

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

December, 2009

"The Christmas Season"

It's the Christmas season!
Our favorite time of year!
So many lovely sights and sounds
We like to see and hear!

The brightly lighted Christmas trees,
Candles all aglow,
The music of the season,
Gently falling snow.

We like to see a shining star
Atop of every tree.
Does it point us to the Morning Star
Who died for you and me?

Can *we*, who love Christ, celebrate
Without counting the cost?
Can we look at the manger
Without seeing the cross?

We get caught up in shopping,
And gifts on Christmas morn,
But do we at times forget
The reason Christ was born

On this very special day
Two thousand years ago?
He's the reason for the season,
(Though others may not know.)

Can we admire a Christmas tree
But forget Golgotha's hill?
When we hear the Christmas carols,
Do they drown out the cries of KILL?

We adore the baby Jesus
Lying sweetly in a crèche,
But those tiny hands, for us endured
Spikes driven through the flesh.

The reason for the manger
Was the cross of Calvary.
The reason for the cross
Was to set all mankind free.

The Light still shines in darkness.
Will we walk in The Light?
Or will we hammer in more nails
Like that Golgotha night?

Let's have a *Christian* Christmas,
And keep our priorities.
Let's put Christ back upon the throne
And get down on our knees

And thank Him for His birth for us,
For His selfless sacrifice.
Let's thank Him for that awesome day
He paid the dreadful price -

FOR US!

John 3:16

**Christmas is not about the gifts:
It's about the GIFT!**

—By Florence Jones





American Baptist Women's Ministries



Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to all who participated in the Operation Christmas Child project. We filled 65 shoe boxes. Many children will appreciate the donations from the ABW Circles, AB Girls of Hope, Awana Clubbers, and other individuals. Your efforts will brighten a child's Christmas.

-In His Service
Nancy Whipple
ABW President

Missionary for the Month of **December**:

Jim & Debbie Kelsey
Belgium

Jim and Debbie work with the Union of Baptists in Belgium to do new church development in the Ghent area, and to share the love of Christ with Ghent's sex workers. The Union is a group of 32 churches and preaching points where believers share and demonstrate the Good News of God's love through Jesus Christ. The typical Belgian attitude toward religious faith is one of total disinterest. Only 7.5% of the people living in this Roman Catholic monarchy have any association with a local congregation; many Belgians see no need for religious faith.

Bible Book of the Month Luke

"The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."
Luke 19:10 (TEV)

Luke presents Christ as compassionate toward women, the poor, the distressed, the bereaved, the humble. In Luke we see God manifest in flesh—the humanity of our Lord as He is crucified, resurrects, and returns to God in heaven.

PRAY that we may engage in a Christian style of celebration this Christmas. Pray for the General Secretary of the Haitian Baptist Convention in Haiti and also for the medical and theological work there.

-Madge Walters

**AB Girls Of Faith
Young Women Of Hope**

The AB Girls met in November and filled a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child. They also shopped for two needy children for Christmas.

The girls will meet on January 10, 2010, after the morning worship service.

In His Service,
Marilyn Bowling, Mindy Hazelwood,
& Nancy Whipple

Matthew 25 Ministries

There will be **no** monthly work day at Matthew 25: Ministries during the month of December.

There will be a Christmas luncheon for all of the volunteers at Matthew 25 Tuesday, December 15th, at 11:30 a.m. We will leave the church at 10:30 a.m.

-Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham

**KeenAger
December Outing**

Our December outing will be a trip to Springboro's LaComedia Dinner Theater to see their production of *The Christmas Spectacular* on Thursday, December 3rd. We will meet in front of the church at 9:30 a.m. The cost is \$38 which includes lunch and the play. We will be returning to the church around 4:00 p.m.

-KeenAger Activity Committee
Bernie Griesinger,
Pastor Bill & Bert Brantingham

The Courier (ISSN 383367-29)
December 2009
Published monthly by:
First Baptist Church
1501 Pyramid Hill Boulevard
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
Volume 44, Number 12

To Celebrate the Unexpected

Recently, I ran across this rather humorous story that offers a good point for reflection as we enter into this Advent Season. Andy Johnson, of Tappahannok, Virginia, tells the tale: At the beginning of the Christmas season several years ago, a couple of my Dad's friends decided to cut down their own Christmas trees. Upon returning home, one of the men was covered in pine pitch, so he put the tree in the stand, set it in its place in the family room, then left for a shower while his wife began to decorate it. If only it had remained that simple!

In the middle of the husband's shower, the wife let forth a huge scream, bringing the husband bounding down the stairs in little more than shampoo and a skimpy towel. She pointed to the floor and shrieked, "A snake!" A huge, black snake crawled out of the tree and slithered under the sofa. The husband quickly began his manly duty, tightened his towel around his waist, got on his hands and knees, and crawled under the coffee table to get a better view...

Meanwhile, the wife sprinted outside to get some help, releasing their Labrador Retriever from his pen. The dog ran in the open back door and into the family room. Upon spying the husband in his awkward position, the dog did what any self-respecting dog with an ice-cold nose would do when meeting someone. Upon this glacial greeting, the husband, already on edge trying to find the huge snake, was immediately startled from his prone position, bashing his head on the coffee table, knocking himself completely unconscious.

At this point, the wife returned to the family room to find her husband unresponsive, sprawled out on the floor. Thinking that he had been bitten by the snake, she called the paramedics, who arrived in record time. As the two emergency team members were moving the husband and the gurney toward the door, the husband came to, and told them what really happened.

They were still laughing as the snake decided to make a return appearance and slithered out from under the sofa. One of the paramedics was so frightened that he jumped back, tipping the gurney, spilling the husband out onto the floor, breaking his wrist. In all the commotion, the snake, somehow, got away!

Something unexpected certainly livened up the home of this Virginia family as they prepared to celebrate the Christmas season. As I considered this story, I thought, *"That is exactly what we need— something to*

stir up in our lives a fresh appreciation for God's amazing gift to us. Perhaps, even something unexpected!" What could we do? Let me offer a few brief suggestions:

Reflect

Just what is this that God has done on our behalf? In one of his books on the incarnation, John MacArthur once wrote:

"Our minds cannot begin to understand what was involved in God's becoming a man. We will never comprehend why He, who was infinitely rich, would become poor, assume a human nature, and enter into a world. He knew that we would reject Him."

Why would God do such a thing? **Because He knew that not all would refuse Him.** That some would bend the knee in love and adoration, and by doing so, would enter into an amazing world of relationship with the Almighty Creator of the Universe.

