

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

January, 2010

Laws Of The Lighthouse

The first of the year is known for three things: black-eyed peas, bowl games, and lists. Some don't eat black-eyed peas. Others hate football. But everyone likes lists.

The Bible certainly has its share of lists. Moses brought one down from the mountain.

There are lists of the gifts of the Spirit. Lists of good fruit and bad. Lists of salutations and greeting. Even the disciples' boat got into the action as it listed in the stormy Sea of Galilee. (If you smiled at that, then I've got a list of puns you'd enjoy.)

But the greatest day of lists is still New Year's Day. And the number one list is the list I call the Laws of the Lighthouse.

The Laws of the Lighthouse contain more than good ideas, personal preferences, and honest opinions. They are God-given, time-tested truths that define the way you should navigate your life. Observe them and enjoy secure passage. Ignore them and crash against the ragged rocks of reality.

Smart move. The wise captain shifts the direction of his craft according to the signal of the lighthouse. A wise person does the same.

Herewith, then, are the lights I look for and the signals I heed:

- Love God more than you fear hell.
- Once a week, let a child take you on a walk.
- Make major decisions in a cemetery.
- When no one is watching, live as if someone is.
- Succeed at home first.
- Don't spend tomorrow's money today.
- Pray twice as much as you fret.
- Listen twice as much as you speak.
- Only harbor a grudge when God does.
- Never outgrow your love of sunsets.
- Treat people like angels; you will meet some and help make some.

- 'Tis wiser to err on the side of generosity than on the side of scrutiny.
- God has forgiven you; you'd be wise to do the same.
- When you can't trace God's hand, trust his heart.
- Toot your own horn and the notes will be flat.
- Don't feel guilty for God's goodness.
- The book of life is lived in chapters, so know your page number.
- Never let the important be the victim of the trivial.
- Live your liturgy.

To sum it all up:

Approach life like a voyage on a schooner. Enjoy the view. Explore the vessel. Make friends with the captain. Fish a little. And then get off when you get home.

-Max Lucado





American Baptist Women's Ministries

Missionary for the Month of **January**:

Dwight & Kari Davidson
Japan

Dwight and Keri serve at Kanto Gakuin University in Yokohama, where the vast majority of students and many of the faculty members are non-Christians. Dwight teaches Bible and English at the junior high and high school levels, and Kari is involved in the community and in the Japanese kindergarten their son, Adam, attends.

Bible Book of the Month Acts

Acts represents the second half of Luke's story of salvation. We see how God guides the process which brought salvation out from Jerusalem to the whole world. Acts is more than church history; it is the story of how God's providence worked through the apostles Peter and Paul to bring the church into being. Luke teaches us to look to the story of the earliest community for a vision of what it means to be followers of Jesus, expanding on themes of hospitality, sharing with the poor, piety, rejection of pagan religious practices, and persecution.

PRAY for your own church that you and your church family may have a deeper sense of urgency for the Christian mission this year. Pray for the Bible translators as they make God's work available to every person in their own language.

-Madge Walters

Upcoming Dates: Blanket Sundays-February 7 & 14



Advisory Board Meeting

The Advisory Board is made up of all elected officers of our church. The first meeting of this board will be on Sunday, January 17th, at 5:00. We will hear from boards and committees regarding their ministries and take care of any business items which should be presented to the church membership in the annual business meeting.

Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the church will be on Wednesday, January 20th, at 6:45 p.m. Your hearts will be encouraged as you hear how the Lord has worked among us in 2009 and the vision of the boards and committees for 2010.



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, January 28th. We will leave the church at 8:30 a.m. returning at about 3:00 p.m. Come dressed to WORK and bring a sack lunch and a beverage. Remember - this is NOT just for the KeenAgers. Everyone is welcome to be a part of this ministry.

-Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham



The Courier (ISSN 383367-29)
January 2010
Published monthly by:
First Baptist Church
1501 Pyramid Hill Boulevard
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
Volume 45, Number 1

Making "Faith-Sense" in 2010

George Barna is the founder of the Barna Research Group. His organization, established in 1984, conducts primary research on a wide range of issues and products pertaining to cultural change, and to leadership and spiritual development. The goal of his organization is to understand cultural trends related to values, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors in our culture today. In other words, Barna has his hand on the pulse on American Christianity.

