

# The Courier

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



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

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March, 2010

## Bunnies, Baskets, Eggs, And Stuff

The words "boy" and "genius" never really got together for me as a child. There were, however, other words that seemed to be strung together with uncommon regularity. Little phrases like, "Why did you..." and, when adults were speaking to each other and I was the topic, "You'll never believe..." But "boy" and "genius" never occurred in the same sentence.

I was a gullible kid — believed everything I saw on T.V. and trusted, as truth, every word that came out of an adult's mouth. There was this particularly misleading commercial that caused me great angst when I found it to be untrue.

It was an advertisement for a toy bubble gum machine. It was supposed to be a '60's version of a piggy bank. You bought the bubble gum machine, bought the little gum balls that went inside, and you used pennies to extract the gum balls from the machine. After a while, the little plastic base of the machine was full of pennies and, all of a sudden, you were rich!

The scene (it's burned in my memory even today), which was especially misleading, was of a pretty little girl blowing a bubble. She blew this huge and wonderful bubble — and then, when it burst, all these pennies flew out. I watched this with unbridled excitement, completely convinced that it was magic — that the gum balls were special, penny producing candies. I couldn't wait to get my teeth into some of that magic gum — get my lips around one of those magic bubbles — and be a filthy, penny-rich little kid. We bought the toy. We bought the bubble gum. I chewed it — got it to just the right bubble producing consistency. I blew a huge bubble. It exploded all over my face. No pennies. Just a mess. I was horribly disappointed. It ruined the next 20 minutes of my life before I snapped out of it, and clothes-pinned a towel around my neck and went out to save the neighborhood from major crime figures like The Joker and The Riddler.

You can imagine how confused I was by Easter. I knew about bunnies — they were cute. I knew about eggs — they were white on every other day of the year and came from chickens. I knew about baskets — they were used to gather things like pecans, dirty clothes,

and if constructed of heavy wire and wheels, you put food and stuff in them at the grocery store. But, on this one very confusing day, bunnies, colored eggs, and fancy little straw baskets all came together. The bunny hid the colored eggs, then provided the straw baskets in which to place the bright colored eggs. It was all quite fun — but what possessed this bunny to color eggs — which come from chickens and not bunnies? And, while it was fun to find the eggs, I didn't really want to eat a colored egg because, if it was the wrong color, what else might be wrong with it?

In 1967, when I was 7 years old and my sisters were 5 and 3, my understanding of Easter began to change. When we arose early on that Easter morning, the bunny had been there. The eggs were all over the house and the baskets were all lined up in a row. But this year, along with the eggs and the candy, there was something else in our baskets. Bibles! Mine was real, artificial leather and everything. It was black, very official looking, and it had my name on it. I was very impressed — but once again, rather confused.

That morning after the Easter egg hunt, we were on our way to church and dad asked us if we knew what Easter was really all about. We were too young to understand things like death and sin and eternity and sacrifice, but the seeds were sown. And every Easter after that — even when the bunny stopped coming and the eggs no longer littered the house, as we drove into town to attend Easter morning worship, dad always asked if we knew what Easter was really all about. As the years went by, we grew into the answer. And all of us, my sisters and their families and me, now know. And it's a wonderful thing to know.

For you parents, I don't know how old your children are, but if they're old enough, put a Bible in their basket this year. Start to tell them what it's really all about. It just might be the spark that starts a fire in their souls that will change their world forever. And I do mean forever.

*But the fact is that Christ has been raised from the dead. He has become the first of a great harvest of those who will be raised to life again. (1 Corinthians 15:20)*

—Phil Ware  
*Heartlight*



**American  
Baptist  
Women's  
Ministries**

**ABW Ministry  
Miami Association Spring Rally**

The Spring Rally for the ABW's Ministry Miami Association will be Saturday, April 24th, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Camp Kirkwood. The program will be presented by the team that went to Thailand in January. The cost for lunch is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. We will leave from church at 8:15 a.m. and return at 2:00 p.m. Transportation will be provided. Reservations are to be made with Lil Wilson (858-2335).

March Missionaries of the Month:  
Mabudiga & Kihomi Nzunga  
Haiti  
Philip & Corenne Smith  
Brazil

**Mabudiga** teaches theology at the Christian University of Northern Haiti, trains assistant professors in teaching and writing books, administers a scholarship program, and visits and preachers in churches. **Kihomi** works with families in the areas of counseling, family planning, and women's health issues. She also coordinates and advises the Women's Association of the Haitian Baptist Convention.

**Corenne and Phil Smith** minister to children through a residential program called Hope Unlimited for Children that rescues homeless street children and youth ranging in age from 8 to 18. Hope Unlimited provides guidance, education, and training for future employment. All students have completed a paid internship and are employed before they leave the program. After experiencing day-to-day living in a safe, caring Christian environment, most of these children make decisions to follow Christ. Hope Unlimited has recently planted a new church comprised largely of these young Christians.