Once we became estranged from a holy God by the horrible stain of sin, God initiated His plan for us, devised before the foundation of the world, to dispel sin's penalty and to enable us to walk with him with joy, purpose, and meaning. This incarnation was a miracle born in grace, and totally unexpected by an unworthy humanity. As the ancient psalmist once said, "*Selah.*" Think about this. Ponder it. Don't let its impact slip through the busyness of your lives.

Budget Status Report

Worship

The magi of the Christmas story were right. As were the shepherds. This tiny One, who was born for us, is worthy of worship and praise. The magi's gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh are beyond the resources of most of us—symbolic gifts fit for a king, a priest, and a loving God. While these gifts were offered out of wealth and abundance—months after the Christ Child's arrival—the shepherds were present within hours of the birth, offering the best gifts of all—**adoration, worship, and amazement!** Who would have expected that out of an ordinary night, a glorious display of the presence of God would be revealed in a tiny human form born in a smelly cave sheltering lonely sheep?

Serve

When all was said and done, the magi returned from whence they came; the shepherds went back to the dark fields and starry skies; the animals munched away, as if being in the presence of the holy were an everyday occurrence. But we have the advantage of the passing of time. We have had opportunity to theologize the wonder of the season. We have learned that the best response to the Christ of the manger is to offer Him our lives as an expression of His Kingship in a world desperately in need of a sovereign Lord.

It is my prayer during this season of wonder, that we would look for the unexpected—ways that would enable the infant of Bethlehem to fill our hearts with the amazing sense of His presence. And that in the unexpected, we might find more exciting and joyous ways to reflect, to worship, and to serve our Lord and Savior.

Waiting in expectancy, and inviting you to join me!
Pastor



The Month of October, 2009

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$56,128
Offerings	<u>57,210</u>
Over (Under) Budget	\$1,082

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$55,678
Offerings	<u>57,210</u>
Over (Under) Actual	\$1,532

The Year Through October, 2009

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$613,788
Offerings	<u>525,522</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$88,266)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$605,294
Offerings	<u>525,522</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$79,772)

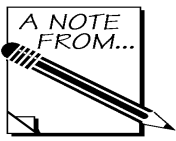
—The Board Of Trustees

Lessons And Carols

The traditional Christmas Eve service using Bible lessons and Christmas carols was first held in England in 1918 at Cambridge University's King's College. Eric Milner-White, a 34 year old who had just been appointed dean of King's, planned the service. His previous experience as an army chaplain convinced him that the Church of England needed to make worship more expressive.

The service has been broadcast from King's annually since 1928, missing only one year (1930). Radio listeners could tune in and hear the service during World War II, although the name of King's couldn't be broadcast due to security precautions. During the war, the chapel's antique glass—and thus all its heat—had been removed.

Every year, millions of people worldwide listen to the "Festival of nine Lessons and Carols." Since 1919, the service has begun with the hymn "Once in royal David's City."



Walter & Maxine Hillman

Quell The Rumor or

(Be careful what you pray for, you might get it.)

I had asked Pastor Den if I could take 5 minutes to thank our church family for being so kind, considerate and concerned during our much too long (over 18 months) absence from church. It has been asked, by some well meaning and concerned souls, if we were mad with anyone at First Baptist? The answer is a resounding, “NO Way.” We missed all of you very much. There is no way to express how good it is to know that there are people, like all of you, that are sincerely concerned about others in your Christian family. For this, Maxine and I will be forever grateful and loving to you, our church family. But, since I find it hard to just say, “Hello” in 5 minutes, I decided to follow the Pastor’s suggestion and use The Courier to express our thoughts.

However, for those of you who might be wondering what was going on, I can offer this explanation. Most of you are familiar with the circumstances that brought Maxine and I to this area as well as to First Baptist Church of Hamilton. Most of you are also aware of the medical problems that Maxine suffers. Needless to say, that in getting the medicine, medical care, equipment, doctors and treatments that Maxine needed, established here in Ohio, there was a lot of personal expense involved. We thank GOD every day that he provides a way for us to pay for this care. But just as a true believer would do, I figured that if GOD would make a way in one area he can provide a way in others as well. So I began my thanks with another request immediately afterwards. While thanking GOD every day for his blessings I prayed for a way to recoup some of the funds that we had spent setting up Maxine’s care. Believe me; GOD does answer prayer!

Sometimes I feel that I have gotten so good at talking to GOD that I can get very specific. I have always believed in the words, “LORD, if it is your will, don’t just move the mountain but give me the strength to climb.” With this in place, I began to ask GOD to Grant me this blessing in parts: Part 1: Please give me a job I can physically handle. Part 2: Let it be a driving job since I have never minded driving. Part 3: Please let it be a position where I can be of help to others and give a testimony to your greatness. Part 4: Please allow me to reach my goal in less then two years.

This is where the fun begins. My prayers were

answered as follows: Parts 1 & 2: In less then two weeks, I was interviewed and hired to drive for a company that transported clients to doctors and medical facilities. Part 3: Although we were told, as in any position dealing privately with the public, as drivers we needed to be politically correct and not start discussions involving politics or religion. As it just so happened, my clients would ask or in some cases tell me that they could tell that I am a true believer. From there the flood gates would open and on many occasion we had testimony service, prayer service, Sunday school and church right there in the van. Since I transported the same clients on many trips, the ministries continued. I feel that with God’s help, I was able to help many people every day. Part 4: God allowed me to reach my goal in 18 months, not 2 years. But again in my own infinite wisdom (LOL) I tried to extend the blessings longer then God’s plan and I wound up in the hospital from over work because I was working 60 - 70 hours a week trying to improve on God’s plan. Stupid, huh?

Always remember, THE LORD, does answer prayer. We will always thank GOD for the blessing of leading us to First Baptist Church of Hamilton, Ohio, and blessing us to become part of a truly Christian family and being accepted into your hearts.

GOD BESS YOU ALWAYS,
The Hillman’s, Walter & Maxine



Attention College and ONE Ministry Members

We will be getting together a couple times during the Christmas break so please be watching the bulletin for information about possible get togethers. We would love you to see you sometime during your break. Please call Jeremy with any questions you may have.



Awana Club

Awana December Calendar Update

2nd - Christmas Store Night
 9th - Christmas Theme Night
 16th - No Club - Church Family Christmas Banquet
 23th - No Club - Christmas Break
 30th - No Club - Christmas Break

Awana Christmas Parties!!