In his year-end report, the Barna Research Group summarizes some of the themes in religious attitudes and behaviors that have emerged from their studies in 2009. Sound interesting? I thought so as I reflected upon how we might "do ministry" more effectively in these changing times. In this article, I have quoted the report freely so that the full impact of their research registers with each of us. You may need to read a little more slowly than usual—even to re-read this article—to allow it all to sink in. Please read on:

Theme 1: Increasingly, Americans are more interested in faith and spirituality than in Christianity.

We might ask, "Isn't this the same thing?" No, not necessarily. The report suggests that faith remains a hot topic among many in America; but things are not what they once were. Barna suggests that being a Christian or associating with the Christian faith is not as attractive to Americans at it used to be. There are two reasons why this is so:

1. Those in the media have unfavorably caricatured the Christian faith, devout Christians, and Christian churches. This is hardly news. Just pay closer attention to the story lines of the television programs you watch. Christians are almost always portrayed in a negative light, and are often branded as hypocrites, narrow-minded, bigoted, or prejudiced. Almost never is a person of genuine Christian faith portrayed as one with admirable qualities and character.

2. It is rare to find someone in our culture today who is a genuine example of the Christian faith. The Billy Graham types, who are "without blemish", are rarely spotlighted in our media. The result is that people have less trouble embracing the person of Christ than they have embracing Christianity as a faith. But many people think that this is a package deal—that you cannot be a Christian without also adopting the institutional framework and limitation of the Christian world. And so, many just "drop out" of church life.

But there is still interest in spirituality in our culture. Barna comments: "Politicians,

athletes, cultural philosophers, teachers, entertainers, musicians—nearly everyone—have something to say about faith, religion, spirituality, morality, and belief these days. But as the fundamental values and assumptions of our nation continue to shift, so do our ideas about faith and spirituality. Many of our basic assumptions are no longer firm or predictable. One of those assumptions relates to how we develop our faith."

One of the questions I ask in our FBC-101 seminars relates to the resources people in the group have used to inform the faith that they follow and practice. I once commented that "Those in the church just don't make up the things we believe and practice." Now I am not so sure.

The culture of today seems to have a only a vague understanding of the basis for our faith journeys. The specific components of what many believe and practice seem to be driven by "our needs and perceptions of the moment." Today, many have cut themselves loose from a faith practiced in community. Now, it seems, the faith we develop is chosen buffet-style from the marketplace. Essentially, we begin to "make up our faith as we go," choosing our ideas, beliefs, relationships, habits, rituals, and traditions that make immediate sense to us, and with which we are comfortable. This practice led Barna to a second observation:

Theme 2: Faith in the American context is now individual and customized.

Barna comments: "Now that we are comfortable with the idea of being spiritual, as opposed to devoutly Christian, Americans

(From the Pastor's Heart, continued)

typically draw from a broad treasury of moral, spiritual, and ethical sources of thought to concoct a uniquely personal brand of faith. As a result, we become our own unchallenged spiritual authorities, defining truth and reality as we see fit...Consequently, more and more people are engaged in hybrid faiths, mixing elements from different historical eras and divergent theological perspectives...In some ways, we are creating the ultimate ecumenical movement, where nothing is deemed right or wrong, and all ideas, beliefs, and practices are assigned equal validity.” Research shows:

- 71% of those surveyed say they will develop their own slate of religious beliefs rather than accept a package of beliefs promoted by a church or denomination.
- Only one-third (34%) believe in absolute, moral truth.

This leads Barna to suggest a third theme from his year's surveys:

Theme 3: Biblical literacy is neither a current reality, nor a goal, in the U.S.

