

# 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"*

*October, 2009*

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## Focus

Please help me, Lord,  
to get my life into focus.  
Help me to clear the blur,  
to eliminate the fuzziness,  
to get a sharper image  
of who I am and  
who You want me to be.

The images overlap  
into quintuple exposure:  
the mother who isn't always there to  
mother;  
the writer who never writes;  
the reader who rarely reads;  
the friend who doesn't befriend;  
the relative who doesn't reach out and  
say, "I'm here; let me bless  
your life as you've blessed  
mine."

The picture is further confused by  
the artist who never paints;  
the musician who never plays;  
the seamstress who doesn't sew;  
the neighbor who isn't neighborly;  
the wife who isn't supportive;  
the cook who rarely cooks;  
the runner who never runs;  
the housekeeper who seldom cleans and  
scrubs;  
the gardener who never gardens;  
the hostess who is not there to say,  
"Welcome to my home."

Help me focus, Lord,  
on which of these I am.  
Let me understand the futility  
of trying to be all.  
Use Your zoom lens to pinpoint priorities for me.

This busy collage is  
too much for one life, Lord.

Focus me,  
Point my life in Your direction.  
Assure me that in the final analysis,  
You hold the camera,

and my rolls are guided choice,  
not wanton chance.

Focus me, Lord,  
into the person  
You want me to be.

—Lanita B. Boyd

## The Good Samaritan

Lord, I'm like the Levite—  
So full of sin and pride.  
So many times I've closed my eyes  
And passed by on the other side.

I've learned to insulate myself  
From others' grief and pain.  
Lord, fill me with desire  
To love others in Your name.

I long to be a Samaritan.  
My head knows what to do.  
Lord, stir my heart to action  
So I will follow through

With compassion beyond goodness  
When my fellow-travelers cry.  
Help me stop and be a blessing,  
And not just walk on by!

—By Florence Jones



**MAY GRACE AND PEACE**  
**BE YOURS IN ABUNDANCE.**

I P E T E R 1 : 2 , N R S V



# American Baptist Women's Ministries



It's that time of year again! Last year, ABW along with members of the congregation, worked together to fill 100+ shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Operation

Christmas Child, a unique project of Christian relief and evangelism organization, Samaritan's Purse, delivers gifts to hurting children while also telling them about God's greatest gift—His Son, Jesus Christ.

We are asking you, every member of the congregation, to join with us again to make this exciting project a success again this year. With your help we can bring joy and hope to millions of children again this Christmas.

Nancy Whipple (863-2309) is the contact person. Please bring in your filled box by Wednesday, November 11th. Here is a list of suggested gifts you can use in your box.

**Toys:** small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, plastic kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.

**School Supplies:** pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, coloring books, writing pads or paper, solare calculators, etc.

**Hygiene Items:** toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, comb, washcloth, etc.

**Other:** hard candy, lollipops, mints, gum, sunglasses, flashlights (with extra batteries), ball caps, socks, T-shirts, toy jewelry, hair-clips, watches, small picture books, etc.

### **Do NOT include the following:**

**Used Items**

**War-related Items**

**Chocolate or Perishable Food Items**

**Liquids**

**Medicines:** vitamins, cough drops, ointment, etc.

**Breakable Items:** mirrors, china dolls, snowglobes, etc.

Brochures are available for anyone who would like to fill a shoebox to contribute to this project. Any one needing a shoebox, please see Nancy Whipple or Ellie in the church office.

### Missionaries for the Month of **October:**

Thailand  
Jeff & Annie Dieselberg  
Karen Smith

### Bible Book of the Month . . . . . Ecclesiastes

*"For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil."*  
Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NIV)

The writer of Ecclesiastes looks at life squarely and exposes himself openly to doubt. He examines justice, human destiny, life, death, pain, and suffering, and tries to discover what is good for humankind in the few days each person spends on earth. He wrestles with God and argues with himself in his attempt to come to terms with things as they are.

**PRAY** for the World Fellowship Offering. Board of Educational Ministries with special emphasis on their work with children and youth. Pray for the administrator of the Evangelical Hospital in Vanga, Republic of Zaire.

—Madge Walters

## AB Young Women of Hope

The AB Girls met after church September 20th, for lunch and a meeting. We made cards of appreciation to send to nine of our missionary families. We will be donating items for Operation Christmas Child and filling a shoebox for a girl age 4-6. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, November 8th. We will go out for lunch and then Christmas shop for several children, to brighten their holiday season.