**Bible Book of the Month . . . . . Ezekiel**

Ezekiel, living among the exiles in Babylon, wants the people to know that God is everywhere. He reminds them that worshipping false gods has brought about this catastrophe, he emphasizes the need for a new personal relationship with God, and he assures them that God wants a new covenant of peace with them. As you read this book, think of the Prince of

Peace who has come to give you eternal life in His name. Be sure you have made your own personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

**PRAY** for the oppressed people of the world, that through God's love and mercy they might truly be free. Pray for our American Baptist ministry among Native Americans in Oklahoma, Arizona, and Montana.

—Madge Walters

**Baby Layettes**

Don't forget that we are still collecting items baby layettes. If you see a bargain, please bring it in and give to Bertha Campbell (893-9808) or give to a greeter.

Baby Kit (Layette)

- 4 Cloth Diapers
- 2 Shirts
- 2 Washcloths
- 2 Gowns or Sleepers
- 2 Diaper Pins
- 1 Sweater or Sweatshirt
- 2 Receiving Blankets
- (1 can be a knitted blanket)

Disaster survivors need essential items to reclaim their homes and lives. Through the White Cross you can help prepare special recovery kits that provide both tangible assistance to people in need and show that neighbors near and far truly care. The contents of these kits are small things but having or not having them can make a world of difference in an on-going development program or when disaster strikes. Would you help Church World Service build an inventory of baby kits?

—Bertha Campbell



**March 13th**

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## *The Jesus We Can't Ignore*

Perhaps it's because we have attempted to present Jesus as a friend to our children, that we often describe him as "gentle Jesus, sweet and mild." At Christmas time we sing the children's carol, "Away in the Manger" and we voice phrases such as "the little Lord Jesus lays down his sweet head" and "...no crying he makes." We picture Him as the good shepherd, carrying a lamb across his shoulders; and we envision Him taking the children upon His lap, laying His hand on their heads and blessing them. We add to these images the accounts we read where Jesus has compassion on the people: he heals the unwell; He frees the demon possessed; He causes rejoicing at the resurrection of little children and a very good friend. Even from the cross, Jesus is concerned for his mother, giving His friend, John, the responsibility to care for her. While these images may be accurate snapshots of Jesus among the people, we would do ourselves a great disservice if these are our only perspectives on His the life and ministry.

In his commentary on the Gospel of John, R. C. H. Lenski made this astute observation about our Lord:

*"The stern and holy Christ, the indignant mighty Messiah, the Messenger of the Covenant of whom it is written: 'He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering of righteousness' is not agreeable to those who want only a soft and sweet Christ. [What we see instead in the Scriptures is] the fiery zeal of Jesus which came with such sudden and tremendous effectiveness that before this unknown man, who had no further authority than his own person and word, this crowd of traders and changers, who thought they were fully within their rights when conducting their business in the Temple court, fled...like a lot of naughty boys."*

In our Bibles, we have a record of four Gospels, each of which focuses on the brief three-and-a-half year ministry of Jesus. Each writer has his own specialized focus as he pens his account—his own method of presenting Christ and the Gospel to his respective audience. What we sometimes miss is that Jesus' ministry and teaching was anything but sedate, easy-going, and cuddly. On nearly every page of the Gospels we find controversy, conflict, and plotting to put an end to His life. What is remarkable about that is that this conflict is almost always with the religious leaders of the land who should have most easily understood His message, and cut the first palm branches for waving in His parade.

What is even more interesting is that in these conflicts, it is Jesus who often fires the first shot.

During the month of March, we will take time in our morning worship services and during our Wednesday evening studies to explore some of this conflict, attempting to understand the deeper truths of the Passion narratives. I hope you will take the time during these weeks before our Easter Resurrection Celebration to read the Biblical

*Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers." Mat 21:12-13*

texts and to attempt to understand more clearly just what it was that finally caused the religious leaders to seek Jesus' death.

How wonderful is our God who is able to take what seems to be the greatest of tragedies, transforming the loss into the most significant event in biblical history. Our purpose during these short weeks is to understand God's heart more completely, and to fall in love with this Jesus (all over again!?) for what He has accomplished in His substitutionary atonement for the sins of each one of us.

Loving you more and more, as we fall at the feet of our Lord who gave His life for us.  
Pastor.

## Budget Status Report

### The Month of January, 2010

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$70,361
Offerings	<u>53,921</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$16,440)
Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$75,586
Offerings	<u>53,921</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$21,665)

### The Year Through January, 2010

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$70,361
Offerings	<u>53,921</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$16,440)
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–The Board Of Trustees

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## KeenAger March Outing

Our March outing will be to Parrish Auditorium to see Rotary Revel's "Beauty And The Beast" Thursday, March 18th, at 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$15.00 and must be paid by March 15th. There is a limit of 30. Please sign the list on the bulletin board. We will leave the church at 7:15 p.m. Anyone driving or car pooling, please indicate on the sign up sheet.