December 9th - 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Cubbies and Sparks each will have parties in their own rooms from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

T & T boys and girls will have a combined party this year at the Columbia Bowling Lanes. Parents may drop off their children at 6:30 and return at 8:00 to pick them up. For children whose family is eating at church, transportation will be provided to and from the bowling lanes if needed. All children will need to have the "off premises" permission paper signed to attend. Kids that attended the Totally Terrific Tuesdays this past summer will already have one on file. Please let your leader know if you plan to attend.

Awana News!

Counting down to Christmas I realize we only have 30??(or less) shopping day, a fact my Dad delights in telling me regularly. I think he is hinting that maybe this year I might send Christmas cards on time (or any at all if I am honest). With all the rush and hustle coming up towards Jesus' birthday it can be hard to find time to celebrate and focus on what Christmas actually means. So I thought we could have an "advent challenge".

- 1st: Tell someone at school/work why we celebrate Christmas.
- 2nd: Choose/create Jesus themed Christmas cards.
- 3rd: Find special Bible verses to put in Christmas cards.
- 4th: Pray for the children who receive Christmas shoeboxes.
- 5th: As putting up Christmas decorations sing praise songs to Jesus.
- 6th: Find someone younger than yourself and share your favorite Bible verse.
- 7th: Find someone older than yourself and share your favorite Bible verse.

- 8th: Make a Christmas bookmark.
- 9th: Visit your neighbors.
- 10th: Send Christmas cards and pray for those you send them to.
- 11th: Pray for all the children who may not receive Christmas presents.
- 12th: Give a Christmas hug to all you meet.
- 13th: Call faraway relatives.
- 14th: Think of 12 things to be thankful for and sing in the style of "12 Days of Christmas".
- 15th: Enjoy time with your family!
- 16th: Pray for people who do not know that Christmas is Jesus' birthday.
- 17th: Wish everyone you meet a Christ filled Christmas.
- 18th: Last day of school-tell your teacher/colleagues that you hope they experience Jesus this Christmas time.
- 19th: When wrapping Christmas presents write prayers to wrap too!
- 20th: Buy a present for Jesus - this could be something for someone in need. (E.g. gifting food/time to Matthew 25).
- 21st: Read the Christmas story in Matthew.
- 22nd: Read the Christmas story in Luke.
- 23rd: Make Jesus a birthday card.
- 24th: Pray for safe travel for people traveling.
- 25th: Christmas - sing Happy Birthday to Jesus.

New Believers' Class

We had so many wonderful children make commitments to Jesus and be baptized (Can you hear the party in Heaven?) that we will be planning another New Believers' Class in the New Year. We will share more when the dates have been decided.

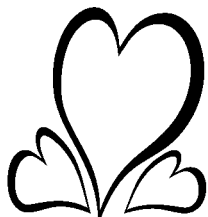
–Claire

Awana is taking a break over the Christmas period. We will be spending our December time learning how much God loves us. Also how and why Jesus chose to be born and become our Savior. Our Christmas shoeboxes will be going out about now also. :) Thank you all the Awana people for everything you do, including finding lost things (not just children!) enjoy your rest and recharge ready for the New Year.

Inclement Weather Cancellation

Just a reminder—if Hamilton City Schools are closed due to weather and it is an Awana Club night, our Awana club will also be cancelled.

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



From The Heart Of Marilyn

College Corner

E-Mail From God

Come See The Light

“Everything was created through him . . . What came into the existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Light-Life out of the darkness; the darkness couldn’t put it out.”

– John 1:3-5, The Message

My Child,

My Son, Jesus, came into your world as Life itself—powerful, dynamic Life—full of energy and hope. He came into your world as Light, blazing out of the darkness, pushing back the shadows.

All of this Life and Light was contained in a human being, so people didn’t understand who they were dealing with when they met Him. He looked like an ordinary person. But He was with Me when the world was made. Every single thing in creation was created through Him. So no wonder people didn’t quite “see the Light” when they met Him.

Although they stood in darkness and didn’t understand the Light, they could never put it out? He’s still shining! Let Him shine in you.

The Father of Light,
God



College Student’s Christmas Brunch

Sunday, December 21st
9:30 a.m.

Family Center
First Baptist Church

Hope to see you there!

–In His name,
Marilyn Bowling
College Coordinator



Congratulations To Laurin Sprague!

Laurin Sprague, Director of Fine Arts for Hamilton City Schools, received the Supervision, Policy and Administration Division State Award for the Ohio Art Education Association on Thursday, November 12th. Laurin was nominated for this award by Dr. Jan Fedorenko and fellow Arts supervisors in Ohio in recognition of his outstanding work as Hamilton’s Director of Fine Arts. The award was presented at their Awards Dinner that evening at the OAEA Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. Congratulations, Laurin!

–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!

Christmas Cards



A Musical Christmas Card Sponsored By Music And Worship Committee

As the Christmas season draws nearer, our thoughts turn to the sounds of Christmas music. Once again this year we are pleased to be presenting a wonderful gift from the vocalists and musicians of our congregation. Plan to be with us on Sunday evening December 13th, at 6:00 p.m. as we open the 2009 edition of *A Musical Christmas Card*. Come share with us the joy of Christmas as presented by our church family. A light buffet supper will be served at 5:00 p.m. in the Family Center.

–Rich Hazelwood



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him



Christmas Poinsettias 2009

In Loving Memory Of

Jane & Elden Anderson Rod & Lois Anderson
 John Baker Earl Gabbard
 John Baker Oakley Wardlow
 Willie Baker Jim & Mag Baker
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Borden Bob Borden
 Wade Ezekiel Bowling . Marilyn & Larry Bowling
 Martha Brown Ann & Pat Brown
 Violet Buck Pat & Don Gingrich
 Regina Byrd Cleta & Darryl Paragin
 Ed Cappelli Eris & family
 Janice Campbell John Campbell
 Janice Campbell Steve Campbell
 Janice Campbell Chris Campbell
 Peggy Chamberlain Roger & family
 Roger Day Janet & Josh Day
 Violet Drake The Winkler & Simpson families
 Amy Edgerton Charlie & Madge Walters
 Jon Follmer Nancy Follmer
 Ines Frost Barb Begley
 Ines Frost Monica Rose
 Bob & Pinia Gabbard Carolyn & Earl Gabbard
 Bob & Pinia Gabbard Oakley Wardlow
 Alice & Walter Gibbs Mag & Jim Baker
 Harold Hartley Mike & Diane Wallick
 Catherine Heavin J.K. Walker
 Rev. Charles & Alice Hering Mag & Jim Baker
 Hank Hoskins Katie Hoskins
 Mary Lou Hoskins Everett Hoskins
 Gene Howard Carol Howard
 Kenneth & Lillian Jackson. Carolyn & Earl Gabbard
 Paul Laubenstein Evon Laubenstein
 Myron Mesler Evelyn Mesler
 Don Metzger Pastor Den & Ruth Metzger
 Eric & Ruth Pals Pastor Den & Ruth Metzger
 Bertha Paragin Cleta & Darrel Paragin
 Geneva Perry Oakley Wardlow
 Geneva Perry Earl Gabbard
 Albert & Flo Potter Marilyn & Larry Bowling
 Courtney Profitt Anna Profitt
 Courtney C. Profitt Lois & Rod Anderson
 Gregg Reece Norb & Luella Lerch
 Wayne & Ruby Reynolds . . Bob & Thelma Stanger
 Leona & Robert Shawver Mag & Jim Baker
 Herman & Eunice Simpson
 The Winkler & Simpson Families