With love and service,  
Marilyn, Nancy, and Mindy

## An Opportunity for Our Girls

We are blessed to have a large, active group of elementary age girls in our church. This would be a wonderful time to start a new group of AB Girls. Programming is available for girls in grades 3-5, the Girls of Joy. Also girls in grades 6-8 can form the Girls of Faith group. These groups provide opportunity for fellowship and leadership, and most importantly, to develop hearts for service. If you would be interested in leading one of these groups, please contact Nancy Whipple at 863-2309.

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## *A Time for Encouragement!*

Those of us who make an effort to study the Scriptures, then share with others what we are learning, often find ourselves contemplating what is on the hearts of those in the small group, classroom, or congregation. Thus it was that I recently returned to Hebrews 10:19-25, which I shared with the congregation quite some time ago. I wanted to once again remind myself what the writer had to say. The invitations of the text are familiar:

- Let us *draw near* to God.
- Let us *hold unswervingly* to the hope we profess.
- Let us consider how we may *spur one another on* toward love and good deeds.
- Let us *not give up meeting together*, as some are in the habit of doing, but ...
- Let us *encourage one another*—and all the more as we see the Day (of Jesus' return) approaching.

These are powerful words of instruction and advice for those who want to become all they can become in the Spirit. I have been pondering the wisdom of point number five—“*Let us encourage one another.*”

As I look around me, it seems clear that many among us need encouragement—a shot in the arm of spiritual energy, focus, and peace. Life in this world is not a cake walk—not for the unbeliever; and not for the church either. We are sometimes bothered, anxious, and out of sorts, not even realizing that discouragement, possibly even a mild depression, has set in. People find us sighing with deep breaths, while we hardly even realize that we are doing so. Is it any wonder that in composing the historical record about the church in Acts, Dr. Luke has introduced us to a man whose life stood out from the crowd. His name was Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus. But that is not the name most knew him by. They called him “Son of Encouragement.”

Whenever we read about “Barnabas,” we find him in playing a significant role in clearing up mis-communication, intervening on behalf of someone, and generally building up members of the Body of Christ. He is characterized as “*a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith*” (Acts 11:24). After Paul met the Lord Jesus, it was Barnabas who vouched to the Apostles the genuineness of Paul’s conversion. It was Barnabas who judged that the Greek-speaking converts in Antioch had truly evidenced the presence of the grace of God upon their lives, and he encouraged them to remain true to the Lord. It was Barnabas

who stood beside John Mark when Paul refused to allow Mark to accompany them on the second missionary journey. Barnabas and Paul parted company over this incident (later restored into relationship), but Barnabas saw the promise in Mark’s character, and took him with him on a mission trip to Cyprus. It is interesting that in the final days of Paul’s ministry, it is John Mark who comes to Paul’s side: “*Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry*” (2Tim. 4:11).

Encouragement! One never knows how even simple gestures can make a major

**Encouragement—  
A consistent effort  
offered over a period of time  
enabling others to experience  
hope and promise.**

difference in someone’s life—a word spoken at just the right time; an act of kindness expressed in a moment of need; a pat on the back, expressing appreciation to someone who did their very best for the Lord. But encouragement is more than just a warm fuzzie applied in a moment of emotional need.

From the Pastor's Heart, (continued)

**Encouragement is a consistent effort offered over a period of time enabling others to experience hope and promise.** An attentive effort day in, day out.

Like me, you may have noticed an interesting thing about life around the church. There are a lot of people who seem to need encouragement. I guess it's because people get so beat up in the world that when they come to the "church medical center," they expect a word of healing, understanding, and strengthening. Sometimes they get what they need; sometimes not. We do not always pick up on the fact that some need a word of encouragement, and when we do see the need, we are not always sure what to say or do that might help. This is where the encouragement of the whole Body comes to play its important role. We are in this "life stuff" together, and we need the understanding and compassion that can be offered by those who worship beside us in the next pew, or who share the dinner table with us on Wednesday evening. Each of us needs to affirm the truth found in Paul's letter to the Roman church:

*"What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?...Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:31, 35, 38-39).*

God's eternal love for us is the basis of encouragement. **When it is all said and done, encouragement is really an issue about trusting in God's sovereignty to bring about all things according to His plan for our good and His glory.** But this is a truth that can best be received not as sterile words, but as caring action by those who are willing to make a contribution to our lives. I hope you are one willing to follow in the footsteps of "the Son of encouragement."