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



Mitten Tree

**Thanks!**  
**From The Christian Ed Board**

A belated and humble thank you to our wonderful church family for the generous donations to our Annual Mitten Christmas Tree. The gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves were given to the New Life Baptist Mission and Serve City.



## *God's Plan of Salvation*

**KingsKids Production**  
**Sunday, March 21st**  
**6:00 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



**Easter Flower Orders**  
**Needed Now!**

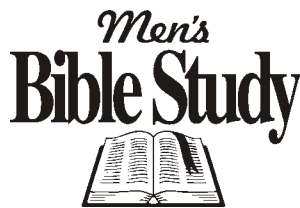
Hopefully you are reading this prior to March 7th because that is the deadline for ordering Easter lilies. Order envelopes are available in the connector or office. And ordinary envelope also may be used as long as you clearly identify the loved ones being memorialized or recognized. Return your order along with \$9 per plant to Marilyn Bowling or Lois Anderson no later than the first Sunday of March. Checks should be written to First Baptist Church.

## Letter From Wendell Mettey Matthew 25: Ministries

This month marks my twentieth anniversary of doing humanitarian relief work. Of all the tragedies I've witnessed, the recent earthquake in Haiti is the worst in terms of human loss. The situation is devastating.

Matthew 25: Ministries' assessment team returned from Haiti with valuable information on the suffering, especially in orphanages. Be the grace of God, the supplies we shipped prior to the earthquake were undamaged and ready for immediate distribution.

We anticipate shipping 30 to 40 containers of aid with the next few months. We've airlifted supplies into Haiti and will be sending additional aid through the Dominican Republic. This is a long term relief effort. Matthew 25: Ministries will be there now and for years to come. Last year, Matthew 25: Ministries shipped 54 forty-foot sea-going containers of aid to Haiti, plus an additional 359 containers around the world.



### Attention Men!

Are you interested in joining a men's Sunday School class? Have you wondered what it means to be men of faith and integrity? If so, please consider joining other men on a journey through Tony Dungy's Bible Study entitled "*Dare to be Uncommon*" during the Sunday School hour in Room 115. Last winter at the age of 53, Tony Dungy chose to walk away from the NFL, after a 31-year career which took him from being a player to a Super Bowl coach. What prompted him to make such a move? Come and find out. This DVD-based study which will officially "kick off" on Sunday March 7th, will be lead by Andrew Sommers. If you have questions, please contact Andrew at 737-5917.



## Kirkwood Camp Schedule 2010

ABC/OHIO summer camps at Kirkwood will be:

June 13-18 - Junior Missions Camp (Gr. 4-6) Director: Denise Franke	\$250.00
June 18-19 - Beginners' Camp #1 (K-2) Director: Kim Flach (Registration includes parent)	\$95.00
June 27-July 2 - Junior High (Gr. 7-9) Director: Linda Miller	\$250.00
July 4-9 - Senior High (Gr. 9-12) Director: Judson College (Beth Atchison & Nathan Cooper)	\$250.00
July 4-9 - Guitar Camp (Gr. 7-12) Director: Ben Kelly	\$260.00
July 18-21 -New Adventure #1 (Gr. 3-4) Director: Tim Lee	\$165.00
July 23-24 - Beginners' Camp #2 (K-2) Director: Kim Flach (Registration includes parent)	\$95.00
July 25-30 - Extreme Camp (Gr.7-12) Director: Steve Rhodes	\$390.00

**Early Registration Discount \$15** if postmarked by April 15th, **\$10** if by April 30th

**First Time Camper Discount \$10**

**Bring-a-Friend Discount \$10**

The Board of Christian Education decided that the church would pay 1/2 of the fee of **those who attend First Baptist regularly** to attend ABC camps.

For additional information or registration forms, contact Jan Smith, 844-2918 or see her at church.



-Jan Smith  
Camp Coordinator

## Upcoming Women Events Women's Ministry News

Opportunities for Fellowship, Encouragement,  
Spiritual Growth and Service

**March 8:** Book Club - Randy Alcorn's "*Edge Of Eternity*"

**March 25:** Serve City Meal

**April 12:** Book Club - Sandi Patty's "*Broken On The Back Row: A Journey Through Grace and Forgiveness*"

**May 10:** Book Club - Ron Hall & Denver Moore's "*Same Kind Of Different As Me*"

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### Letter From The Salvation Army via Mike Gipson

Re: 2009 Adopt-A-Angel Campaign

Dear Mr. Michael Gipson,

On behalf of the Salvation Army, I would like to extend a heartfelt "**Thank You!**" for the continuing support for **The Adopt An Angel Campaign**.