Barna states that there is “*shockingly little growth evident in people's understanding of the fundamental themes of the Scriptures, and amazingly little interest in deepening their knowledge and application of biblical principles.*” Barna goes on to observe that “*Bible reading has become the religious equivalent of sound-bite journalism. When people read from the Bible they typically open it, read a brief passage without much regard for the context, and consider the primary thought or feeling that the passage provided.*”

The problem facing the Christian Church is not that people lack a complete set of beliefs; the problem is that they have a full slate of beliefs in mind, which they think are consistent with biblical teachings, and they are neither open to being proven wrong nor to learning new insights. Barna concludes that by the time most Americans reach the age of 13 or 14, they think they pretty much know everything of value the Bible has to teach, and they are no longer interested in learning more scriptural content.

In his observations, Barna identified these issues:

- Just half of all self-identified Christians firmly believe that the Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles (not the facts, just the principles) that it teaches.
- Less than one out of every five born-again adults (19%) has a biblical world-view, which is

unchanged in the past 15 years.

These attitudes requires the church to provide increasingly concise, creative, reinforced, and personally relevant efforts to penetrate people's minds with new or more accurate insights into genuinely biblical principles. This leads Barna to a fourth theme:

Theme 4: Effective and periodic measurement of spirituality – conducted personally or through a church – is not common at this time, and it is not likely to become common in the near future.

Barna: “*Our studies this year among pastors showed that almost nine out of ten senior pastors of Protestant churches asserted that spiritual immaturity is one of the most serious problems facing the Church.*”

What pastors are concerned about here is not that the people simply agree with him about how to run the church. They are more concerned that those who worship with them would understand and apply the deeper spiritual truths taught in the Scriptures. Barna observes, however, that “*relatively few of those pastors have gone so far as to give their congregants a specific, written statement of how they define spiritual maturity, how it might be measured, the strategy for facilitating such maturity, or what scriptural passages are most helpful in describing and fostering maturity.*” Too often, most pastoral leaders are more likely to gauge spiritual depth on the basis of participation in their various programs than to evaluate the “*transformational fruit*” that might be present in their lives.

These are four observations and themes offered after many studies and surveys taken among those in our culture. This is pretty heady stuff. But it is where the Barna Group finds us as a culture during these days. These should certainly speak to us about where we should direct our thoughts and efforts in the days before us in this new year.

One final thought: **What if the Christmas we have just celebrated is the last Christmas before Jesus returns?** How might we reorder our personal lives and our ministries? Let us consider the possibility in our own lives of deepening our faith; of becoming totally committed to absolute, moral truth; of immersing ourselves in the truth of the Scriptures; and of responding to the challenge to keep pressing on so that we might hear our Lord and Savior say to us, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Loving you in this new year, and pressing on to become more and more like our Lord, Pastor



All annual reports are due in the office **on disk** (Word Perfect, Word, or generic text file, if possible) by Wednesday, January 6th. Preparation time is needed to compile and print this valuable report.

KeenAger January Meeting

Our January meeting will be at church at 10:00 a.m., Monday, January 18th. We will be discussing meeting topics and trips for 2010. Bring lots of ideas. The meeting will be followed by lunch prepared by Lisa Dulli. Please sign the list on the KeenAger bulletin board. The cost is \$6.

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

Bible Study Opportunities!

All ladies are invited to join one of the Women's Bible Study Groups this Winter. Both groups begin their Bible study January 21st.

Thursday Morning at 9:30 - Room 113 - will be studying *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby and led by Dale Braun.

Thursday Evening at 6:30 - Room 113 - will be studying *Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed—A Study of David* featuring Beth Moore, Kay Arthur, & Priscilla Shirer and led by Teri Horsley

The Thursday Evening Bible Study group will meet Thursday, January 14th, at 6:30 p.m. at Ryan's Tavern in Hamilton with a fellowship dinner. Everyone who would like to come can just meet at the restaurant which is on High Street in Hamilton.