In the spirit of Barnabas,  
Pastor



## Budget Status Report

### The Month of August, 2009

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$62,299
Offerings	<u>55,850</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$6,449)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$61,462
Offerings	<u>55,850</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$5,612)

### The Year Through August, 2009

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$496,935
Offerings	<u>424,432</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$72,503)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$491,021
Offerings	<u>424,432</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$66,589)



—The Board Of Trustees

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## Respect Life Sunday Annual Life Chain Covered Dish Dinner

October 4th  
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Respect Life Sunday is October 4th and the Annual Life Chain, silently praying for an end to abortion and a call to forgiveness will take place on High Street from the bridge eastward from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Families, individuals, or church groups are invited to stand along both sides of High Street in a prayerful way with a sign facing the street that may say "Adoption Not Abortion" or "Jesus Forgives", etc. Signs will be available from Linda Wallace who will be in front of Elder Beerman on High Street at 1:50 p.m.

This year we will gather in the Family Center for a covered dish lunch before attending the event. Please contact Linda Wallace for information.

—Linda Wallace



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, October 22nd. 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. Remember - this is NOT just for the KeenAgers. Everyone is welcome to be a part of this ministry.

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### **Fall Back Fellowship**

The FOCUS Class will again sponsor the Fall Back Fellowship Sunday, November 1st, from 8:45-9:15 a.m. They will service a light breakfast of muffins, donuts, specialty breads, juice, milk, and coffee. All senior high through adults are invited. Children are welcome when accompanied with an adult.

—Carol Howard, FOCUS Class

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### **Reminder To CREW 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.

—Jeremy Spence

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### **KeenAger October Meeting**

The KeenAgers are going to take a train ride from Lebanon to Monroe Wednesday, October 21st. We will enjoy lunch together at the Golden Lamb in Lebanon. We will leave the church at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$12.50 per person (\$10 if we have 30 people signed up) for the train ride plus your lunch at the Golden Lamb. Deadline to sign up and pay is October 14th. See Bernie Griesinger in the connector.

—KeenAger Activity Director  
Bernie Griesinger

### **Pastor Appreciation Month**

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. It is a special time that congregations set aside each year to honor their pastors and pastoral families for the hard work, sacrificial dedication and multiple blessings provided by these special people. It is also important to remember that appreciation, affirmation and prayer support of our spiritual leaders is appropriate throughout the entire year.

The nature of the service provided by pastors and their families is unique. God has entrusted to them one of the most precious of assignments— the spiritual well-being of His flock.

Pastors and their families live under incredible pressures. Their lives are played out in a fishbowl, with the entire congregation and community watching their every move. They are expected to have ideal families, to be perfect people, to always be available, to never be down and to have all the answers we need to keep our own lives stable and moving forward. Those are unrealistic expectations to place on anyone, yet most of us are disappointed when a pastor becomes overwhelmed, seems depressed, lets us down or completely burns out.

That's why God has instructed us to recognize His servants. *"The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching"* (1 Timothy 5:17).

The good news is that we can make a difference! Clergy Appreciation Month is one way we can counter the negative erosion in the lives of our spiritual leaders with the positive affirmation they need.

Pray for, thank, and honor your pastors! Send notes of love and appreciation to your pastors. **Let them know that you love them and appreciate their efforts to make Jesus known to everyone.**

*"And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you . . . Overwhelm them with appreciation and love!"*

I Thessalonians 5:12-13a, *The Message*



## Awana Updates

Awana kicked off in August with beautiful blessed weather. September saw a lot of enthusiasm and energy from adults and children. We are looking forward to October's meetings:

### Awana October Calendar

7th	Regular Club Night	Canned Food Drive
14th	Regular Club Night	til Thanksgiving
21st	Missions Night	
28th	Handbook Time/Fall Festival	