Linda Simpson . The Winkler & Simpson Families
 Earle & Esther Stanger . . Bob & Thelma Stanger
 Kelly Stanger Bob & Thelma Stanger
 Adrain & Etta Stricker Eris & family
 Velma Avey Stricker Dick & Peggy Avey
 Velma Avey Stricker Ruth Ann & Phil Jewett
 Richard Wallick Mike & Diane Wallick
 Paul Wardlow Oakley Wardlow
 Ruth & Marion Williams Dick & Peggy Avey
 Ruth & Marion Williams . Ruth Ann & Phil Jewett
 My Parents Nancy Follmer
 Our Parents Pastor Bill & Bert Brantingham
 Our Parents Jerry & Carole Busch
 Our Parents Ron & LaVerne Gerth
 Our Grandparents Barb, Todd,
 Lauren, & Heather Keith

In Honor Of

Alivia & Alexis Ankrum Mag & Jim Baker
 A.J. Baker Mag & Jim Baker
 Jewell & Zeke Bowling
 Conner, Riley, & Benjamin Bowling
 Thelma Ditmyer Roger Chamberlain family
 Ardell Hawley Ann & Pat Brown
 Juanita Hazelwood . . Cathi Thomas & Ann Brown
 Scott McRoberts Ruth Gaskins
 Anna Profitt Lois & Rod Anderson
 Bernie & John Raber . Pastor Den & Ruth Metzger
 Diane & Mike Wallick Nancy Follmer
 Celia & Heather Ina (Flo) Gill
 Our Grandparents Barb, Todd,
 Lauren, & Heather Keith
 Our Great-Grandchildren . Zeke & Jewell Bowling

W
I
N
T
E
R



Winter Reminder!

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

—The Board of Trustees



Our third meeting for the 2009-10 MOPS year was held on Tuesday, November 17th. We enjoyed a time of fellowship and welcomed guest speaker Barbara Condo from One Way Farm. Her heart wrenching stories of the children who previously or currently reside at One Way Farm along with her own personal story touched each one of us. May God continue to bless her and the work she is continuing to do.

With the holiday's approaching we decided early in our planning session to include a topic on extended families, which was our focus for the November meeting. The MOPS curriculum tied in nicely with this theme and encouraged us that how we respond to anything is a choice we make.

Our December meeting will consist of testimonies from our MOPS moms. Last year several women came forward and spoke about where they have been and where they are now. Several had lost their way from Him and now were back in a relationship with Him. I can't tell you how emotional and uplifting these stories are; even though we don't know who will be giving their story I know that He has encouraged someone to share theirs with the rest of our group. Please be in prayer for our MOPS group and those who have heard His voice to share their testimony.

We have recently concluded our second Bible study with an average attendance of 12 ladies! They are all so excited and encouraged by one another. Our winter study will begin on Wednesday, January 17th.

Please remember our MOPS group in prayer - the steering team members, mentors, Moppet workers, Bible study and all the moms who have attended and have yet to attend.

Blessings to you!
Elise

The Memorial Fund has provided money for several projects this past year. Approval is received from family members prior to designating funds to a project. Following are items purchased and the accounts from which the money was taken:

Round and Rectangular Tables

In loving memory of

Naudine Belew

Ruth Beerman

Glenna Corbin

Rosella Dawson

Pauline Diesbach

Andy Dungan

Earl Fields

Toni Grubbs

Frances Harris

Eyvone Isaacs

Grant Johnson

Myron Mesler

Luella Madden

Ruth Pals

Jack Rupp

Edith Sandlin

Jack Voss

Nancy Ward

Ned Weinman

DVD Duplicator For Shut-in Ministry

In loving memory of

Paul Laubenstein

The gifts to the church from the Memorial Fund enrich the ministry of First Baptist Church and honor the memory of loved ones and friends. Should anyone wish to consider a lasting tribute as a memorial, please contact any member of the Memorial Committee.

—Lisa Dulli, Dolly Houser,
Mary Law, Evelyn Mesler,
Zeke Bowling, & Diana Bueker



Women's Ministry Council News



Single/Widowed Ladies

Would you be interested in forming a group for occasional socializing, dining out, travel, shopping or whatever? The Women's Ministry Council is considering sponsoring such a group and is wondering if there would be enough interest in our church family to do so. If this is a group you would seriously consider participating in, pick up a form on which to indicate your interest at the table in the connector. When you complete the survey return the form to the basket at that table.

Serve City Toiletries Collection

The Serve City Shelter is in need of toiletry items, which are not covered by food stamps. They are in need of such items as toilet paper, shampoo, razors, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine products, etc. There is a box in the coat room for your donations. This will be an ongoing project, so your donation will be appreciated at any time.

—The Women's Ministry Council

Address Your Mess Suppress Excess To Impress

When visitors walk through our facility their first impressions may be influenced by what they see in the hallways, coat rooms, and stairwells. Using those spots as stockpile sites can present a shabby appearance. Sometimes items seem to have been just tossed on the floor. If you have supplies or equipment stored in those areas, please move them behind closed doors or into bins. Let's all do what we can to keep things looking neat.



Corrections And Additions To The Courier

Please update your directory with these additions or changes. Call the church office with additions or changes to your address, phone number, or e-mail address.

Dickman, Brian & Stacy
12009 Westerly Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45231
Audrey
Tyler
Phone # Stacy 254-5924
Brian 766-6163

Minor, Robin (Chamberlain)
2012 Meadowlawn Way
Apt. B
Fairfield, OH 45014
Phone # 383-0441

Patton, Martha
2110 Castle Pines Court
Hamilton, OH 45013
Phone # 737-4519

Rose, Brad & Monica
5377 River Road
Fairfield, OH 45014
Hailee
Sydney
Jordan
Phone # 523-4449

Sanchez, Trina
336 North 2nd Street
Hamilton, OH 45011
Samuel Jarrett
Manuel Sanchez
Phone # 628-1542 or 418-3585

Sapp, Jeremy & Misty
9876 Magill Road
Somerville, OH 45311
Logan
Izach
Reghan
Phone # 937-452-3583

KingsKids Presentation



Sunday, December 6th
6:00 p.m.
in the sanctuary

Christmas County Spelling Bee

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!

