

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

April, 2010

Did God Cry?

By Dr. Steve Turner

Those Christians who love the Lord and read the Gospels that depict his final days and hours must ask themselves if a loving and merciful God wept when He looked down on the terrible suffering of His Son. Did He weep when Jesus prayed with such agony that his sweat was as drops of blood in the Garden, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done"? Did He lower His head and face into the palms of his hands and cry in agony as His Son was nailed to a cross?

A Haitian mother who has held out hope for weeks that her son is still alive is handed his crushed body that has been pulled from the debris and wails uncontrollably. A mother and father are ushered into the coldness of a morgue where a sheet is removed showing the lifeless body of their daughter who was killed by a drunken driver. They sob and just want to hold her one more time. Parents find themselves in their doctor's office only to learn that the constant cough and weight loss in their four year old son are signs of an incurable and life-ending disease.

The loss of a child must be the most devastating loss one can endure. To bring that life into the world and nurture it only to have it taken suddenly is more than parents can endure. English poet Ben Jonson wrote of his son's death, "Seven years thou wert lent to me, and I thee pay, / Exacted by thy fate, on the just day." I have been one of many in the world who have asked, "How can a loving God allow such a terrible tragedy to occur?"

Several years ago I was driving to Hamilton High School in the morning and I had the news on in my car. The newscaster said that the stepfather of a two year old little girl had been arrested for raping her. Tears welled up in my eyes and my body started to shake as I thought about what she must have endured. I got to the parking lot and just sat there asking, "God in Heaven, how could You allow this to happen to that innocent little child? Couldn't you have stopped it?" But now as I reflect on that morning, I believe in my

heart that God cried too.

The scriptures tell us that God is in control and has laid out a plan for the salvation of the world through the death of His Son Jesus Christ. He will never leave us or forsake us. We may experience tremendous pain, witness the devastation of our world from natural catastrophes and know that there are evil people in the world who do acts of violence that are beyond our comprehension. But we must never doubt that God is in control and has a plan. Yes, I choose to believe that God the Father wept when His Son endured the agonies of His final days, but I live my life with a faith that no longer questions why evil things happen to good people. For I have only to open my Bible and read "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" and know that He understands our sorrow and questions because He has been there too.



Don't Miss These Important Events!

April 1st - Maundy Thursday Communion Service -
7:00 p.m.

April 2nd - Good Friday, Hamilton Prayer Walk,
noon, Courthouse, *Come Walk The Way Of
The Cross*

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



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).

Reminder: April is Love Gift month.

–Nancy Whipple

April Missionaries of the Month:

Mexico

Timothy & Patricia Long

Nicaragua

Kristina Gutierrez

Bible Book of the Month . . . Zephaniah

“The Lord your God is with you; His power gives you victory.” Zephaniah 3:17a (TEV)

Zephaniah speaks at a difficult time in Judah's history when Judah's kings were supporters of “false gods”. The single major theme is the “coming of the Lord”, a day of divine judgement and destruction against sinners if the people did not repent. Zephaniah speaks of the corruption at every level of society and declares that the whole earth, including Judah and the enemy nations, shall be consumed by evil (1:2-3:8). But immediately he includes a promise of hope that God will purify Israel, restore all who have been sent into exile, and give peace to the land (3:9-20).

PRAY for Christian Centers and Neighborhood Action Programs in California, Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Kansas, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Montana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Arizona, and West Virginia. All these receive White Cross Materials and are operated with the support of National Ministries and American Baptist regional organizations.

–Madge Walters

Spring Trip To Oneida, KY

Ken Hendricks and Jerry Hampton will be making the spring pilgrimage to Oneida Baptist Institute on Monday, April 19th. The campus has approximately 450 teens grades 6 through 12 and are in need of all help possible. Please bring any good used clothing, coats, shoes, toys, etc. that you would like to donate to the building and place them in the coat room after April 4th. Please put the items in plastic trash bags and mark them for Oneida. (Please, because of storage problems - NO donations after Sunday, April 18th.) **Anyone** is welcome to ride along with them on April 19th.