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

Gas Conversion Project

In loving memory of

Steve Lewis

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

Salvation Army Gifts Update

I got started on this project from reading an article in the newspaper called "It's A Struggle" and watching a Channel 9 news special about New Life Mission. The Lord was telling me to do something to help the needy families. I called the Salvation Army and talked to Mrs. Garcia. She said there are 700 children and seniors signed up for Christmas presents and they still have 350 needing to be sponsored. I told her that I belong to the First Baptist church of Hamilton and I would check to see if the church would help out. The Lord directed me to Nancy Whipple and after talking it over she said that the church would help out. This being a new project at church, I wasn't sure how it would work but I went ahead with the project. Nancy told me to contact Aleesha Spence who is in charge of community Projects. I did this then called Mrs. Garcia to ask her how we could help. She asked if we could sponsor 100 kids and seniors for Christmas presents. I told her that I would take the names to church so everyone could help out. Well, we did it!

Thank you, First Baptist Church of Hamilton. Adopt-A-Child or Senior was a great success. All 100 requests were met! Yes, we did it! The kids and seniors that we sponsored will wake up Christmas morning with a smile and a happy heart!

Thanks, brothers and sisters, for pulling together as a church family to do this project. This project has touched my heart and I know it has yours also. See you next year!

Special thanks to Aleesha Spence, Rod Anderson, Ron Lakes, and Cheryl Motzer. Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! May God bless our church family!

—Michael Gipson

**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

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

Budget Status Report

The Month of November, 2009

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$56,187
Offerings	<u>67,012</u>
Over (Under) Budget	\$10,825

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$52,185
Offerings	<u>67,012</u>
Over (Under) Actual	\$14,827

The Year Through November, 2009

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$669,975
Offerings	<u>592,534</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$77,441)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$657,479
Offerings	<u>592,534</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$64,945)

—The Board Of Trustees

The Best Year Of Your Life!

*"I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for welfare and not for evil,
to give you a future and a hope."
Jeremiah 29:11 RSV*

The sure sign that we have an authentic relationship with God is that we believe more in the future than in the past. The past can be neither a source of confidence for us nor a condemnation of us. God graciously divided our life into days and years so we could let go of our yesterdays and anticipate our tomorrows. For the past mistakes, He offers forgiveness and an ability to forget. For our tomorrows, He gives us the gift of expectation and excitement. He has plans for each of us—good plans for our growth in his grace—so that we can have a future with hope.

God divided our life into years
To free us from our past tears
He gives us a New Year's inning
To offer us a new beginning
He opens His forgiving heart
And provides a fresh start
He is always faithful and true
So joyous New Year to You!

*God's best for my life begins with
a vibrant hope for the future.*

—Lloyd John Ogilvie
God's Best For My Life



Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



Silent Dinner

The **Silent Dinner** for **January** will be Friday, January 8th, at Eastgate Mall. See you there!

Interpreter Schedule for January

January 3	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
January 10	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
January 17	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
January 24	Jo Manson	Maria Miller
January 31	Jo Manson	Maria Miller

Happy Birthday



January 2 - Tina Monhollen
 January 19 - Sandra Williams
 January 31 - Robert Williams

—Maria Miller
 Director of Deaf Ministries

Corrections and Additions To The Directory

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

Mardis, Clayton & Andrea
 5310 Poet's Way
 Liberty Township, OH 45011
 Hailey
 Sydney
 Phone # 779-3855
 Cell # 520-5457

Von Stein, Paul & Margie
 8 Patriot Crescent
 Hamilton, OH 45013



We Are Looking For You In Sunday School!

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

Congratulations to those who had perfect Sunday School attendance for October, November, and December, 2009.

Toddlers

Marsha Helton
 Ed Emerick

Primary

Nellie Roberts
 Trevor Allen

Middler/Junior

Sydney Wilson

TNT

Chris Metzger
 Marilyn Bowling

Homebuilders

Jerry Wallace
 Bruce Soldano

FOCUS

Rick Baker
 Carol Howard
 Bill Roberts

Keystone

Bettie Carmack
 Mike Gipson
 John R iczko
 Fred Schilling
 Irene Schilling

Parenting

Mike Braun
 Stan Brown

Yada Sisterhood

Ruth Gaskins
 Jean Riczko

Office

Linda Gibbs
 Dennis Metzger

Sunday School Perfect Attendance - Entire 2009

Primary - Nellie Roberts
 Focus - Bill Roberts

—Linda Gibbs





Awana Club

Awana January Calendar Update

- 6th - Regular Club Night
- 13th - Handbook Time/Recreation/Staff Meeting
- 20th - Silly Socks Night
- 27th - Missions Night

Happy New Year!

