lakes<br>Jan Smith<br>Al Schumm  |  |
| 11 - Jim Krall<br>Merle Wilson   | 23 - Rex Collier<br>Phyllis Cotton<br>Conner Gleason<br>Judy Swicegood<br>Cyndi Young |  |
| 12 - Evelyn Allen<br>Emily Metzger<br>Samuel Wallace                                   |   |  |
| 13 - Brian Chamberlain   |   |  |

**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 Blvd.  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013  
Phone: 513-868-1412

## Personal Notes



### From Marlene Collins

I want to thank you for praying for me after my shoulder became broken. I'm working on getting better but it seem so slow! I certainly appreciated Pastor Bill and Bert coming to visit and to pray with me. I should start some physical therapy by next week and hope to be driving soon. It's easy to forget how nice it is to be able to jump into a car and just go. Thank you again.

### From Laurie Davidson (sister of Kim Gingrich)

Prayers make a difference in our lives and it has really helped me get through some scary times. I thank each and everyone of ya'll for your thoughts and prayers. I will always remember this. Thanks again and may God be with each and everyone of ya'll.

### From Clea Paragin

I greatly appreciate all the cards, calls, visits, and prayers from everyone on my recent knee surgery & rehab. This is certainly the most caring & compassionate church family I have ever known. Also thanks to the choir for the lovely flowers. God bless you all.

### From Tisha Patton

Thank you so much—first of all for your love and encouragement—but also for the beautiful painting you gave me. Philippians 1:3-7 says it best: “I thank my God on every remembrance of you always, in every prayer of mine for you, with joy . . . I have you in my heart.”

### From Rose Mary Thompson

We want to thank the church family for all the cards and prayers in support of Mom during the five years she was in a nursing home, especially the last 3-4 months. We want to thank Pastor Metzger for his telephone calls, guidance, prayers and an excellent funeral service. Also, thank you to all who cared enough to attend. We sure do miss First Baptist and all our friends there. The luncheon the funeral committee provided was a special blessing. Love in Christ.

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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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