The next scheduled Work Day at Matthew 25 will be Thursday, April 29th. 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. Your reward for this ministry will be recorded in heaven. Thank you.

–Pastor Bill and Bert Brantingham



Summer Mission Trip

If you are interested in a fun and exciting way to serve the Lord and others, please consider participating in the Summer Mission Trip. Laurin Sprague and Mike Braun are currently making plans for this summer's trip to Haiti July 31 - August 7 th. If you are interested please contact either one of them. Laurin (896-8911), Mike (726-4000)

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From The Pastor's Heart

20th Anniversary Thanks

Dear Beloved Friends,
Words on this page can hardly express my overwhelming appreciation to you for your amazing thoughtfulness in surprising me on the occasion of our 20th anniversary with First Baptist Church. Ruth and I were in northern Michigan in the summer of 1989, where I was serving as the director of a family camp, when we received word from your search committee that our name was among those with whom they would like to have conversation about your ministry opportunity. We had been attempting to seek the Lord's guidance about a move from our church in Essexville, Michigan, after reaching the 13 year mark, and we were very excited about what our future conversations with the committee might hold for us. We enjoyed our several contacts with Larry Bowling and the rest of the committee, and were encouraged when they invited us to travel to Hamilton to meet you.

That was a few years ago. Josh was a junior in high school, Chris in jr. high, and Adam in third grade when we arrived on the Hamilton scene. I had large glasses and mostly-black hair back then, and Ruth was slightly younger looking as well. We were both excited about owning (or rather, paying for), the first house we could call our own. Since then, God has filled our lives with three wonderful daughters-in-law and five grandchildren. Life is full and meaningful. But equally as significant are the years we have been able to spend with you—our wonderful friends.

We have enjoyed and have been challenged by our ministry here at First Baptist. We have learned what it means to share life with a group of people who genuinely love the Lord, who are interested in gathering for worship, instruction, and fellowship, and who scatter into this world taking the love and power of Jesus with them where ever they go. This ministry has never been about us, but always the Lord, and how we could honor Him by our lives and our love.

I was overwhelmed by the surprise of what you had planned for our anniversary celebration right underneath my usually-attentive observation. The recognition at the service on the weekend of our actual anniversary in February appears to have been a "sneaky diversion." On that day, we appreciated Mark Click's comments, the presentation of the book on leadership meditations, and the beautiful print of the waterfall at En Gedi in Israel which we had visited in September, 2008. All of that was thoughtful enough. Then on March 7, after the usual communion service was completed, we

were informed that the Deacon WatchCare Dinner scheduled for after the service had been hijacked, and that you had planned a recognition dinner and service in our honor instead. That caught me totally by surprise. What an amazing gift!

Thank you for the dinner recognition, your many cards of appreciation, the awesome program, and the generous gift of a new computer (Jeremy and Laurin commented: "Welcome to the 'Dark Side' of Mac computing"). You are amazing. But I do hope that by now many of you have spent some quality time in attentive and reflective prayer for your many deceitful comments and diversions to keep me totally in the dark (more than usual, at least). Bless you, my good friends.

Now another matter...
In the days following the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, those who had been following their Lord continued to meet together for worship, fellowship, and encouragement. Sometimes they gathered in the temple; at other times they met as a smaller groups in their homes. Occasionally, Jesus Himself had appeared in their midst. On one occasion, Luke tells us, Jesus opened their minds so that they could understand the Scriptures. He challenged them to preach to others a message of repentance and forgiveness of sins, beginning at Jerusalem. Then He challenged them:

"You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:49.

Jesus' ministry was always about changing lives. After His return to the Father, it was His intention that His work continue through those who love and serve Him. The task was clear:

- to become witnesses to His life, death, and resurrection;
- to declare the message of the Lord's teaching and His awesome sacrifice for our sins; and
- to become agents of reconciliation for a world bound in sin and darkness.