We can't believe that it is 2010 already! This past year we had so much fun with Wacky Wednesdays in the summer, Totally Terrific Tuesdays, VBS, Junior Jam, New Believers classes, and AWANA year. We are looking forward to another great year again. A new year always means a new start. If you are in AWANA, it is a fresh look at the handbooks and working toward finishing your book. If you attend Sunday school, it could mean perfect attendance. Maybe January would be a good time to try something new like joining the Cherub choir or Kings Kids. If you joined the Upward Basketball team, it will mean making new friends and having a devotion time with them. This year, we want to get to know each one of you better. We hope the newsletter helps to connect with all of you and give you some opportunities to join some of our activities.

Junior Jam Cedarville University

Usually in March or April, we have a good group of kids attend the Junior Jam at Cedarville College for a day of music, crafts, devotions, and skits. This year, however the college has decided to have their jam session on Saturday, October 9. Mark your calendar now to attend this fall and bring a friend or two with you. There will be more information later on in the year.

Childcare Schedule

Another new year brings a new schedule to fill for the Kinderchurch, Toddler and Nursery rooms. If you have not signed up, please see Andrea (Pickett) Mardis and add your name! We have been blessed to have so many dedicated people to serve and will continue to do so, but we still need more willing servants.

Childcare Workers Luncheon

February is usually the month when we hold the annual appreciation luncheon for all the childcare workers! We don't have the definite date yet, but we will put it in the February Courier and the bulletin in time for you to be able to attend. This is our way of saying thanks for your time and ministry to our children.

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

Congratulations, Iris Patton!

Iris Patton is the 2009 winner of the Lane Library's county-wide short story competition in the 13-15 year old age group. Her story titled "Are You Afraid of Me?" has been published on-line on the Lane Public Library's website at www.lanepub.org. Click on the Teen Page, then on the link under "In Our Own Words" and choose her story. This is the second year in a row that Iris has won the short story competition and her parents, Jim and Tisha Patton, are extremely proud of her!

—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!



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.



January 18, 2010



Free Concert Of "Gypsy Jazz"



The Midday Music in Oxford series presents a free concert by the Faux Frenchmen at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main Street in Oxford at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday January 26, 2010. This unique group of four musicians perpetuates the popular "Gypsy Jazz" played in around Paris in the 1930's, including the sounds of such jazz legends as Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong. Information: 513-523-6969.



Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 7th, is Souper Bowl Sunday. Please bring to church with you a can of soup or any other food item and \$1. Members of CREW and JV CREW will be collecting these items at the doors. All items will be donated to the New Life Baptist Mission. Thanks for your participation!

—Deacons Relief Committee

Annual Pro Life Prayer March

All churches in the Butler County area are invited and urged to participate in the 20th Annual Butler County "Prayer March For Life", taking place on Monday, January 18th, around the Butler County Courthouse from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. All churches, individuals, and families are encouraged to attend and pray together for an end to abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. If each church community would send just "12 disciples" or more, willing to pray together for an end to the killing of our modern day "Holy Innocents", we would have the largest diverse prayer gathering that butler county has ever seen! Signs and church banners are welcome. The Prayer March will take place regardless of the weather!

—Mike Mignery
Butler County Right To Life

King's Kids Thank You To So Many!

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the King's Kids Christmas musical, *The Christmas County Spelling Bee*. We couldn't have done it without you. We so appreciate Mike Click, newly recruited, who did such an effective job doing our sound. Our loyal and enthusiastic regulars - Lauren Schwartz and Debbie Allen who always do so well with the choreography. Cheryl Motzer, in addition to knee replacement surgery, designed our t-shirt logo, applied them and painted the backdrop sign. Judy Wallace finished up the t-shirts and Angie Inloes supplied us with the cheerleading costumes. Anne and Rob Ruwe helped with the dress rehearsal. And thanks also go to all of the men who helped move the platform furniture and risers more than one time!.. Thanks to our special guest stars - Jeremy and Chris—the kids loved that you could join us. I'm so proud of these kids and the way they are using their time, gifts and talents to worship and serve their Savior.