### Canned Food Drive

We intend to collect canned food and dried goods through to November. Around Thanksgiving we would like to have a blessing and prayer over the food as we deliver it to where it is needed. In England we do not celebrate Thanksgiving, however we have a Harvest Festival this is one of the oldest known festivals, which as a church we celebrate the end of harvest and crops for the year. We collect canned food and dried goods and fresh produce and donate it to a local charity or outreach center that can bless those in need. At the start of October we set up a table in church, which is decorated with various produce such as corn, fruit, and vegetables. This stands as a reminder to be thankful for what we have and to bless others with what we can. Each Sunday people place items they have brought in and on the final Sunday a time of celebration is held for the gifts and prayers that it will bless those in need. This is something that we would like to do this year, we will have a table set up ready for any goods that people bring in and at Thanksgiving we will pray blessings and thanks over the food before it is delivered. Several Awana children have already volunteered to help collect food on Sundays and Wednesday, so please look out for our table and our eager children and remember to give thanks for what you have and what we will be as a church able to give.

Awana is going well only by the blessing of wonderful volunteers and our mighty prayer warriors, so thank you all!

## Fall Festival

Our Fall Festival is on October 28th this year. As we begin our planning for this event please pray that we can encourage our children to focus upon how powerful Jesus is and that He is a light in the darkness, especially with Halloween approaching. If you would like to donate any snacks or treats for this festival please let us know. (I'm hoping for Mr. Motzer's homemade pizzas!) We want to encourage everyone who comes to dress up in a fun way, please not in a scary outfit, we will have our photo booth to capture these outfits and maybe a prize for the most inventive.

### Childcare Schedule

We continue to have people with such big hearts spend their Sunday mornings, either Sunday School time or in Worship time, being with our children. From playing on the monkey bars, building Jericho out of blocks, glittering up a project, having a "tea party", and changing diapers. There is always room for you to help and definitely always a place!

–Claire Metzger, Cheryl Motzer,  
& Sandra Imhoff  
Awana Leaders

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### Thank You Note For VBS Offering

Dear 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Folks,  
Many thank yous for sharing Jesus through school supplies and book bags. With your help, we helped 335 school kids! Thank you all!

–Lisa Demaree & Christy Nunn

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### Invitation From Teri Horsley

I invite all First Baptist members to check out my blog at [www.thechristiancommentator.blogspot.com](http://www.thechristiancommentator.blogspot.com). It is a Christian's perspective on the current events that shape our world, from politics to the latest headlines. I invite everyone to join in the discussion.



## From The Heart Of Marilyn

### College Corner

**Important!!** We need **all** college students addresses as soon as possible. If you have not turned yours in, please call Marilyn Bowling 863-2435 or the church office 868-1412.

This year we are trying something different. We have assigned prayer partners to all of the college students. Here is the list of college students and the ones who volunteered to pray for them while they are in school:

- |                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Martha Helton     | Janet Hazelwood           |
| Brian Chamberlain | Madge Walters             |
| Jeff Hazelwood    | Lois Anderson             |
| Mark Braun        | Mike Gipson               |
| Lauren Keith      | Lexie West/Karen Buchanan |
| Sara Cain         | Evon Laubenstein          |
| Lauren Schwab     | Katie Simpson             |
| Alex Thiel        | Chris & Claire Metzger    |
| Samantha Hettrich | Mary Walker               |
| David Diedrichs   | Jan Smith                 |
| Mara Krall        | Nancy Whipple             |
| Rachel Davis      | Ruth Wallace              |
| Noah Krall        | Mike Braun                |
| Benji Stanger     | Johnnie Wallace           |
| Andy Cain         | Sharon Brewer             |
| Katie Scott       | Teri Horsley              |
| Mark Whipple      | Lil Wilson                |
| Jennifer McKee    | Bill & Bert Brantingham   |
| Nick Wilson       | Bill & Bert Brantingham   |
| Chad Allen        | Lisa & Lauren Sprague     |
| Drew Helton       | Cheryl & John Motzer      |
| Mandy Scott       |                           |
| Joey Braun        |                           |

The original sign up list was inadvertently misplaced. If you signed up to pray for Mandy or Joey, please call Marilyn Bowling 863-2435 or Ellie at the church office 868-1412. Also call if you know of anyone else in college that may have been overlooked.

–Marilyn Bowling  
College Coordinator



## Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



### Silent Dinners

The **Silent Dinner** for **October** will be held on Friday evening, October 2nd, at Cincinnati Mills. See you there!