But this task could never be accomplished through our own strength. Our Lord Himself has empowered us by His very own Spirit. It is through the influence of the Spirit's presence within us that our Lord's work will meet with positive results for the Kingdom.

When the celebrations are over; when the parties are past; when everyone goes back to the rest that life throws our way, ultimately, it is still *"all about Jesus."* Our Lord has called us to serve Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. May it be so that each of us listen carefully to His instructions, and serve Him well until we see Him face to face in glory.

Much love, your much-surprised (and deeply grateful) Pastor.



The presentation of the King's Kids GPS musical has now been completed, but I know the experience and the words of the songs have made and will continue to make a deep impression on our lives about persevering under trial and how the road of obedience with Jesus in our lives leads to the throne of God.

We happily welcomed two who had never sung with us before: Abby Halsey and Blake Martin. We sadly said good-bye to three 6th graders: Anna Wallace, Audrey Wallace and Noelle Wilson. These girls have been members of this group since first grade, singing in every musical since that time and they have a very big place in my heart. We are looking forward to hearing from these alumni in the future sharing their faith, talents and gifts on praise teams or youth choir. It was another of our alumni, Sam Wallace, who was first on the scene helping move risers and scenery for our practice sessions. Thanks to the dads and others who helped him!

I also need to thank the others involved with this production: Debbie Allen and Lauren Schwartz for their boundless energy and talent with the choreography, leading in rehearsals through migraines and tests and term papers; Mike Click and Earl Gabbard with sound using mics that fell apart and needed new parts and using the accompaniment DVD which was new to us this year - a very complicated job; John and Cheryl Motzer and Sandra Imhoff making scenery, props and tee-shirts; the parents for providing snacks and transportation to the rehearsals and for listening with their children to the practice CD's for the hundredth time!

The children are delightful to work with, the songs and scripts so meaningful and scriptural, the choreography so active and worshipful that it all combines to make Sunday evenings at First Baptist an exciting and wonderful time for me. Thank you so much.

Ruth Metzger, director

Budget Status Report

The Month of February, 2010

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$58,571
Offerings	<u>50,392</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$8,179)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$57,665
Offerings	<u>50,392</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$7,273)

The Year Through February, 2010

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$128,933
Offerings	<u>104,313</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$24,620)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$133,251
Offerings	<u>104,313</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$28,938)

-The Board Of Trustees

Wright State University Musical
15 performances of . . .

"Hello Dolly!"

presented by the Musical Theater Department

Festival Playhouse, Creative Arts Center
Wright State University Campus
Fairborn, Ohio

Drew Helton in the role of **Horace Vandergelder**

Dolly Gallagher Levi, the "matchmaker", is in town and is currently seeking a wife for grumpy **Horace**, the well-known, half-a-millionaire, but it soon becomes clear that Dolly intends to marry **Horace** herself.

May 13, 14, 15 - 8:00 p.m.
May 16 - 2:00 p.m.
May 19 - 7:00 p.m.
May 20, 21 - 8:00 p.m.
May 22 - 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
May 23 - 2:00 p.m.
May 27, 28 - 8:00 p.m.
May 29 - 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
May 30 - 2:00 p.m.

Tickets:

Adults - \$19

Seniors/Students - \$17

*Group rate: 10 or more - \$15

*For group rate, contact Victoria O'Leen at
(937) 775-3072 or victoria.oleen@wright.edu

As Soon As Possible

Box office opens Monday, March 29

Noon - 5:00 p.m. (937) 775-2500

Shows sell out quickly!



On Tuesday March 16th we held our monthly MOPS meeting. There were a total of 25 ladies in attendance with 2 new moms visiting our group for the first time! Our morning consisted of a darling Easter candle craft, an assortment of delicious breakfast goodies and great fellowship! Pastor Den was our speaker and presented a wonderful discussion on just why some of the things our spouses do aggravate us - and it's not on purpose! ☺ We all took a personality profile test and realized that some of us are extraverts while others are introverts along with some other fascinating information. Several of us took these home for our husbands to take.