God's Plan of Salvation

KingsKids Kick-Off For GPS

Kick off for the spring musical will be Sunday night, January 10, 2010, from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. *GPS* or *God's Plan of Salvation* is about taking a driver's license test on the Holy Highway! Join Carmen, who will be our electronic personal GPS system speaker, specialized for student drivers. She, with the help of a couple of license examiners and police officers, will help us learn how to persevere under trial and that with Jesus Christ in one's life, the road of obedience leads to the throne of God! With her own songs plus ones by Steven Curtis Chapman and Avalon, it is Celeste Clydesdale's prayer, and mine also, that the children will be encouraged knowing they are truly God's treasured possessions and every day there is joy in the journey!

Fasten your seat belts. You are about to embark on the ride of your life!

—Ruth Metzger



Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

January 3 - Claire & Chris Metzger
 January 10 - Juli & Joe Ford & Katie
 January 17 - Claire & Chris Metzger
 January 24 - Teene & Charles Campbell
 January 31 - Claire & Chris Metzger

One & Two Year Olds

January 3 - Ruthie & John Wallace
 January 10 - Barb & Ken Hendricks
 January 17 - Brandi Emenaker & Lauryn & Taylor
 January 24 - Linda Wallace & Oliver Davis
 January 31 - Ruthie & John Wallace

Kinderchurch

January 3 - John & Cheryl Motzer
 January 10 - Dorothy Hollowell & Vicky Baker
 January 17 -
 January 24 - Dorothy Hollowell & Vicky Baker
 January 31 - Brandi Emenaker & Lauryn & Taylor



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:

Andrea Mardis - (779-38554)

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

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



Wednesday Family Dinners

January 6

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

January 13

Menu: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Corn, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Dessert
 Hosts: Chancel Choir

January 20

Menu: Chicken Noodle Soup and Vegetable Soup, Grilled Ham and Cheese Sandwiches, Tossed Salad, Dessert
 Hosts: Deacons

January 27

Menu: Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert
 Hosts: Deaconesses

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.

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.

January Greeters

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



Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

Teens and Mental Health

I have just finished reading a study conducted by researchers at San Diego State University concerning whether today's teenagers are more anxious, depressed, and paranoid compared to previous generations; their conclusion: Yes they are! Years ago we heard the rumor that America was on track to become the first "Prozac Nation" to which this study would indicate we are very close to being that and the results of the study could be skewed because more people, teenagers especially, are on antidepressant and anti-anxiety medication than ever.

The researchers then go on to ask a simple but very profound question: Why are teens more anxious, depressed, and paranoid than ever? For any researcher the questions of why are most important because they help in knowing what should be done to mitigate and turn back the findings. In this study the researchers speculate the culprits are materialism and our consumerist culture. Our culture has told one of the very lies of Satan for us for years, "It's all about you and getting more stuff." Yet, this study seems to show what the Bible has been screaming for year; it's not about stuff but about relationships.

The past couple months I have been sharing why the CREW does what we do and the framework behind the ministry. You should know the CREW Ministry is all about relationships and creating a community of students that are authentic, truthful, have fun together, and ask questions so we can learn more about ourselves, God, the Church, and how the Bible is practical for life. This latest study brings evidence to how important this is not just for our students but for our community as well. What we do at First Baptist Church CREW Student Ministries not only help to bring students to Christ but also keep them healthy mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Truly God knew what he was saying when he promoted a relationship with Him and then others over all the "stuff" we could get in the world. Our world is screaming for us, the Church, to rise up and offer the relationship it so desperately wants; Christ and His followers to love. Teenagers each day are amazed that someone like myself, and other adults, will just sit down and talk with them about whatever they want.