### Interpreter Schedule For October

- |                   |           |              |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------|
| <b>October 4</b>  | Jo Manson | Maria Miller |
| <b>October 11</b> | Jo Manson | Maria Miller |
| <b>October 18</b> | Jo Manson | Maria Miller |
| <b>October 25</b> | Jo Manson | Maria Miller |

### Happy Birthday



- October 3** Lisa Miles  
**October 4** Maria Miller  
**October 27** John Brown

–Maria Miller  
Director of Deaf Ministries

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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.



We are off to an awesome beginning at MOPS! On Tuesday, September 15th we held our first meeting for the 2009-10 year. We had over 27 moms in attendance, 7 of which were brand new to our group! This was a huge answer to prayer! It was such a blessing to see so many new moms come to the meeting. Our first meeting consisted of general housekeeping items, an introduction to the year, a darling craft, an ice breaker game and of course fellowship and food!

Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 20th where we will dive into the MOPS curriculum. October's topic is The MOPS Solar System - A Focus on Friendships. We will also be offering a mother/child outing to the Neidermann Pumpkin Patch and a mom's only movie night. We have begun collecting salad dressing for our quarterly charitable organization - One Way Farm and will continue to until our December meeting.

Our fall Bible study kicked off Wednesday, September 30th and has over 20 ladies attending! There is still time to join and be apart of learning God's word. It will change your life!

Please continue to pray for the MOPS ministry, as we begin to see new moms become a part of our family and His. Please pray for the steering team, mentors, moms who have attended, who are attending and who have yet to attend. We also ask that you pray for our bible study group as many these ladies have never participated in a study before. May all the ladies receive abundant blessings and their eyes opened to see, hear and live a life for Him!

On Planet Mom - but not alone  
Elise Martin, Coordinator



## Prayer Chain Update

With the new One Call Now system in effect, the Prayer Chain members are informed of any requests with just one phone call. This system has eliminated the necessity of "chaining" the prayer request. There are advantages to this system, but several disadvantages, also. One disadvantage is the loss of the personal touch we felt when talking to a "live" person. Another disadvantage is the difficulty in receiving the message if you can't ask questions or for a repeat. I hope with experience we can overcome this problem.

The greatest advantage to using this new One Call Now system is that all 55 people presently participating in the Prayer Chain can be reached with "one call". What a great time saver for the people who start the chain! Sometimes as many as a dozen phone calls were made to keep the chain connected.

I have several suggestions. Keep paper and pencil close to the phone. Record the prayer need and pray immediately if at all possible. Or, if you have caller ID and an answering machine, allow the call to be recorded and you can then replay it. The caller will be identified as First Baptist Church.

You are invited to join us in lifting up our hurting and needy people. We can't have too many "pray-ers". Call me or Larry Bowling if you want your name added. Your only responsibility will be to pray.

I want to thank Thelma Stanger for serving with me for several years as a Prayer Chain initiator. However, she has asked to be re placed and we have done so with Bertha Campbell.

If you have a prayer need, the loving and caring people of First Baptist Church are ready to go to the Lord in your behalf. Call either Bertha Campbell at 893-9808 or Carol Howard at 887-9415. We will make the One Call Now that will send your prayer request to our praying people.

—Carol Howard  
Prayer Chain Facilitator

## Women's Ministry Council News

### Reflections on the Beth Moore Simulcast

On Friday, August 28th and Saturday, August 29th, First Baptist Church welcomed 200 women from 53 churches into our building to experience a wonderful weekend of Bible teaching led by Beth Moore. The broadcast originated from Beth's hometown of Green Bay, Wisconsin and was simulcast to over 95,000 women in 45 states and 7 countries!!! The theme for the weekend was *"Coming Home to the Heart of Your Desires"* and was based on Psalm 37:4 *"Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."* All who attended were truly blessed! The following excerpt from a prayer offered by Beth's daughter Amanda sums up the weekend:

**Dear Sister-  
God has not overlooked you,  
He has not ignored you,  
He hears every petition  
And intimately knows the heart behind it.  
Give Him full access to all your longings.  
Pray every single day  
To become a person who delights in Him.**

–Diane Wallick



### Serve City Dinner

We will be providing a meal to the Serve City Shelter on Thursday, October 22nd. Please sign up to help by donating needed food items, giving a monetary donation, or helping to serve the meal. Jerry Hampton will be planning the menu. We will be meeting at church at 5:30 p.m. to go to Serve City to serve. Don't miss this opportunity to help.