Our upcoming outings for the month consist of the Vera outlet sale on Friday, April 30th, a visit to the Cincinnati Museum Center (TBD) and a group of us will be attending the Beth Moore Simulcast at Fairfield Church of Christ on April 24th. Our next Bible study will begin on Wednesday, April 14th from 9:30 - 11:30. We will be studying *Gripped by the Greatness of God* by James MacDonald. This study will run for seven weeks. If you are interested in any of these events please see a member of steering for more information. We would love to have you join us!

Our April meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20th where we will be discussing Sibling Rivalry. We will also host our annual Moppet Appreciation breakfast at the April meeting as a small token of our great appreciation and thanks for the dedication, love and support of so many of our church members who volunteer their time every month to help make MOPS possible! Our last meeting for the 2009-10 year will be on Tuesday, May 18th when we will hold our Spring Fling! Be sure to jot these dates down and plan to be in attendance!

Please continue to pray for our MOPS ministry, the current steering members, those who will be joining/leaving steering for the 2010-11 year, the Moppet workers and for all the mom's who have come along with those who we will soon meet. May we continue to be a light to these women through our actions and words.

On Planet Mom but not Alone-
Elise
Coordinator



From the theme song, I am glad to hear "*God Is My Hero*" as the focus of this Bible school.

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

Awana April Calendar

- 7 No Club because of Spring Break
- 14 Regular Club Night
- 21 Handbook Time/Recreation/**Staff Meeting**
- 28 Regular Club Night

Don't forget to keep wearing your Awana shirt and bring your books. Well done, to all those who continue to be enthusiastic and learn their verses. We don't have many meetings left so keep on studying!

-Claire Metzger, Cheryl Motzer,
& 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

New Believer's Class

We are intending to start a new believer's class on the 18th. This will run for about 4 weeks. This class is for any children who wants to learn more about the Bible and what it means to be a Christian, focusing upon what baptism is and how to know if you are ready to make a commitment. This class will be during Sunday School time, in the Children's Library.

**VBS 2010
July 12th - 16th**

Wow time flies fast when you wear a cape! Only 103 days until we kick off with our Hero Headquarters theme. Watch out for our five unlikely Bible heroes, who will help us to join forces with God. "*God Is My Hero*" is the central theme for our week we will look at how powerful, strong, faithful and loving God is, and how He can rescue us in any situation. We will learn that heroes:

1. Do the unexpected!
2. Take action!
3. Step out in faith!
4. Save the day!
5. Stand for truth!

The whole week will be a challenge for us to lean upon God as our hero and support, even in tough situations. We will soon have VBS music CDs and registration forms ready for you all. Watch out for this, just follow the sound of the superhero theme ...

VBS Staff meeting: April 21st at 5:30 in the Family Center.

Congratulations, Matt Riczko!

Matt Riczko was one of six Fairfield Middle School students who earned a "superior" rating at the University of Cincinnati District Science Fair. They will move on to the state science fair competition at Ohio State University in May. Congratulations, Matt!

First Quarter Business Meetings

The Advisory Board will meet on Sunday, April 18th, at 5:30 p.m. All elected officers of the church are members of the Advisory board and are urged to be in attendance at this meeting. In addition to items of business on which recommendations will be made to the church, reports will be heard from the boards and staff.

The First Quarter Business Meeting will be Wednesday, April 21st, at 6:45 p.m. Reports will be heard from the boards and staff.



UPCOMING WOMEN EVENTS

Opportunities for Fellowship, Encouragement,
Spiritual Growth and Service

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

May 1: Formal Tea "Theme Par-tea" - See article below.

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

May 20: Serve City Meal

Formal Tea

Tickets are now on sale (\$8) at the table in the connector for our **Theme Par-tea**. This spring tea will be held on Saturday, May 1 at 2:30 in room 200. Stop by the table for more information (find out how you can get a free ticket by decorating a table for this event). Lisa Dulli will be serving a five course afternoon high tea. There will also be a short program. Join us for an afternoon of *hospitali-tea*!!