—Ruth Metzger, Debbie Allen, Lauren Schwartz



Focus Class Christmas Party

Focus Class members will gather for a covered dish dinner and Christmas party on Saturday, December 12th, at 5:00 p.m. at the Hamilton West Estates Clubhouse on Washington Boulevard. Bring any kind of covered dish, casserole, meat, vegetable, salad, or dessert. Visitors looking for a class are welcome to attend.

—Carol Howard

Blessings To The Keystone Sunday School Class!!

As of November 5, 2009, the Keystone Sunday School Class has made monthly donations to World Vision for 25 years!

A Family Christmas

A Worship Celebration For All Ages In Scripture and Song

Presented by
First Baptist Chancel Choir & Orchestra
Directed by Mike Wallick

Sunday Morning
December 13, 2009
10:30 a.m.

Created by
Dennis & Nan Allen



Mitten Tree

The Board of Christian Education will once again be sponsoring the Mitten Tree. We encourage you to bring scarves, gloves, hats, and mittens for both children and adults to decorate the tree. The items will be donated to local missions. The tree will be located in the narthex of our educational building.

—Linda Wallace



Thank you so much for all of your cards, calls, and especially your prayers during my recent stay in the hospital. We are extremely grateful for each prayer and expression of concern.

—Pastor Bill & Bert Brantingham



Free Annual Christmas Concert

By popular demand, the award-winning Canterbury Brass quintet returns for the fifth consecutive year on the Midday Music in Oxford series at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16 at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main Street in Oxford. Members of the group have performed as orchestral players with major orchestras, including those of Cincinnati, Columbus, Pittsburgh, Dayton and others. The quintet will perform carols and other selections of the holiday season. Information: 513-523-6969.



Christmas Eve Wednesday December 24 6 o'clock

We will meet together as a church family to praise and worship the One whom God provided for our redemption! Join us and share in the singing of carols, a devotional message from the pastor, Christmas communion service, and a candle lighting service. Bring your entire family, your out-of-town guests, and friends for this hour which will prepare your heart for Christmas day, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.



Christmas Caroling

This year, plans are to meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 20th, and enjoy light snacks, coffee, and cider served by the Family Life Committee, a little fellowship with one another, and divide into teams to receive assignments for this very special mission. We will leave promptly at 4:30 p.m. to deliver tins of homemade cookies and sing carols to our shut-ins. It is guaranteed that you will receive the greater blessing as you bring Christmas cheer into the homes of our shut-ins. Bring your little ones as they love to have the children visit them. Please sign the list on the KeenAger bulletin board if you plan to join us for caroling.



Christmas Banquet Wednesday, December 16th 6 o'clock

Enjoy an evening of Christian fellowship as we celebrate the joy of the season with a wonderful meal prepared by our chef, Tim Swicegood. The beautifully decorated tables, each one different as each one is decorated by a different lady, the delicious meal, and a wonderful evening of music presented by Fairfield High School's Choraliers. Heather Keith is a member of the Fairfield Choraliers. Join us and receive a blessing!

The menu for the evening is Turkey and Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Rolls, Beverage, and a variety of pies. The cost for the dinner will be \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under the age of 12; \$15 for **immediate family living in the same household**. Make your reservation on the green sheet in the Fellowship Folder. You won't want to miss out on the joy of receiving an evening of blessings for the entire family!



Cookies and Candies Needed!

As the carolers go out, they take a tin filled with homemade Christmas goodies to leave at each home visited. We are in need of cookies and candies to fill these tins. You may bring the goodies and place them on a table outside the Family Center on Sunday, December 13th or on Wednesday, December 16th.





Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



Silent Dinners

The **Silent Dinner** for **December** will be held on Friday evening, December 4th, at Tri-County. See you there!

Interpreter Schedule for December

December 6	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
December 13	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
December 20	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
December 24	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
December 27	Jo Manson	Maria Miller

Happy Birthday



December 17 - Bart Reed
December 22 - Joe Janutolo
-Maria Miller
Director of Deaf Ministries



The Oxford Chorale
Jim Patton, Director
Tisha Patton, Accompanist

Invites you to a

Holiday Concert

Saturday, December 19, 2009
at 7:30 in the evening

Oxford Community Arts Center
10 South College
Oxford, Ohio



(Addresses of those who have served us over the years.)

Rev. & Mrs. Branan Becknell
1 Waldo Avenue
Rockland, Maine 04841

Rev. & Mrs. Jim Bell
8664 Mt. Hope Road
Harrison, Ohio 45030

Rev. George Davidson
1506 Gaskill Avenue
Glouster City, NJ 08030

Rev. & Mrs. James Flye
52 Main Street
Franklin, Maine 04634

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Martin
407 W. Walnut Street
Greencastle, Indiana 46135

Mr. & Mrs. Karl Metzler
1931 Amarillo Drive
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Cherie Young Owens
109 Timberland Drive
Canton, Georgia 30114

Pastor Tim Schwartz
2921 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas 66102

Mr. & Mrs. Ted Soderholm
3110 E Linden Street
Tucson, Arizona 85716

Dr. & Mrs. Douglass Willey
Hoosier Village
5300 96th Street
Woodside # 17
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268



Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

December 6 - Aleesha Spence & Teen Helper
December 13 - Jenny & Rob VanMeter
December 20 - Stacy & Brian Dickman
December 27 - Linda & Larry Wallace & Oliver Davis

One & Two Year Olds

December 6 - Monica Rose & Hailee
December 13 - Sydney, Noëlle, & John Motzer
December 20 - Heather & Siman Nguyen
December 27 - Cheryl & John Motzer

Kinderchurch

December 6 - Vicky Baker & Dorothy Hollowell
December 13 - Ruthie & John Wallace
December 20 - Vicky Baker & Dorothy Hollowell
December 27 - Barb & Brian Begley



Attention All Morning Worship Child Care Workers

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

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

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



Wednesday Family Dinners

December 2

Menu: Beef Stew Over Hot Buttered Noodles,
Cole Slaw, Rolls, Dessert
Hosts: Keystone I

December 9

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

December 16

Menu: Turkey and Dressing, Mashed Potatoes,
Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Ambrosia,
Cranberry Sauce, Rolls, Variety of Pies
Hosts: Trustees

December 23

There will be no meal because of no service

December 30

There will be no meal because of no service

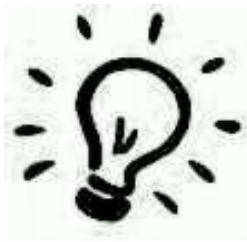
Reminder: Adults should contribute \$4.00 per person for the meal; \$12.00 for **immediate family living in the same household**. The cost for children under 12 years old who eat at the "Hot Dog" table is \$1.25. If they chose to eat from the main table, the cost is \$2.00. Be sure to make your reservation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

The cost for the Christmas Dinner, December 16th, will be \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under the age of 12; \$15 for **immediate family living in the same household**. Make your reservation on the green sheet in the Fellowship Folder.