# Hand-Me-Down Dinner

LADIES!! Join us for a special evening as we meet together to share our Hand-Me-Downs! We are not talking about clothing we have outgrown-we are talking about recipes and mementos that are special to us that have been handed down in our families.

All of us have favorite dishes that we prepare for our families-recipes that were passed down in our families or ones that we plan to pass on to our children. On Tuesday, October 27th, we will meet in Room 200 to enjoy some of these dishes and share mementos or special items that have been passed down to us from a previous generation. Here is what you will need to do:

\*First, decide what special "hand-me-down" dish you would like to prepare for sharing. It can be any type of dish-entrée, side dish, salad, dessert-it just needs to be a recipe special to your family and one that has been or is destined to be a hand-me-down.

\*Sign up at the table in the connector beginning on October 4. Pick up a form for recording your special recipe because we will combine all our hand-me-downs into a cookbook for all participants.

\*Also, if you have a special heirloom item you would like to display for sharing, pick up a special card we will provide for recording information about the item.

\*On October 27 prepare your dish and bring it to room 200 at 6:00 p.m.. Bring along your family heirloom and information card for display.

\*Get set to enjoy special dining and some intriguing fellowship.

–Sponsored by the Women's Ministry Council



## Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

### *Warning Labels*

As I sit here with my hot cup of tea and some breakfast I am thinking about different type of warning labels. My tea would have this with it "Caution hot tea can burn" or something to the effect. I even found one which says, "Contents may be hot after eating them up" on a box for a frozen dessert item. Other items, like cigarettes, come with a Surgeon General Warning about health hazards. Warning labels exist to help protect us and the manufacturer against something we may do.

As I am thinking I am wondering whether we would heed God's warning labels if the Bible had one, or even would we read it? What are some warning labels the Bible should have on it? Below are a couple of the ones which I believe could be useful.

"Warning, this book will require you to become uncomfortable and seek to have an impact on the world around you. You cannot truly understand it's words without putting them into practice." "Warning this book must be read and understood with other people. Never intended for single person use." "Warning this book is not for the faint of heart. It requires much." "Warning: Reading this book may be hazardous to your health; author was killed because of this book."

I probably could come up with more labels but I believe you understand where I am going with this. Each of those labels gives an insight into either the function, quality, or intent of the Bible. The Bible was never meant for just one individual to read and hopefully understand. From the beginning of time the Bible had been passed to a community of people to read together, discuss together, and live out together.

One of the intentions of the Bible is for those of us who read and understand it that we would go out and share it with the world around us. We can't read it in our homes and churches, then live as if it doesn't matter. This would be like dumping hot coffee/tea on you. It just doesn't make sense. We must be constantly looking to serve our community in ways which show Christ to them.

The last one may very well be my favorite, because sometimes I forget, maybe you do too, reading the Bible and being a Christian means life won't be easy. We are to expect trial (James, words of Christ) and when everything is going just fine we run the risk of not needing God. Christ's life shows us when someone surrenders totally to God the world around them takes notice but it may cost one their life. His life wasn't, or isn't alone, think of the 12 Apostles, some missionaries, and our brothers and sisters in Africa and China, their life may be in danger because of their belief in Christ.

Sometimes my fear is myself and the CREW, the American Church, forget to use the Bible as it was intended

to our own detriment. The CREW and I are learning what it means to be needy of God, seeking him each day this year in our Lifeline times. We are also learning what it means to experience the Bible as a community of people and not just on a individual basis. Thus far it has been wonderful, but then again, things typically go well when you use things according to their intended way.

Heeding God's Warning Labels,  
Jeremy

### Upcoming Events:

**Sunday School:** Each Sunday morning we gather for our Sunday school groups. The 7th and 8th graders learn from Ann Brown and Linda Wallace while the 9th-12th graders are diving in and discovering the intricacies found in the book of Revelation. Join us as we dig in to learn more about the Bible, what we believe, and why we believe it. Sundays are where questions and teens are always welcomed.

**Sunday Evenings at 6:00pm:** CREW Small groups are continuing each week during the Sunday Evening Service. This is a great time to discuss issues in your life and learning how the Bible can really make a difference if you will allow it.

**Lifeline Wednesdays at 6:30pm:** You won't want to miss this months' series of stories we will hear and discuss each week at Lifeline. We have been discussing the Creation, Fall and Forced Separation, Cain & Abel, and God Regretting Making Man. Join us and help us learn from you. Remember we are in this together.