New Bible Study Sessions

The Thursday evening Ladies Bible Study group will begin on April 8th (*One in a Million* by Priscilla Shirer).

The MOPS Wednesday morning group will start on April 14th (*Gripped by the Greatness of God* by James McDowell). See Teri Horsley or Elise Martin for more information.

Serve City

We will again be taking dinner to Serve City on Thursday, May 20th. Watch for sign-ups later this month.

Sweet Life Café

We have pushed the Sweet Life Café retreat back until October.



GALATIANS 5:13, NIV



Kirkwood Camp Schedule 2010

ABC/OHIO summer camps at Kirkwood will be:

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

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



From The Heart Of Judy

College Corner

E-Mail From God

Let It Go

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”
—Matthew 5:44

Dear Child,

When you cut yourself or get a bruise, your body eventually heals. Your body doesn't say, "I hate you, sticker bush! You injured me, and I'll never forgive you. I'll carry this cut around with me forever to remind me of how evil you are!" Your body knows that type of unforgiving behavior just hurts itself. Staying cut is not going to affect the sticker bush one way or another.

Likewise, if someone cuts you down with mean words, don't carry those words around. You're only hurting yourself. One of the best ways to heal from an emotional wound is to pray a blessing on the person who hurt you. I know it sounds crazy, but praying for your enemies keeps their mean words from controlling you. I want you to love everybody. I'll help you do it.

Your Healer,
God

—Serving in His name,
Judy Wallace
College/Career Coordinator

KeenAger April Outing

The KeenAgers will be touring Rumpke Landfill, Wednesday, April 14th. We will leave the church at 9:15 a.m. We will be having lunch together at Eli's in Ross following the tour. Please sign the list on the bulletin board by Sunday, April 7th. There is a limit of 24.

—KeenAger Activity Committee
Bernie & Martha Griesinger



Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



The next **Silent Dinner** will be held on Friday evening, April 2nd, at Tri County Mall. See you there!

Interpreter Schedule for April

April 4	Maria Miller	Jo Manson
April 11	Maria Miller	Jo Manson
April 18	Maria Miller	Jo Manson
April 25	Maria Miller	Jo Manson

Happy Birthday



April 7 Nicole Taylor Monhollen

—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.

Campbell, Nicole
Phone # 513-490-9243



Final Free Midday Music In Oxford



The last concert of the Midday Music in Oxford series is scheduled at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main Street in Oxford, Wednesday, April 21st at 12:00 p.m. Soprano Audrey Luna, who has performed worldwide, and countertenor William Sauerland, a former member of Chanticleer, will be joined by pianist Brad Caldwell. Information: 523-6969.