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

December Greeters

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



Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

The Values

Last month I wrote about the mission and vision of the CREW Student Ministries. This month I wanted to let you know of the three values which help us to

know what should be done in completing our vision in reaching students of Butler County for the Lord. These values are in ranking order of what is most important and takes the highest order when deciding whether or not to do an event. My prayer is from us having these discussions, the past month, this month and next month; you will better understand why the CREW does what it does each month. As always if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me and I will be happy to hear what you think and share more what I feel the Lord wanting us to do.

Value #1: Bible Centered/Christ Centered. The CREW will never do anything which goes against the Bible. If the Bible commands us as humans to do something we will do it in the CREW, but if the Bible commands us not to do something we will not do it. We value the Bible and Christ so much it is central to all our teaching we do. This year we are interacting with the Bible and learning how to see it as one story instead of multiple stories. We also make sure to lift high Christ and his sacrifice for us because if we do not do this we are no different than any social club you can find in our area. Salvation comes from Christ alone and we make sure to give all that come into our ministry doors the opportunity to come to know him in an intimate way.

Value #2: Relationships. The CREW highly values relationship as we think it is central to who we are as people. God created us as relational people and in the CREW we strive to make sure we provide opportunities for relationships to be formed: with Christ, with others, with themselves, the Church both locally and globally, and with their families. Part of this value is we strive to provide memories for our students to be a part of so they will always remember what God has allowed them to be a part of. This leads to our next and final value.

Value #3: Fun. I believe that if we are boring people with Christ and the Bible we are actually sinning. I realize that some may disagree with me but in the CREW we strive to have fun in all we do. When people have fun together they will learn together and after you have some fun people are receptive to what you have to hear. This is similar to what Jesus did with the disciples when he chose to share life with them (Luke 5). In fact some believe that one of the accusations the Pharisees brought against Jesus was the crowd he hung out with. There are things we will do which are fun but only because it fosters relationships and the Bible allows us to do it.

These three values are essential for us to decide what we will do as a ministry. These values make the CREW different than some of the other ministries in our area. We are not in competition with other ministries but we will not be what every other ministries are. Everything we do meets the value test and each decision which is made also must go through these three values to make sure it should be done. We start with the Bible then go to relationships and always try to do it in a framework where fun is present.

Hopefully, this is helping you to understand how the CREW functions in the church. But I must add the CREW is not the most important ministry in the church but only a portion of the whole body called First Baptist Church of Hamilton. As always I am honored, blessed, and privileged to be a part of this body and church family.

Be God's,
Jeremy

Upcoming Events:

Lifeline on Wednesday: Don't miss GodStories Season 1 Episodes 8 & 9. Join us for our next episodes and then our discussion based on what we have just experienced. This is a great time of learning in a group and you will not leave the same as you came. The experience begins each Wednesday at 6:30pm in the CREW Room.

Sunday Evenings: We will not be having small groups in December due to the many special evening services during the month. Please come and see what else our church is doing. December 6-King's Kids Children Musical; December 13: Musical Christmas Card.

December 16th: No Lifeline this evening as it is the all church Christmas Banquet. Please sign up in order to ensure we have enough food for you.

December 20th 4:00pm: We will be joining the rest of the church to carol to our shut-ins. Meet at the church for some instructions and then you will be split up into groups with other adults. After the caroling, roughly 7:30pm we will be meeting at the Braun's for the CREW Christmas Party. Please bring a gift, which cost no more than \$5 and be ready to enjoy our time together.

December 23: No Lifeline activities.

December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service in the sanctuary starting at 6:00pm. Please join us this evening to be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas and enjoy communion with your church family.

December 30: Watch for details on whether there will be any CREW activities this Wednesday night.

December 31: CREW New Year's Eve Event will begin at 7pm and include bowling, pizza, games at church, and the countdown to the New Year. Our activities will wrap up at 12:30am so please be picked up by that time.

Compassion Sponsor Child: You guys have been great the past month on supporting David so please keep it up. Check out the latest letter he sent us the other week.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2009</h1>						
		1 9:30 MOPS Steering Committee	2 5:00 ABW 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Club - Christmas Store Night 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	3 9:30 KeenAgers to LaComedia <i>Christmas Spectacular</i> 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 One Bible Study	4 Carpenter's Hands Silent Dinner @ Tri-Co. Mall	5 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering
6 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:00 KingsKids <i>"Christmas County Spelling Bee"</i>	7 11:00 Women's Christian Book Club @ Fairfield Library	8 10:00 Holloway Circle 12:00 Abell Circle Christmas Lunch @ West Alexander 7:00 CE Board Covered Dish Christmas Gathering @ Rod & Lois Anderson's home	9 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Club Christmas Activities 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Cantata Rehearsal	10 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Trustee Christmas Gathering @ Berkeley	11 7:00 Chancel Choir/Orchestra Rehearsal	12 5:00 FOCUS Class Party @ Hamilton West Estates Clubhouse
13 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship - Cantata <i>"A Family Christmas"</i> 5:00 Light Buffet 6:00 <i>"Musical Christmas Card"</i>	14	15 9:30 MOPS 10:30 Matthew 25 Christmas Party for volunteers	16 6:00 Christmas Banquet w/Fairfield Choralliers	17 6:30 One Bible Study	18	19
20 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 College Students Christmas Brunch 10:30 Worship 4:00 Carolers gather for Light Snacks 4:30 Carol to shut-ins CREW Christmas Party @ Braun's	21	22	23 No Programs!	24 6:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service	25 Have A Blessed Christmas!!	26
27 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:00 No Evening Service	28	29	30 No Programs-Christmas Break!!	31 6:00 CREW New Year's Eve Event		