**October 17:** Paintball Round 2 will take place this day. Join us for a day of paintball on the courses of Cabin Creek Paintball on Hamilton-Eaton Road. We will meet at 11:00am at the church and will return around 4:30pm. Cost is \$30 per person and includes everything you will need for the day. Bring a couple friends and get ready for some great fun with the CREW.

**October 24:** Join us for a corn maze adventure you will love. We will gather at the church at 6:00pm and then start our adventure by heading to Neiderman Family Farm to see who can finish the corn maze the quickest. Cost will be \$10 per person and will include a special treat after we are finished with the corn maze.

**Fall Retreats:** The Miami Association Fall Retreats will be this year in November with the Junior High Retreat taking place on November 6-8, and the Senior High Retreat the following week, November 13-15. Cost will be \$60 per person and include everything for the weekend. You will need to eat before we meet at church, 6:30pm. Get your brochure in the next couple weeks and plan to join other teens across the Cincinnati area for a fun and challenging weekend.



## Child Care Schedule

### Nursery (Morning)

October 4 - Kathy Inloes & Joey Sackenheim  
October 11 - Claire & Chris Metzger  
October 18 - Jerri & Brad Begley  
October 25 -

### One & Two Year Olds

October 4 - Aleesha Spence & Barb Hendricks  
October 11 - Jenny & Rob VanMeter  
October 18 -  
October 25 -

### Kinderchurch

October 4 - Vicky Baker & Dorothy Hollowell  
October 11 - Ruthie & John Wallace  
October 18 - Vicky Baker & Dorothy Hollowell  
October 25 -



## 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 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

### October 7

Menu: Ham, Au Gratin Potatoes, Honey Glazed Carrots, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert  
Hosts: FOCUS

### October 14

Menu: Chicken Pot Pie, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Dessert  
Hosts: Trustees

### October 21

Menu: Spaghetti Casserole, Tossed Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert  
Hosts: Keystone II

### October 28

Menu: Beef Stew, Applesauce, Corn Bread with Butter, Dessert  
Hosts: Chancel Choir

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.

## October Greeters

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

## Don't Forget!

If you have borrowed any chairs or tables from church, please remember to return them.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>October 2009</h1>						
				<b>1</b> 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Music & Worship Committee 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 ONE Bible Study	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering 9:00 ABW Fall Rally @ Matthew 25
<b>4</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Life Chain Pot Luck 2:00 Butler Co. Life Chain 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:30 CREW Sm. Groups	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:30 MOPS Steering Committee	<b>7</b> 9:30 MOPS Bible Study 5:00 ABW 5:30 Nominating Comm. 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>8</b> 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Board of Trustees 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 ONE Bible Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Mission Board 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:30 CREW Sm. Groups	<b>12</b> 5:30 Fall Trip to Oneida 11:00 Women's Book Club @ Fairfield Library	<b>13</b> 10:00 Holloway Circle 7:00 Abell Circle 7:00 Smith Circle	<b>14</b> 9:30 MOPS Bible Study 5:30 Nominating Comm. 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>15</b> 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 ONE Bible Study	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 11:00 CREW Paintball
<b>18</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Diaconate 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:30 CREW Sm. Groups	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:30 MOPS	<b>21</b> 8:30 KeenAgers Train Ride 9:30 MOPS Bible Study 5:30 Nominating Comm. 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana-Missions Night 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	<b>22</b> 8:30 Matthew 25 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Women's Ministry @ Serve City 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 ONE Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:00 CREW Corn Maze @ Neiderman Family Farm
<b>25</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 CE Board 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:30 CREW Sm. Groups	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:00 Women's Ministry Hand-Me-Down Dinner	<b>28</b> 9:30 MOPS Bible Study 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Handbook Time/Fall Festival 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	<b>29</b> 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 ONE Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