Teenagers, and I would say even adults, desire to be connected with others and feel a part of something bigger than themselves. This is partly why sites like Facebook, Myspace and Twitter are so popular at these times; people will do anything to "feel" connected with others and a part of community. We now have devices that will help us stay connected to the world every minute if we chose, yet, we are becoming a society which is more and more isolated from each other. We have

bought into the lie of Satan and he is slowly killing us and destroying our mental health along the way.

However, there is a bright side. The Gospel becomes even more shareable and relevant because it gives us a life that is connected not just to our Creator but also a community of people. It gives us life as we were meant to live it, a connected life. It is no longer about what we can get, but instead, who we can love. It gives meaning to life when we are starting to realize material possessions cannot bring us joy. I am excited about the Church's future because we are coming into a time when the world is seeking the answers we can provide.

Living in Communion with God and you,
Jeremy

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Lifeline on Wednesday: Don't miss GodStories Season each week in January. Join us for our next episodes and 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.

January 3: Game Night in the CREW Room starting at 6:00pm until 7:00pm. Have one last night of relaxing fun with your CREW family before you head back to school. Bring a snack item to munch on while we play card games and other fun activities.

January 6: Dare2Share Conference money is due. The total cost is \$50 per person and includes your lodging, lunch on Saturday, conference and transportation to and from Columbus. This will be an amazing conference for you to learn how to share your faith with your friends. There is a video online for you to check out www.firstbaptisthamilton.org/student.

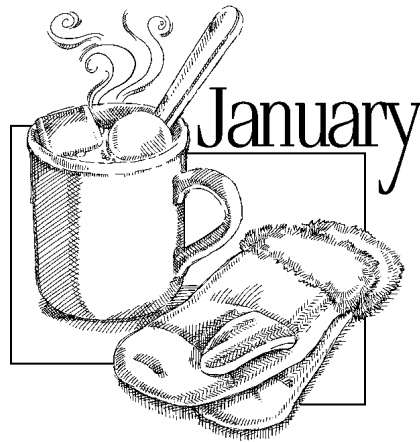
January 10: We will gather in the CREW room at 6:00pm to discuss the possibility of changing how the CREW room looks. Please join us this evening to give your input on what you think should be done.

January 17-18: CREW Lock-In from 5:00pm-8:00am, cost is only \$20 per person and includes the following: Gameworks Outing with food, drinks, \$10 game card, and a 2 hour unlimited play card; shirt; Monster Mini Golf for 3 hours; games at the church, and then a continental breakfast before you leave. Bring your friends and sign up now for the CREW Lock-In, you won't regret coming.

Attention Adults: I need some help with the lock in and getting people from place to place and other adults to help keep watch over the teens that night. If you are able to help even for a portion of the night I would appreciate it. I will definitely need drivers for Gameworks and Monster Mini Golf. Last year we had around 60 which means I need vehicles. Let Jeremy know if you can help.

January 24, 6:00pm: Join us for a night of bowling. Cost will be \$5 per person. We will be back to the church by 7:15pm. Please bring socks for bowling.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2010</h1>					1 Have a happy, healthy, blessed New Year!	2 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering
3 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 CREW Game Night	4	5 9:30 MOPS Steering	6 5:00 ABW 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	7 5:30 Music & Worship 6:00 Upward Basketball	8 6:00 Upward Basketball	9 9:00 Upward Basketball
10 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:00 Board of Missions 5:30 KingsKids Kick-Off 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 CREW	11 11:30 Women's Book Club at Fairfield Lane Library	12 10:00 Holloway Circle 7:00 Abell Circle 7:00 Smith Circle	13 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana-Handbook Time/Recreation/Staff Meeting 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands	14 5:30 Board of Trustees 6:00 Upward Basketball 6:30 Ladies Bible Study Fellowship Dinner @ Ryan's	15 6:00 Upward Basketball	16 9:00 Upward Basketball
17 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Diaconate 5:00 CREW Lock-In 5:00 Advisory Bd. Mtg. 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration	18 10:00 KeenAger Meeting With Luncheon 7:00 <i>Prayer March For Life</i> at Butler County Courthouse	19 9:30 MOPS	20 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana-Silly Socks Night 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Annual Business Mtg. 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	21 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Upward Basketball 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	22 6:00 Upward Basketball	23 9:00 Upward Basketball
24 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 CE Board 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 CREW Bowling	25	26	27 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	28 8:30 Matthew 25 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Upward Basketball 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	29 6:00 Upward Basketball	30 9:00 Upward Basketball
31 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration						