December

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | | | | | |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 - | Melissa Geiss
Kristy Harden
Scott McRoberts | 12 - | Larry Bowling
Betty Eicher
Walter Jackson
Abigail Riczko | 24 - | Marilyn Becknell |
| 2 - | Janice Adams
Teresa Patrick
Olive Belle Young | 13 - | Kim Schuermann | 26 - | Chelsea Dennison
Beth Grubbs Payne
Loretta Hampton |
| 3 - | Mike Braun
Jordan Brown
Arah Mae Williams | 14 - | Brad Begley
Brandi Emenaker
Earl Gabbard
Leigh Anne Gribble
Amanda Scott
Alexander Sprague
Michael Stanger
J. K. Walker
Kim Wolter | 27 - | John Haberthier
Steve Turner
Nathan Walker |
| 4 - | John Campbell | 15 - | Dan Morrow | 29 - | Merritt Becknell
Brian Dickman
Thomas Farris
Karen Gerth
Shirley Henson
Chuck Riczko
Lil Wilson
Judy Young |
| 5 - | John Riczko
Sally Williamson | 16 - | Jack W. Baker | 30 - | Alex Caswell
Judy Farris
Ralph Shearer |
| 6 - | Preston Harris
Virginia Tankersley | 17 - | Bart Reed | 31 - | Darryl Paragin |
| 7 - | Dottie Jackson | 18 - | Sharon Braun | | |
| 8 - | Mike Click
Luella Lerch
Mary Lewis
Justin Van Meter | 20 - | Lindsey Minnich
Joseph Wallace | | |
| 10 - | Amber Farmer
Daniel French
Barry Pickett
Linda Stanger | 21 - | Brooke Begley
Susan Zeek | | |
| 11 - | Juli Ford
Jennifer Wallace
Noëlle Wilson | 22 - | Paul "Bud" Braun | | |
| | | 23 - | Brad Hoover
Kris Simpson
Andrew Walker | | |

Note: Please call the church office if you notice that one of your family members has been inadvertently overlooked on the birthday calendar. We do not intend to overlook anyone but do not realize it unless you inform us.

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



Personal Notes

From Nancy & Cledith Humbach

Nancy and Cledith Humbach are deeply grateful for your support during Nancy's surgery and rehabilitation, the illness and death of Mom's sister Aura Bowling Turner (Nancy's aunt). Her son and family, as well as the two of us, are especially grateful to Bill and Bert for their visits to Aura during her last months, the lovely service conducted by Bill, and for all the support and transportation provided for both of us. It is so wonderful to know this support is there and that it is sincere. Your cards, notes and phone calls were also most welcome. I hope everyone knows what treasures we have in Bill in Bert, whose energy and Christian love for us is never-ending.

From Dan & Marilyn King (parents of Justin King)

Thanks to all for your many, many prayers for Justin. We know that he is now with our heavenly father and without any pain or sorrows. This brings us such comfort!

From Verna & Barry Pickett

Thank you First Baptist family for your prayers during my recent health scare. Praise God for answered prayers from a dedicated group of believers. Also, thanks to Pastor Den for stopping by our home to pray for us.

From Wendell & Jackie Reece (parents of Lerch's nephew, Greg)

Thank you so much for all your prayers, the cards that you sent to Greg over the past two and a half years and all the visits Rev. Brantingham made to see him. May the Lord bless you all!

From Judy Young

Thank you for all the lovely cards and most of all your prayers. When you are ill, they lift the spirit. Love in Christ.

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.*

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 29

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP
New Members Received, 2009

Janice Adams—Janice came to know the Lord 31 years ago. She is a homemaker; enjoys quilting; and it is the Lord who gives her the greatest pleasure in life.

Melynda Caswell—Melynda attended Landmark High School and Miami University where she studied Music Education. She has sung with Cincinnati Opera Chorus for 10 seasons, with many minor supporting roles. She also teaches voice and piano at Hamilton High School. She enjoys playing piano, coming to FBC via Lauren Sprague's invitation and recommendation. Melynda and her husband, Zack, are parents of Alexander Gabriel age 5; Emma Kaye, age 3; and Zoe Bronwyn, age 14. "We have really enjoyed the welcome and friendly congregation as well as the excellent children's program at FBC." Melynda and her sister, Amy, came to Jesus at a young age.

Zachary Caswell—Zack attended high school in Tulsa, OK, with Oral Robert's Grandson, Jon Nash. (Growing up in Tulsa, he knew Oral and Richard Roberts personally). He spent much of his time at his grandparents' pecan farm and cattle ranch in Bartlesville, OK. Zack's father, Bill Caswell, is a country musician/songwriter/farmer. After high school graduation, Zack's father made him leave the family farm to attend Macalester College, St. Paul, where he studied pre-med, history, and art history. Zack works for the Social Security Administration in Cincinnati where he adjudicates retirement, disability, and survivors' benefits, helping those in need. His hobbies include riding his Penny Farthing Bike, and metal working. Zack's parents and grandparents were Baptists with a deep love of Jesus. Zack was baptized at a YMCA camp when he was 10.

Brian Dickman—Brian came to know the Lord through the preaching ministry of the worship services at FBC. He works in the insurance industry with Liberty Mutual. He enjoys life with his wife, Stacy; watching his children, Aubrey and Tyler, grow up; bicycling, and running.

Stacy Dickman—Stacy is a stay-at-home mom, and a photographer. She enjoys arts and crafts, but it is her family that brings her the greatest pleasure in life. She was introduced to Christ in her college days, but came to know Him in a deeper way since attending FBC. She first came to FBC through the MOPS program. Enjoys life with her husband, Brian.

Martha Patton—Martha's daughter and son-in-law are Lisa and Mike Stanger; grandson, Logan Stanger. She retired from Champion International in 1990. She enjoys quilting, golf, tennis, and watching sporting events, and volunteering at Fort Hamilton Hospital. Her greatest pleasure in life is knowing Jesus Christ as her personal Savior, being with family and friends, and enjoying God's creation. She came to know Christ as Savior in 1953 while attending Ross Bible Chapel. She had attended FBC many times over the years as a visitor with her daughter, and made a commitment during this past year to become a member of FBC.

Allison Sommers—Allison is a stay-at-home mom. She enjoys gardening, crafts, tennis, and the outdoors. She was blessed to grow up in a Christian home, her mother introducing her to the Lord. She was baptized at church camp. It is time with her family, Andrew and Nathan, that brings her the greatest pleasure in life.