# October



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- |     |   |      |   |     |  |
|-----|---|------|---|-----|--|
| 1 - | Ellie Dinger<br>Michael Gipson<br>Sandy Keller<br>Kelly Mozingo<br>Tom Thomas | 11-  | Jeremy Sapp<br>Bobby Stanger<br>Alyssa Witmer                                 | 25- | Richard Apgar, Jr.<br>Mary Petry<br>Libby Roberts                          |
| 2 - | Eva Miller<br>Tisha Patton  | 12-  | Brandon Allen<br>Sydney Shea Mardis<br>Cheryl Motzer                          | 26- | Teresa Hoff<br>Pat Miller<br>Paul VonStein                                 |
| 3 - | Steve Gingrich<br>Lisa Miles<br>Caleb Russo                                   | 13-  | Barb Burton<br>Dorothy VanNatta   | 27- | Sandy Schrader   |
| 4 - | Maddie Buchanan<br>Jane Day<br>Maria Miller<br>Kathy Reynolds                 | 14-  | Tom Farris  | 28- | Marilyn Bowling  |
| 5 - | Steven Click<br>LaVerne Gerth<br>Toni Schwab<br>Katie Roberts                 | 15-  | Aubrey Jean Dickman   | 29- | Josh Baker<br>Linda Gibbs<br>Fred Lakes<br>Josie Metzger<br>Shauna Teeters |
| 6 - | Alma Holmes   | 16-  | Alexis Ankrum<br>Cooper Chaney<br>Sara Wilson<br>Rose Young                   | 30- | Kerry Collier  |
| 7 - | Connie Smith  | 17-  | Rachael Davis<br>Hannah Imhoff<br>Jean Janutolo<br>Anne Owen<br>Madge Walters | 31- | Mark Farmer<br>Bridget Sapp<br>Thomas Scott<br>Mindy Finnerty              |
| 8-  | Thomas Ellison<br>Doug Moorehead<br>Pat Nesbitt<br>Jim Patton                 | 20-  | Brad Hefner<br>Lori Huff<br>Abby Metzler<br>JoAnn Russo<br>Trisha Zeek        |     |  |
| 9 - | John Hampton<br>Walter Hillman<br>Julie Hines<br>Dolly Houser<br>Callie Hyde  | 21 - | Susi House  |     |  |
| 10- | Thelma Ditmyer<br>Kalyne Schuermann   | 22-  | Aria Joy Metzger  |     |  |
|     |   | 23-  | Joe Arnold<br>Sydney Wilson   |     |  |
|     |   | 24-  | Teri Collier  |     |  |

**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 Faye & Jack Baker

We would just like to thank everyone for their prayers for my (Faye's) daughter, Regina Hall, while she has been away. She will still need your prayers for awhile as she adjusts back to everyday living. Thanks to all our church family for remembering her in your prayers. You're the best!

### From Norbert & Helen Baker

Our family would like to thank our church family for their prayers over the years for our dear son-in-law, Phil Frickert. He always said, "1<sup>st</sup> Baptist knows how to pray." His home going was precious in God's sight. We truly enjoyed having our family here for the burial and time spent together. You are real prayer warriors and we appreciate each of you. May God bless you as you continue to pray for those in need.

### From Janet Day

Just want to let my church family know how very much I appreciated all their prayers, cards, calls and words of encouragement at the time of my recent surgery. Thanks also to Pastor Dennis and Pastor Bill for their visits and prayers. I praise the Lord for his healing touch and I thank Him for the joy of having a loving and compassionate church family. Love and blessings in the name of Jesus.

### From Paul Grimes

Thanks for all the cards and prayers during my surgery. A special thanks to Pastor Bill for all his visits. God does answer prayers. God bless all!

### From Merle Wilson

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, and calls when my brother, Dale King, passed away suddenly. A special thanks to Pastors Metzger and Brantingham for the visits. They were greatly appreciated.

### From Jim Powell

I wish to express my sincere thanks to everyone for their prayers that my recent surgery would be successful. As far as the surgery, it was successful in relieving the pinched nerves in the back of my neck, which prohibited me from raising my right arm. However, these nerves will have to regenerate themselves to some degree to be able to raise my arm. Only time will tell if this will happen, which

could take several weeks, even months. However, I believe GOD WILL eventually grant this prayer request. Keep praying.

### From Joyce Purdy

I wish to thank the loving, caring people at First Baptist Church for their prayers, cards, calls, and Pastor Den for his visit and prayers at the time of my recent surgery. May God continue to bless all of you.

### From Fred & Arlene Smith

We would like to thank everyone for their cards and visits to Flora Smith through these last eight difficult years while she was at Berkeley Square. A special thanks to Pastor Bill for always stopping by to see her. We also want to thank Pastor Metzger and Pastor Brantingham for the lovely service. God bless you all at First Baptist.

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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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