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 - Janet Hetterich

Sheryl Morrow

Nancy Hoskins

2 - Pat Brown
Charlotte Day
Tina Monhollen

18 - Zachary Caswell
Logan Andrew Sapp
Margie VonStein

30 - Maggie Baker
Orville Madden

3 - Fuz Buchanan

19 - Ed Dawson
Sandra Williams

31 - Robert F. Williams

4 - Felicity Hines

20 - Bob Tragesser
George Wade

5 - Alex Wallace

6 - Brian Begley
David Dawson

21 - Adam Metzger
Ted Soderholm

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.

7 - Brenda Roddy

22 - Jeffrey D. Miller

8 - Florence Jones
Thelma Stanger

24 - Emma Caswell
Zeke Bowling
Larry Wallace

9 - Robert Abney

25 - Scott Dawson
Evelyn Maddox

10 - Mark Schumm
Susan Thomas

26 - Ralph Lenehan

11 - Ed Emerick
Hannah Ruwe

27 - Brittany Nesbitt
Candace Yates

14 - Jesse Brown
Nicole Campbell
Elyse Hendrickson

28 - Lisa Rankey
Amy Wallace

15 - Aubrey Jordon
Karl Metzler

29 - Verna Pickett
Charles Walters

16 - Jan Wade Griffin

First Baptist Church
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Phone: 513-868-1412

Personal Notes



From Paul & Carla Avance

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and calls of concern during my (Paul) recent stay in the hospital undergoing tests. They discovered that I have an adrenal gland deficiency. Prayer works!!

From Barb Blevens

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, and calls when Allan passed away suddenly. A special thanks to Pastor Den and Pastor Bill for their inspiring messages at the funeral. Also a special thanks to those who conducted our family luncheon. Bless you all!

From David A. Blevens

A special thanks to Jerry Wallace and the congregation of First Baptist Church for your kindness and compassion for Allan Blevens.

From Marti Dei Tos (sister of Carolyn Gabbard)

Many thanks for your prayers on my behalf as they certainly worked a miracle for me. I had surgery for Melanoma cancer this past May and now I had a blockage in my lung. After two failed biopsies because of the location near the heart wall, and a positive PET Scan, the obstruction turned out to be a benign abscessed tumor, and I lost only a small part of my lung. Yes, I believe in prayer and miracles. God's blessings to all.

From Luella & Norbert Lerch

I want to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, and the visits of the pastors, Pastor Metzger and Pastor Bill Brantingham and Mrs. Brantingham. We surely hope Pastor Brantingham is feeling much better. I am doing good. I will be taking physical therapy most of December. We thank everyone for all the cards and prayers.

From Mary Lewis

I thank all for the prayers, beautiful cards, and visits. I want to thank Pastor Metzger for his visit when I had my eye surgery. Thanks to Pastor Bill and Bert for the many trips they took us to Cincinnati. We have a wonderful church family. Thanks again for everything. We appreciated it very much.

From Catherine Madigan (niece of Shirley Wade)

Thank you all so much for your prayers of healing for me. My spine and shoulders continue to improve and my heart is filled with gratitude for you. I have prayed for each of you in return! Please give my favorite aunt, Shirley Wade, a hug for me! Love and Peace. May the love of our Savior shine brightly on each and every one of you!

The Courier is a monthly publication of The First Baptist Church of Hamilton, Ohio. Deadline for articles to be submitted is the fifteenth day of each month. The pastor: Dr. Dennis M. Metzger; Editor: Ellie Dinger. Our purpose statement: *We are believers in Jesus Christ, called of God, Gathering for Worship; Instruction and Fellowship...Scattering for Care, Evangelism and Transformation of the World for His Kingdom.*

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