Andrew Sommers—Andrew is an assistant professor at Miami University, teaching mechanical engineering. Hobbies include running, golf, geocaching, and collecting/playing unusual board games. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Allison, and their son, Nathan. He came to know Christ at the age of 7, after his family moved from Michigan to Virginia. "I was convicted of my sin and came to Christ." After moving to the area, Andrew and Allison researched churches online that taught the Bible as the authoritative Word of God. On their first Sunday, they met Dennis and Carolyn Dudley who invited them to their home for lunch. The warm welcome received and the Biblical teaching of FBC prompted their return.

Logan Stanger—Logan's parents are Mike and Lisa Stanger; grandparents are Bob and Thelma Stanger, and Martha Patton. Logan is a junior at Monroe High School, his favorite subject being A.P. U.S. History. He enjoys playing football, baseball, hanging out with friends, and spending time with family. He came to know Jesus during Pastor Metzger's sermon on what it means to be a Christian. "I realized I need Jesus in my life." I have attended FBC with my family since I was young ("I owe it all to the family...").

Cathi Thomas—Cathi is married to her husband, Tom. Their children are Jim, Libby, and Susan, and a new son-in-law, Joe Condo. Cathi retired in 2008, after 35 years of teaching, most of it in the Edgewood School district. Currently, she works as a substitute for the district. She was raised in the basics of the faith, but began a personal relationship with Jesus in 1983. "We were looking for good programs for our children, and several friends had told me of the loving family at FBC. They were right, and I have been blessed. I've been here since 1997." Cathi's joy in life is watching her children grow into young adults.

Dave Walker—Dave is Assistant Operations NCO for the Ohio Army National Guard. His hobbies/sports are watching basketball, and working out. What brings him the greatest pleasure in life is growing old with Jill and watching his boys grow up. He first came to know Jesus in 1978. Dave and his wife, Jill, became acquainted with First Baptist on the internet.

Jill Walker– Jill is a stay-at-home mom for her sons, Drew and Nathan. Her hobbies include sports, reading, and traveling. What has brought her the greatest pleasure in life is watching her kids grow and seeing their excitement in God's creation. She came to know Jesus in 1978 through the church and the influence of her mother.

Jacob Baker–Jacob is the son of Janee' and Rick Baker, and grandson of Rick and Vickie Baker. He is a third grade student at Monroe Elementary. He plays center for the third grade football team. He enjoys drawing, riding his "ripstick", playing with his friends, and playing video games. He participates in Awana and Kings Kids at church.

Noah Hampton–Noah is the son of Allen and Lisa, and grandson of Loretta and Jerry Hampton. Noah is a 4th grade student, attending Seven Mile Elementary. His favorite subject is gym. What gives him the greatest pleasure in life is going to deer camp with his dad. He came to accept Jesus during VBS.

Lauren Imhoff–Lauren's parents are Bill and Sandra Imhoff. Sisters are Hannah and Emma. Her favorite subject in school is science. Her hobbies are reading and playing soccer. What brings her the greatest pleasure in life is reading books. She came to know Jesus at VBS.

Mitchell Inloes–Mitchell is the son of Ryan and Angie, and grandson of Kathy and Dick Inloes, and great grandson of Dolly Houser. He is a 4th grade student; his favorite subject is math. He enjoys paint ball, basketball, skiing, and wake boarding. He asked Jesus into his heart at home after Sparks.

Jordan Rose–Jordan is the daughter of Brad and Monica Rose, and sister of Hailee and Sydney. She is a student at Fairfield West Elementary School, where she enjoys science and reading. Jordan also enjoys dance and gymnastics, and loves to draw. She came to the Lord through VBS. She and her family were invited to church by Barb and Brian Begley.

Sydney Rose–Sydney is the daughter of Brad and Monica Rose, and sister of Hailee and Jordan. She is a student at Fairfield West Elementary where she enjoys math, reading, and drawing. Sydney loves soccer. She also made a commitment to Jesus during VBS.

Sydney Ruwe–Sydney is the daughter of Rob and Ann Ruwe, and the sister of Hannah and Tyler. She is a third grade student at Fillmore Elementary where she enjoys science and reading. She loves soccer and spending time with family. She has always loved Jesus, making a commitment to Him at VBS.

Kaleb Sackenheim–Kaleb's parents are Jill Saylor and Joe Sackenheim; siblings are Mason, Joey, and Cameron; Dick and Kathy Inloes are grandparents; Dolly Houser is great grandmother. He attends Bogan Elementary as a 4th grader. His favorite subject is A.P./Reading. His hobbies are legos and paint ball. "I've always loved Jesus, but I wanted to let Him into my heart a couple years ago."

Manuel (Victor) Sanchez–Manuel is the son of Trina Sanchez. He is a second grade student at the Richard Allen Academy, where his favorite subject is science. His hobbies are football, and antagonizing his brother. He loves to give hugs and kisses, and has no fear about telling people about Jesus. He invited Jesus into his life two years ago after watching a "Bible Man" video.

Samuel Jarrett–Samuel is the son of Trina Sanchez. He is a third grade student at the Richard Allen Academy, where his favorite subjects are social studies and math. His hobbies are basketball and legos. He came to Jesus about two weeks after his brother came to know the Lord.

Audrey Wallace–Audie attends Middletown Christian school as a 6th grader. Her favorite subject is science and math. Her hobbies are basketball, playing with friends, and drawing. What brings her the most pleasure in life is doing the right things and helping other people. She came to accept Jesus when she was 7 years old at VBS. Her parents are John and Ruth Wallace; siblings, Samuel, Bella, Lilly, Sophie, Joseph and Elizabeth; grandparents are Jerry and Johnny Wallace and Becky Scripture.

Isabella Wallace–Bella attends Middletown Christian School as a 4th grader. Her favorite subject is art. Her hobbies include playing the recorder. What brings her the greatest pleasure in life is her brother Samuel when he is in a good mood. "I came to know Jesus when I was 7 years old lying on my bed." Her parents are John and Ruth Wallace; siblings, Samuel, Audie, Lilly, Sophie, Joseph and Elizabeth; grandparents are Jerry and Johnny Wallace and Becky Scripture.

Lexie West–Lexie's parents are Renee Wilzbach and Shawn West. She is the granddaughter of Karen and Fuz Buchanan; the niece of Katie and Bryon Simpson; great-granddaughter of Rose Young. Lexie is a 4th grade student at Elda Elementary in Ross. Her favorite subject is art. Her hobbies are basketball, softball, drawing, and spending time with her family. She came to know Jesus at VBS.

Alyssa Witmer–Alyssa is the daughter of Chuck and Lisa Witmer, and granddaughter of Sharon Click. She is in the third grade at Cherokee Elementary School. Her favorite subject is reading. She enjoys softball, she takes tap and jazz dance, has just started piano lessons. Like her parents, she is an Ohio State fan.