Your generosity has put a smile on children's faces and a light in the heart of a family. We can only make this happen through people like you who confirm their compassion with action.

When the opportunity arises, please extend our appreciation to everyone at **First Baptist Church**.

"**Thank you**" for partnering with us to provide a better Christmas to may families in our area.

May God Bless and keep you.

Sincerely,

Wilder & Dorita Garcia

Corps Commanding Officers/Ministers



### Single/widowed ladies.

*We ran this information before and had some response BUT--HELP!! During December decorating and moving tables around our surveys disappeared and cannot be found. If you have expressed an interest, please redo the survey.*

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.

**Game Night:** Game Night has been rescheduled for Friday night, April 23rd.

**Serve City in March:** We will be taking dinner to Serve City on March 25th. Watch for the sign up sheets at the table in the connector to provide food or to go and serve. Please remember there is a collection box in the CE coatroom for toiletry items (regular and travel size) for residents at Serve City. Toilet tissue is also an item that is greatly needed.

**New Bible Studies:** The Thursday evening group and the Wednesday morning MOPS group each will be starting new studies in March. See Teri Horsley or Elise Martin for information.

**Ladies Retreat in April:** Because of scheduling conflicts we are going to push back the SWEET LIFE CAFÉ event to later this year. An alternative spring event is being considered. Watch for news on this.

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### Sing Hosanna!

On Sunday evening, March 28th, at 6:00 p.m., we will be presenting an evening of inspiring music of the season. Join us as the musicians, soloists and various vocal groups of our church sing songs of the cross and resurrection. For more information contact Rich Hazelwood at richanjeff@yahoo.com or phone 726-4335.

# Montgomery Community Church Used Book Depository

January 11, 2010  
2009 Used Book Depository Report

For 25 years Montgomery Community Church has sponsored this ministry of sharing The Word with the world in obedience to Jesus' instruction in Matthew 28 to "go and teach all nations. . ." through the sending of donated books and Bibles. Our directive comes from Paul, writing three decades after Christ's resurrection "he which began a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ . . . that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow . . . and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Today's newspaper tells us that in Malaysia, Christians are now persecuted for translating "God" as "Allah", so we concern for our ABC/USA missionaries serving there. Five years ago, Tom and Joni Lipsey were in Nigeria, accepting appreciation on behalf of what Used Book Depository was sending there. Last year, Nigeria became a major question mark for us as it came to our attention (again!) That not all requests were legitimate, being made for items to sell on the streets. Of the 733 unanswered letters (out of 1801 letters received), the majority were triage decisions made about Nigerian correspondents. The Christmas Day Nigerian terrorists keeps Nigeria very much before us as these decisions continue to challenge us. Nigeria is experiencing increasing Muslim resistance to Christian presence.

We spent about \$10,000 a month to mail 8,272 Bibles (3,849 of these to Nigeria), 1,320 hymnals (over half to India), 12m610 other books, 21m700 magazines and quarterlies (mostly a ballpark figure!), and 34 boxes of Sunday School and Vacation Bible School materials. We intentionally decreased hymnal and Sunday School mailings in favor of seminary student and pastor responses. We sent to 19 countries in 2009, including Bibles and banners to missionaries in Poland, and books to a pastor in Vietnam, referred to us by our missionaries in Italy.

Locally we gave books to the Lebanon Correctional Institute, Judson Village Retirement Community, and a youth ministry in Columbus. We gave Sunday School and Vacation Bible School materials to St. Marks, a small local church, and the African Children's Ministry.

My personal thanks accompany this report to all of you who regularly give yourselves, time and energy, to accomplish the above, to all who augment the Missions Ministry Team budget allotment, and to our Bible, book and literature donors. Praise God Who through the Holy Spirit guides and enables this ministry "that at the Name of Jesus . . . the Word of life is held forth!"

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## WatchCare Dinner

As part of the 2010 Family WatchCare Ministry, the Diaconate would like to invite you to our annual roast beef dinner. Please come and join us Sunday, March 7th, following the morning service. It will be a time of fellowship for our church family and for the Diaconate to become better acquainted with you. If you have not made a reservation, please call Larry Wallace (375-9470) or Carol Howard (887-9415). There will be no charge for the dinner but donations will be accepted to help cover the expense of the meal.

We are looking forward to having you join us and in sharing this time together. We also look forward to serving you during this coming year. May God richly bless you!

—Board of Deacons & Deaconesses

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...HOW WIDE AND LONG  
AND HIGH AND DEEP  
IS THE LOVE OF CHRIST.

EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV



**Announcing the 2010 VBS Theme!**  
**HERO Headquarters**  
**July 12th-16th**  
**9:00 a.m. - 12 noon**

**Awana March Calendar Update**

- 3 - Pajama Night/Grand Prix Workshop
- 10 - T&T Grand Prix
- 17 - Cubbies & Sparks Matchbox Race
- 24 - Regular Club Night
- 31 - NO CLUB

**Looking Ahead To April Calendar**

- 7 - NO CLUB
- 14 - Regular Club Night

**Awana Grand Prix**

The T&T Awana Grand Prix will be Wednesday, March 10th. Family members, friends & neighbors are all invited to attend. Anyone from our church congregation is also invited who would like to watch the races and see all the efforts of our kids to design their cars. We are planning for our Awana missionary to join us and share a gospel message.

**Cubbies & Sparks Matchbox Race**

The Cubbies & Sparks Matchbox Race will be March 17th. Parents and friends are welcome to attend. Each group will meet in their own rooms for Opening and Handbook Time. Sparks will then join Cubbies in Room 102 at about 7:00 p.m. to begin the races and have a snack.

we will be having a family dinner and Jewish Seder Interpretation in the Family Center at 6:00 p.m.

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



**Summer Softball**

Softball begins the week of April 19th! If you would like to play on the men's team (games on Tuesday nights), please see Jeremy Spence in the connector to sign up by Sunday, April 18th. All games are played at North End (Ford's Field).

—Rob VanMeter  
Director of Sports and Recreation

At Hero Headquarters, kids will meet unlikely Bible heroes who are often overlooked. In fact, we don't know a single one of their names! They were not famous leaders or called by God to perform amazing miracles - yet their small acts were used by God to do wonderful things!

Help kids discover that if they're willing to be used by God in any situation, no matter how big or small, they can make a difference. YOU can also make a difference in their lives by being a part of this exciting program. We are looking for leaders and assistants now to make this one of the best ones we have had. (It will be hard to top Studio Go! and the emcee with the bad hair though). See us as soon as possible to reserve the place you would like to help in this summer.

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We need your help!

**Serve City Homeless Shelter & Pantry**

<http://www.servacitychosen.org>

Serve City is a homeless shelter, food pantry, and housing ministry that provides affordable housing that is drug and alcohol free. The homeless shelter is a 24 hour facility that works to get the clients healthy in body, mind, and spirit that emphasizes training in life skills and overcoming the root cause of their homelessness.

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Go to [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com), enter Serve City as your charity, and click on "verify". Serve City (Hamilton, OH) should appear shortly. You can download the GoodSearch tool bar to make searches convenient. A cookie is placed on your computer to remember that Serve City was selected as your charity. If cookies are not enabled or are routinely deleted, then you will need to select Serve City each time you search.

**Watch for a flyer in the bulletin that will provide you with the information to get started.**

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**From The Heart Of  
Judy**

**College Corner**

**E-Mail From God**

**Take A Chill Pill**

*"In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds,  
search your hearts and be silent."* —Psalm 4:4

Dear Child,

Has anyone ever told you, "Just sleep on it"? That's often good advice. Sometimes you'll be so angry about something that you can't see straight. That is not a good time to make a decision. When you are angry, you may blurt out something rude and later think, *I can't believe I said that.*

My advice is, just wait. When you're mad, don't act. If someone is forcing you to make a decision while you're mad, tell them, "I need some time to think about this. Let me get back to you." Then just chill out and pray about it. Ask Me what I think about the situation. Breathe deeply. Count to a hundred. Do whatever it takes to calm down. Yes, you have emotions. But you don't have to be a slave to them. I want you to control your emotions, not the other way around.

Your Peace,  
God

—Judy Wallace  
College/Career Coordinator



The next scheduled Work Day at Matthew 25 will be Thursday, March 25th. As usual, we would like to have a good working group to go. We will leave the church at the usual time, 8:30 a.m. Bring your sack lunch and beverage and be prepared for a good day of work and fellowship.

—Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham



**Chancel Choir And Orchestra  
Easter Cantata Presentation  
Palm Sunday, March 28th  
10:30 a.m.**

***The Risen Christ***

(A Celebration of the Resurrection)

Created by  
Don Cason & Karla Worley

Arranged & Orchestrated by  
Dave Williamson

At Easter, we traditionally remember the suffering, death, and sacrifice of Jesus. But it's important for us to realize that the primary focus of the early church—what changed their perception of reality and transformed them into a band of revolutionary messengers—was not the crucified Christ, but the risen Christ. A dead Messiah was merely a great Rabbi. A risen Christ was indeed the Lord of all creation, to whom all authority was given, with the power to usher in God's kingdom and create a resurrection community called the church.