2010

In Loving Memory Of

By

Kash & Bernice Allen Tom & Judy Farris
 Jane & Elden Anderson Lois & Rod Anderson
 Willie Baker Jim & Mag Baker
 Naudine & Bob Belew Nancy Follmer
 Robert & Mary G. Borden Bob Borden
 Wade Ezekiel Bowling Marilyn & Larry Bowling
 Vi Buck Pat & Don Gingrich
 Regina Byrd Darryl & Cleta Paragin
 Eileen & Gene Campbell Carol Howard
 Ed Cappelli Joe, Juli, & Katie Ford
 Peggy Chamberlain Roger, Josh, Brian, & Darin
 Chamberlain
 Carleen Click Mark & Kathy Click
 Carleen Click Jason Fernandez
 Jon Follmer Nancy Follmer
 Helen Ford Joe, Juli, & Katie Ford
 Pinia & Bob Gabbard Carolyn & Earl Gabbard
 Pinia & Bob Gabbard Oakley Wardlow
 Alice & Walter Gibbs Jim & Mag Baker
 Hazel Gingrich Pat & Don Gingrich
 Raleigh & Emmilee Gipson Mike Gipson
 Cletus & Ruth Goble Lois & Merle Grubbs
 Toni Grubbs Lois & Merle Grubbs
 Charles & Phillip Hampton
 Jerry & Loretta Hampton
 Mary Lou Hoskins Everett Hoskins
 Gene Howard Carol Howard
 Lorna Howard Ina Flo Gill
 Lillian & Kenneth Jackson. Carolyn & Earl Gabbard
 Don McCool William Burton
 Grace & Robert Mayes Carol Howard
 Don Metzger Pastor Den & Ruth Metzger
 Eric & Ruth Pals Pastor Den & Ruth Metzger
 Bertha Paragin Darryl & Cleta Paragin
 Albert & Flo Potter Marilyn & Larry Bowling
 Courtney Profitt Lois & Rod Anderson
 Wayne & Ruby Reynolds Bob & Thelma Stanger
 Robert & Leona Shawver Jim & Mag Baker
 Sue Sizemore Doug Sizemore & Family
 Earle & Esther Stanger Bob & Thelma Stanger
 Kelly Stanger Bob & Thelma Stanger
 John & Jane Tyra Jerry & Loretta Hampton
 Paul Wardlow Oakley Wardlow
 Zachary Witmer Chuck & Lisa Witmer
 Our Parents J.K. & Mary Walker
 Our Parents Jerry & Carole Busch
 Our Parents John & Jean Riczko
 Our Families Who Have Gone Before
 Zeke & Jewell Bowling

In Honor Of

By

Lexie & Alivia Ankrum Jim & Mag Baker
 A.J. Baker Jim & Mag Baker
 Conner, Riley, & Benjamin Bowling
 Marilyn & Larry Bowling
 Isabelle Marie Brantingham
 Pastor Bill & Bert Brantingham
 Eric Cappelli Joe, Juli, & Katie Ford
 Thelma Ditmyer Roger, Josh, Brian, & Darin
 Chamberlain
 Pastor Den Michael Gipson
 Anna Profitt Lois & Rod Anderson
 Bernie & John Raber Pastor Den & Ruth Metzger

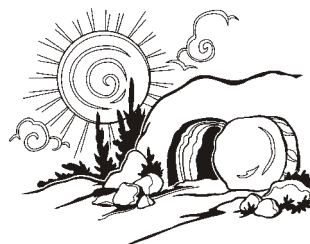


Congratulations to **Katie Simpson** who was one of the *Above and Beyond the Call Award* winners at Cincinnati Financial Corporation in January. Nomination Background quote:

“Exceptional service—that’s what Katie provides her North Carolina agencies every day. Although handling a newly rolled out state presents unique challenges, she responds to requests and inquiries promptly and efficiently. Katie routinely contacts her agencies to see how she can help them. She quotes business for her agencies, mentoring them as they learn to successfully maneuver the quoting process themselves. Katie offers nothing less to her associates—quickly quoting business and serving as a sounding board for field and headquarters associates alike.

Katie’s can-do, service-first attitude drives business to Cincinnati. Described by the agencies she serves as friendly, professional, caring and willing to assist—Katie always goes above the norm and always with a “smile in her voice.” While underwriting 25 agencies—a large territory—Katie actively works to make her agents’ and agency account representatives’ jobs easier. She gives customers appropriate time, care and attention while counseling on Cincinnati’s philosophy and appetite. She is credited as one of the main factors in Cincinnati’s successful personal lines rollout in North Carolina.”

Congratulations, Katie! We are proud of you!!





Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

April 4 - Claire & Chris Metzger
April 11 - Judy, Amy, & Anna Wallace
April 18 - Jerri & Brad Begley
April 25 - Claire & Chris Metzger

One & Two Year Olds

April 4 - Ruthie & John Wallace
April 11 - Kerri Miller & Teen Helper
April 18 - Allison & Andrew Sommers
April 25 - Stacy & Brian Dickman

Kinderchurch

April 4 - Vicky Baker & Dorothy Hollowell
April 11 - Stacy & Brian Dickman
April 18 - Vicky Baker & Dorothy Hollowell
April 25 - Barb & Brian Begley

Attention All Morning Worship Child Care Workers



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

April 7

There will be no dinner because of Easter break

April 14

Menu: Barbecued Chicken, Macaroni Salad, Baked Beans, Rolls, Dessert
Hosts: Deaconesses

April 21

Menu: Beef and Noodles, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Carrot Cake
Hosts: TNT (Seekers)

April 28

Menu: Pork Roast, Au Gratin Potatoes, Peas and Carrots, Applesauce, Rolls, Dessert
Hosts: Keystone I

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.

April Greeters

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





Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

CREW Summer Coming Soon

Just a couple days ago we had a small dusting of snow on the ground. Now, I am sitting down trying to think about the summer and what the CREW will be doing during this time. We have some of our "traditions" like: video scavenger hunt, wet n' wild night, Flub's outing, and a cookout. Beyond those events the rest of the summer is still up for grabs.

I am also sitting down thinking of all the other projects I will be doing this summer and when I will be able to do it. Needless to say my time is already about filled up and it isn't even April yet. Oh my!

There is one other event we are going to be attending this summer which will be new for the CREW. The past couple years we have got our concert fix from Spirit Song at King's Island. This summer we are going to northern Ohio for the Alive Festival, June 23-26.

This is a four-day series of concerts featuring some of the best and most popular artists in the Christian concert arena. The concerts begin in the afternoon and will go on until about 11pm or so each evening. Alongside these concerts each day there will be speakers and a couple sessions for us to attend so we not only hear great music we are challenged in our walk with Christ.

During the evenings we will be tent camping on the concert grounds and enjoying the sounds of God's creation. Needless to say I am excited about these days and what will be happening for our group.

The cost of this trip will be \$100 per teenager and include all the food they will need, unless they want to buy some food there and any souvenirs they want. A \$50 non-refundable deposit will be due on May 5th with the remainder due in June.

This is also an event our new CREW Members will be able to attend if they so choose. It is my goal and prayer that this event will help bring our group closer together, closer to God, but also create memories that will last a lifetime

However, I cannot take a group to the Alive Festival alone and need a couple other adults to go with us. If you are interested please see me soon as I want to figure out what adults will be joining us to let parents and others know.

Besides the Alive Festival our summer will be kicked off with a CREW Event June 4th and 5th. This will be the first event our new CREW members can be part of and I hope all you 6th graders will mark your calendars now for all the fun packed excitement we

will have Friday and Saturday.

I am excited about how God will reveal himself to the CREW, our church, and myself this summer as we experience Him each and every day. I hope and pray each day I will find God and seek him out so others may know He is still alive. I look forward to the times Aleesha and I can sleep in and relax together, and the many walks we will take with Dobby.

As you can see the summer is almost filled and it isn't even Easter yet. Oh well, such is the life of a youth pastor.

Gearing up for Summer,
Jeremy

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Compassion 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.

April 7th: Starting around 4:30 please come to the CREW Room so we can start painting the walls and getting everything set up the way we want it. We will be working until the evening and I will be providing the food and drinks, you provide the labor. See Jeremy for more details or with any questions

Church Softball: If you are 16 years old or older please think about playing softball on the First Baptist team this summer. Games start the week of April 19 and will be played on Tuesday's. Please see Jeremy to sign up or with any questions.

May 1st: CIA Project to help clean up the Historic German Village District. We will get going in the morning and end sometime in the afternoon. This will be a valuable CIA experience to help realize how much we can do for the Lord right in our own town. Don't forget to sign up soon for this CIA project.