*Jesus Christ is risen. We have seen him for ourselves. And this matters.* This was the story of the early church, and it is still our story today. It matters that Christ is risen. It matters that He now sits at the right hand of God. "If Christ has not been raised," the Apostle Paul wrote, "our preaching is useless, and so is your faith." (I Corinthians 15:14) But Christ has been raised. He is what the Bible calls "the first fruits" of the resurrection. In the risen Christ, we see the pattern for our lives. For just as we have been buried with Him by baptism into death, we have been raised to walk in the same new way of life that Christ was raised to walk. This Easter, may your hearts burn within you as you remember the story and reflect on its powerful implications for your life. May you also become messengers who cannot stop talking about what you have seen and heard.

—Mike Wallick  
Chancel Choir and Orchestra Director



## Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



The next Silent Dinner will be held on Friday evening, March 5th, at Kenwood Mall. See you there!

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### Interpreter Schedule for March

<b>March 7</b>	Maria Miller	Jo Manson
<b>March 14</b>	Maria Miller	Jo Manson
<b>March 21</b>	Maria Miller	Jo Manson
<b>March 28</b>	Maria Miller	Jo Manson

—Maria Miller  
Director of Deaf Ministries



### Free Guitar And Voice Concert



On March 10 at 12:00 p.m., the Midday Music in Oxford series will present a free concert at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main Street, by guitarist & composer James Lentini, who is the Dean of Miami University's School of Fine Arts. Along with his wife and soprano Dana, the two will perform a wide variety of works. This duo has performed concerts throughout the Midwest and East Coast and internationally at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory in Rome. Information: 513-523-6969.



### Free Tax Service

There will be free income tax service provided by IRS approved tax preparers under the supervision of AARP Tax Aide at Partners In Prime, 140 Ross Avenue through April 15th. Bring last years Income Tax returns between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., **Tuesdays and Thursdays**. Our own **Naomi Hoskins** has served as a counselor in the program for many years, and is a local coordinator. For further information see Naomi Hoskins (863-1873).



Due to the bountiful blessing of snowfall we were unable to hold our February MOPS meeting. Everyone always looks forward to our Annual Pamper Fair, which is customarily held at our February meeting; so we have decided to host this event at the May meeting and rename it the Spring Fling! We will still have the same fun activities planned and hope that the weather is more favorable! Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for this fun event! It will be a great way to close out our 2009-10 MOPS year!

Our MOPS Bible study is about half way through our current study, *One in a Million* by Priscilla Shirer, and averages a total of 16 ladies and 22 children!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16th. Our theme for the month is *Men are from Mars; Women are from Venus*. Pastor Den will serve as our guest speaker.

Please be in prayer for our MOPS group. As our year comes to a close and our summer planning begins along with the search for new leadership positions to be filled. Pray for our Bible study, our Mopet workers and for each and every mom that comes and has yet to come to our meetings. May we continue to be a light in a world of darkness, touching everyone with the love of Jesus!

On Planet Mom, but not alone-  
Elise  
Coordinator

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### Winter Reminder!

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



## Child Care Schedule

### Nursery (Morning)

March 7 - Judy, Amy, & Anna Wallace  
 March 14 - Teene & Charles Campbell  
 March 21 - Kathy Inloes & Joey  
 March 28 - Claire & Chris Metzger

### One & Two Year Olds

March 7 - Aleesha Spence & Teen Helper  
 March 14 - Stacy & Brian Dickman  
 March 21 -  
 March 28 - Juli & Joe Ford & Katie

### Kinderchurch

March 7 - Vicky Baker & Dorothy Hollowell  
 March 14 -  
 March 21 - Vicky Baker & Dorothy Hollowell  
 March 28 -



## Childcare Schedule

Many thanks to those who have answered our plea for help with our childcare schedule. For those who have volunteered to assist in KidsChurch, there is a little management information to share. After the kids are excused from the service, they line up to be counted before they head to Room 200. Please stand with the kids, and then lead them to the bathrooms for a quick break. After all of the students have returned to the line, please lead them to Room 200, where Karen will be waiting to begin the lesson and activities for the day. As an assistant, you will not need to do any lesson planning or leading of activities, unless you would like to! You will be a support for Karen, helping to set up snacks, manage a game, help with a craft, or whatever else Karen might have up her sleeve! Thanks in advance for your help with this growing group of children!

–Andrea Mardis  
 Childcare Co-Ordinator  
 Claire Metzger & Cheryl Motzer  
 Co-Directors of Children’s Ministries



## Wednesday Family Dinners

### March 3

Menu: Chicken and Dumplings, Peas and Carrots,  
 Fruit Jello, Rolls, Loretta’s Texas Sheet Cake  
 Hosts: FOCUS

### March 10 - Pastor Bill’s Birthday Dinner

Menu: Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy,  
 Corn, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Ice Cream  
 Hosts: Keystone II

### March 17

Menu: Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert  
 Hosts: Chancel Choir

### March 24

Menu: Chili Soup and Potato Soup, Ham and Cheese  
 Sandwiches, Applesauce, Brownies  
 Hosts: Deacons

### March 31

Menu: No Wednesday Dinner - No Evening Programs

Reminder: Adults should contribute \$4.00 per person for the meal; 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.