Graduates: If you are graduating this year from high school, college, or beyond can you please make sure I am aware as we plan the Baccalaureate service. The service will be June 13 during the morning service. Also please be thinking about which pictures you may want to be included in the slideshow that day. More details to be sent out in May.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April 2010</h1>						
				1 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 7:00 Maundy Thursday Communion Service	2 12:00 Good Friday, Hamilton Prayer Walk, Courthouse, <i>Come Walk The Way Of The Cross</i>	3 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering
4 Resurrection Sunday! 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Egg Hunt	5	6	7 No Dinner/No Programs 4:30 CREW Activity	8 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Board of Trustees 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 ONE Ministry	9	10
11 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Board of Missions 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 Small Groups	12 11:00 Women's Book Club at Fairfield Lane Library	13 10:00 Holloway Circle 10:30 Abell Circle 7:00 Smith Circle	14 9:15 KeenAgers to Rumpke Landfill 10:00 MOPS Bible Study 5:00 ABW Meeting 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	15 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Music & Worship 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	16	17
18 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Diaconate 5:30 Advisory Board 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 Small Groups	19 5:30 Spring Trip to Oneida	20 9:30 MOPS	21 10:00 MOPS Bible Study 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana - Handbook Time/Recreation/Staff Mtg. 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 1 st Qtr. Business Mtg. 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	22 8:30 Matthew 25 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	23	24 9:00 ABW Spring Rally @ Camp Kirkwood
25 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 C.E. Board 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 Small Groups	26	27	28 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	29 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	30	



April

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|------|--|------|--|
| 1 - | Monica Bowling
Nancy Brown
Dorothy Glynn
Rosemary Thompson | 10 - | Irene Schilling | 25 - | Gerry Davis
Allen Hampton
Kathy Inloes
Jon Whipple |
| 2 - | Eris Cappelli
Carolyn Dudley
Katie Scott
Ruth Turner
Jake Yates | 11 - | Mark Braun
Drew Schramm | 26 - | Becky Blanchard
J.C. Eury
Josh Farmer
Brittany Rogers
Alyson Rothenbusch |
| 3 - | Melynda Caswell
Bo Stanger | 14 - | Diana Bueker
Elizabeth Rose Metzger
Katie Rankey
Krys Schramm | 27 - | Conner Bowling
Carol Rose |
| 4 - | Joey Fryer
Karen King
Savannah Yates | 15 - | Ashley Inloes
Marcella Walter | 28 - | Chris Campbell
Dale Thomas Dawson
Brad Gerth
Don Kellum |
| 5 - | Marian Allen
Marie Sparks | 16 - | Benjamin Bowling
David Gabbard | 29 - | Linda Arnold |
| 6 - | Valerie Ashcraft
Hailey Mardis
Manuel Sanchez
Don Grimes | 18 - | Michelle Owen
Libby Thomas | 30 - | Nick Emenaker
Margie Mayes
Anna Wallace |
| 7 - | Beth Hanna | 20 - | Dean Minnich
Jean Riczko | | |
| 8 - | Elizabeth Joy Wallace | 21 - | Stacy Dickman
Camden Saylor | | |
| 9 - | Kim Gingrich
David Hollowell
Merle Kimble
Jim Powell
Jane Thiel | 22 - | Stan Brown | | |
| | | 23 - | Linda Hoover
Wayne Simpson | | |
| | | 24 - | Sharon Click
Ruth Metzger
Michael Titus | | |

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
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Hamilton, Ohio 45013
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Personal Notes

From Bill Brantingham

Thanks to all who sent the many, many birthday cards I received this past month—and also, I thank those who gave a gifts—including the anonymous donor of the Bob Evans Gift Card! It is such a joy to serve the Lord with this loving congregation. God bless each and every one.

From Catherine Madigan (niece of Shirley Wade)

Thank you for your faith and prayers of healing during my recent surgery. I am so grateful to report God has delighted in you and has answered by blessing my body and my spirit with healing and peace. All God's blessings.

From Oakley Wardlow

I would like to thank all of my First Baptist Church family for all of their prayers and cards. A special thanks to my family, Pastor Bill and Pastor Metzger for all their welcome visits they made. What started out as a simple procedure at the hospital became a major health concern within minutes and knowing that I had all of this support pulled me through once again. Prayers and Love.

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).

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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The Lord is Risen!