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## March Greeters

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



# Jeremy's Think Tank

*Aslan Is On The Move*

Most of you should know by now that I love stories, and especially love telling stories for others. This apparently is one of my many hobbies from old, as my mom likes to remind me of the stories I used to tell her when I was little. Even though in high school and college I used to try and get by with reading as little as possible that is no longer the case. Probably a good thing as for my master's degree I read A LOT each and every week, but I have digressed. One of my favorite authors, possibly even my favorite, is C. S. Lewis.

Ever since Aleesha gave me *The Screwtape Letters* on CD for Christmas I have been "reading", via audiotope, not just *The Screwtape Letters* but also *The Chronicles of Narnia* series. There is something about the way Lewis writes that always pulls me into the story, truly a mark of a good writer.

In the Narnia series we meet a lion names Aslan in the first book, *The Magician's Nephew*. Aslan is ruler of all of Narnia, the world, and in this first book he is the creator of Narnia; truly a picture of God and Christ, just as Lewis probably intended.

Then when the story of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, begins we are informed that Aslan has not been seen or heard from in a very long time. People in Narnia are wondering if he will ever return or if this is the end of the world as they know it. Yet, as the story progresses we hear this very interesting and hope filled statement, "Aslan in on the move." Each time I heard that line, or some variation of it, chills would go down my spine as I waited and wondered where and when Aslan would show up. As each page went by I keep waiting with eager expectation to see how the story would end.

As of late I have also realized how God is using that story in my life, and the ministry He has given me here, to see how He is on the move. Over the past couple months I have seen, heard, and experienced God being on the move. It is a great thing and it leaves me with even greater expectations and hope of what God will do next here.

First God is on the move because teenagers and students are calling out to Him. I have experienced a couple of our CREW and ONE students cry out to God for Him to save them from life's horrible circumstances. I have prayed with some who are seeking God to be closer to them and how they want to be closer with Him. It reminds me of the

Israelites in Egypt crying out to God, and God bringing them out.

I have also been present with some people who have repented of sin in their life, confessed it openly to God and myself, then received the grace and forgiveness which comes only from Him. Just like the book of Acts when people repent of their sins, turn their life to God, he moves in mighty ways.

Lastly, I have seen God on the move because we have some in our groups who are intentionally trying to share God's love and Gospel message with those they come into contact with. God will always move when His story is shared with others.

I hope you can see where "God is on the move" here at First Baptist and you will join me in trying to experience Him each day. Be encouraged because we are on the precipice of seeing great things done for God, by God, and through God. Let me leave you with a question: Is God "on the move" in your life? He is in many others and mine.

Watching God on the move,  
Jeremy

## Upcoming Events:

**Sponsor Child:** Hey all don't forget to continue to bring money to give for our Sponsor Child, David. He has been growing in knowledge and love of the Lord partly because we are supporting and providing for him.

**Wednesday Night Lifeline:** Join us each week for our next episode of *GodStories Season 1*. The discussion that follows after each episode is always great and engaging. Help us learn more about God's Story through you and your thoughts.

**Small Groups:** Each Sunday night at 6:00pm we join together for small groups throughout the church. The 11-12 grade group meets in the Library, 9-10 grade group in room 113-114, and the 7-9 grade group is in the corner room downstairs. Your small group will be a vital for your spiritual growth and the support you need when life gets tough. Talk with your small group leader about whether or not you will be meeting on March 7 as we have the WatchCare Dinner in the morning.

**CREW Calendar:** Be on the lookout for the CREW Updated Calendar in the next couple weeks. I am presently working on the next 6-9months of events, teaching times, and special get togethers and hope to finalize them soon. I do know we will be heading to Alive Festival June 23-27 so please mark your calendars now and watch for details.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2010</h1>						
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:30 MOPS Steering	<b>3</b> 10:00 MOPS Bible Study 5:00 ABW 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana-Pajama Night/Grand Prix Workshop 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	<b>4</b> 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Upward Basketball 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 ONE Ministry	<b>5</b> 6:00 Upward Basketball	<b>6</b> 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering 9:00 Upward Basketball @ North Fairfield
<b>7</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 WatchCare Dinner 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 Small Groups	<b>8</b> 11:00 Women's Book Club at Fairfield Lane Library	<b>9</b> 10:00 Holloway Circle 10:30 Abell Circle 7:00 Smith Circle	<b>10</b> 10:00 MOPS Bible Study 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana-T&T Grand Prix 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	<b>11</b> 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Worship & Music 5:30 Board of Trustees 6:00 Upward Basketball 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 ONE Ministry	<b>12</b> 6:00 Upward Basketball	<b>13</b> 9:00 Upward Basketball @ North Fairfield
<b>14</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Board of Missions 5:00 Couples Bible Study 5:30 KingsKids 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 Small Groups	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:30 MOPS	<b>17</b> 10:00 MOPS Bible Study 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana-Cubbies & Sparks Matchbox Race 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	<b>18</b> 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 ONE Ministry 7:00 Upward Basketball Awards Celebration 7:15 KeenAgers leave for Rotary Revels' <i>Beauty &amp; the Beast</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Diaconate 6:00 KingsKids Presentation <i>GPS</i>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00 MOPS Bible Study 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	<b>25</b> 8:30 Matthew 25 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:00 Women's Ministry @ Serve City 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 ONE Ministry	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00 Chancel Choir & Orchestra Cantata Dress Rehearsal
<b>28</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Chancel Choir & Orchestra Cantata <i>The Risen Christ</i> 4:00 C.E. Board 6:00 <i>Sing Hosanna</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00 MOPS Bible Study  No Wednesday Dinner/No Evening Programs	<b>1- April</b> 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service		



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

1 -	Derek Hines	13-	Elaine Tragesser Tyler Dickman	24-	Lisa Witmer Brian Martin Jared Morris
2 -	Edward Allen Katie Ford	14-	Christopher Arnold Stephen Campbell Charlotte Furginson Lauren Schwab	25-	Ryan Inloes Nick Wilson
3 -	Adam Begley Rich Hazelwood Cameron Jenkins Kelley Taylor	15-	Oakley Wardlow	26-	Bertha Campbell
4 -	Jerri Lenehan	16-	Rob Ruwe Barb Perkins-Salcedo	27-	Taylor Emenaker Lee Trent Yates
5 -	Jacob Baker Jim Baker Bruce Helton Janet Messer Anne Ruwe Dave Walker	17-	Miranda Gabbard Gary Hetterich Emma Imhoff Durb Tuley	28-	Michael Shalloe
6 -	Jim Cornett Brandon Sapp	18-	Hank Miller Lisa Stanger Jill Saylor	29-	Josh Braun Bob Stanger Freida Tuley
7 -	Taylor Schuermann	19-	Zoe Caswell Paul Bryant Jean Grimes	30-	Chris Johnson Danny Sparks Katie Hoskins
8 -	Barb Blevens Bill Brantingham	20-	Michelle Harris Jim Yates	31-	Ann Brown Samuel Jarrett Craig Keller Janice Russo Andrea Thomas Buddy Wallin
9 -	Lauryn Emenaker Nancy Humbach Chris Metzger Keith Wallace	21-	Riley Bowling Heidi Martin		
11-	Betty Dulli Mikayla Laney	22-	Dwain Brewer Pat Gingrich		
12-	Janet Hazelwood Caitlin Jackson Debbie Miller Joey Sackenheim Dorothy Wallace	23-	Kristin Fryer		

**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 Margie Braun

I would like to thank all the people and family at First Baptist for their love, visits, and cards during my knee surgery. This one was more difficult than the first one but in time it will get better. Thanks to Pastor Den and Pastor Bill for their visits and also to Walter Petry who stopped in often and had prayer with us. Our God is so good and able to heal.

### From Larry & Lisa Dulli

Larry and I would like to thank everyone for all the heartfelt cards, phone calls of concern, and the visits during Larry's recent illness. We have found that we have so many as we travel down our "road to recovery". Larry continues to heal daily and grows stronger as well. We truly serve an "Awesome God".

### From the family of Sue Neiman

The family of Sue Neiman wish to express their deepest gratitude to the church "family" for all their tender love, support, and prayers. And as our Lord and Savior took her hand that early morning and said, "Well done, my good and faithful servant," we all can rejoice in His promise knowing we will see her again not as we did on this earth, but in the new body God has promised each of us. No tears, pain or crippled body. Praise God there are no wheelchairs or canes in heaven.

### From Nita Yaw (granddaughter for the family of Rachel Riley)

Thank you for all you provided in the recent death of Rachel Riley. The service was so nice and the luncheon following was outstanding. Both ministers delivered messages from the heart of Christ. And those who came to the house, set up, and served are truly the hands and feet of Christ. It's amazing the comfort we received from Nancy, Janet, and others. We appreciate it and thank you so much.

## Don't Miss These Important Events!

March 21st - KingsKids' Present *GPS (God's Plan of Salvation)* - 6:00

March 28th - Palm Sunday Morning - Chancel Choir and Orchestra Cantata -  
*The Risen Christ* - 10:30  
Palm Sunday Evening - *Sing Hosanna!* - 6:00

April 1st - Maundy Thursday Communion Service - *The Bread Of Life* - 7:00

April 4th - Resurrection Sunday Morning Worship Service - No Evening Service

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

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