

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

May, 2010

Memorial Day

In the song, *I'm Proud To Be An American*, there is a part that says, "The flag still stands for freedom and they can't take that away." The flag of our nation stands as a symbol of our freedom, and we can't look at it without remembering the sacrifices that were made for our freedom. Our nation's flag is a symbol of hope, and in war it has been a guide to those soldiers lost in the heat of battle.

Visitors to the Smithsonian Museum of American History can see the flag that flew over Fort McHenry when Francis Scott Key wrote *The Star-Spangled Banner* in 1814. The original flag measured 42 feet by 30 feet. It was the immense size of the flag that allowed key to see it from his position ten miles out to sea, following a night of gunfire.

The means by which a flag that large could fly on a pole 189 feet in the air is on display at Fort McHenry on Baltimore's Inner Harbor. There in one of the barracks are two oak timbers, eight feet by eight feet, joined as a cross. National Park Service personnel discovered this cross-shaped support near the entrance to Fort McHenry in 1958 buried nine feet in the ground. Not only did the cross piece help rangers locate the original site from which the "Star Spangled Banner" flew, it answered the mystery of how such a large flag could fly in the stormy weather without snapping the pole. This unseen wooden device provided a firm support and foundation for the symbol of our national freedom.

Similarly, the cross of Christ provides the foundation by which our faith is rooted and supported. Just as we look to our nation's flag as a symbol of hope, we must remember to look to the cross of Jesus for hope. When we look at our flag, the red stripes might remind us of the blood of our many soldiers who gave their lives for our freedom, but when we look at the cross we remember the blood that was shed for our spiritual freedom. On Memorial Day, let's remember both our soldiers and our Savior who gave their lives for our freedom.

–Selected

Lifelong Lessons For Making Mom Happy

It's been said, "If Mom ain't happy; NOBODY'S happy!"—and keeping Mom happy is a lifelong job for the Lord, for Mom, and for the people with whom she lives and works. Now we know that no one else is responsible for our own happiness but ourselves, but let's look at this from another perspective.

There are times when the "madness of life" gets to Mom—she's got kid crises, computer crackups, health hassles, family feuds, job jumbles—you name it, Mom has it, hassles it, and tires to handle it! What to do? Here are a few hints.

Lifelong Lesson #1: Mom, Move NOT! - When you're upset and frustrated, "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10) There's a place where we can and MUST reach out to our Heavenly Father in prayer and renew our strength through His Word. It will keep us sane, safe, and saint-like, if we let it.

Lifelong Lesson #2: Mom, Move OVER! - When you need to talk to someone, find a good friend to "sit alongside of you," to listen and love you, give you a hug and let you know you're not alone. Friends are important - share with one another. It helps when another knows, understands, and prays for us!

Lifelong Lesson #3: Mom, Move ON! - When you're at your wit's end, find something funny in the circumstance (you might have to dig for that one!), go get a cup of coffee/tea or a CHOCOLATE sundae—and just KEEP GOING. Let it all go to the Lord first, and then reach out to face your day and what God has in store for you. He is waiting to help, love, guide and lift you up this day!

–Borrowed





American Baptist Women's Ministries

Joint Meeting For ABW Circles

All of our ladies are invited to attend the joint Circle dinner meeting on Tuesday, June 8th at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Center. We will enjoy a covered dish dinner and then have a program and installation of officers. Come and enjoy this time of fellowship.

Nancy Whipple, ABW president

May Missionaries of the Month:

Lebanon

Daniel & Sarah Chetti

Closed Country

Matthew & Lori Mann

Bible Book For May Malachi

"I am the Lord, and I do not change."

Malachi 3:6a (TEV)

Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament canon. It's author is unknown. It's title comes from the opening words of chapter 3, "My messenger" (in Hebrew, "malachi"). Malachi is a book of passion. The author loves the temple and its worship. He demands much of the priests in their office and values religious instruction. He goes beyond the laws of Moses to root God's will in the creation stories of Genesis (2:10). He ends as do the later prophets with a vision of that day when the Lord will punish the wicked and revive the just.

PRAY for the unity of purpose that draws Christians together from local to national levels as we seek to carry out the Great Commission within American Baptist Churches, U.S.A.

-Madge Walters

Reminder!

Please continue to collect Campbell's Soup labels and put them in the red box in the cloak closet. Listed below are the names of some of the products that have the Campbell's label:

Save Front Label

- Campbell's Beans Products
- Campbell's Condensed 10 oz. Soups
- Campbell's Condensed 26 oz. Soups (Family Size)
- Campbell's Low Sodium Soups
- Campbell's Ready to Serve Classic Soups (18-19 oz. can)
- Campbell's Tomato juice (10 oz., 46 oz., 64 oz.)
- Campbell's Soup at Hand™
- Campbell's Chunky Soups
- Campbell's Healthy Request® Soups
- Campbell's Select Soups
- Campbell's Soup to Go® (tub)
- Campbell's Simply Home® Soups

Save 2 Code numbers from Outer Case

- Campbell's Tomato juice (11.5 oz./24 cans/case)
- Campbell's Tomato juice (5.5 oz./48 cans/case)

Save Lid

- Campbell's Ready to Serve Soups (plastic)

Save UPC Code

- Campbell's Supper Bakes™
- Campbell's Soup & Recipe Mix (with the entire box bottom panel)

FOOD SERVICE

Save Front Label

- Campbell's Chef's Kettle® Soups (50 pz.)
- Campbell's Food Service Soups (50 oz.)
- Campbell's Low Sodium Soups (50 oz.)
- Campbell's Healthy Request® Soups (50 oz.)

-Nancy Whipple

The Courier (ISSN 383367-29)
May 2010
Published monthly by:
First Baptist Church
1501 Pyramid Hill Boulevard
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
Volume 45, Number 5

Twelve Biblical Reasons Why We Should Pray

It was one of those brief conversations that make a lasting impression. Ruth and I had been married a few years, and we were spending a few days with my family in Akron during the Christmas holidays. As we had finished gathering our things that had been scattered around the house, preparing to return to our home in Michigan, we sat down with a cup of tea at my mother's kitchen table. We were just speaking the usual pleasantries about how good it was to be home, and thanking her for her hospitality, that she told us something I had never heard before. Read on...

Some of you may remember that my parents were divorced when my sister and I were still in our elementary school. Dad had been gone for a few years before my mom remarried, adding a new sister and brother a few years later. Mom held our family together during those interim days, and I look back on her efforts with much appreciation and admiration. One of Mom's concerns, of course, was the welfare of my sister, Cathie, and me. It is during such times of uncertainty and insecurity that most of us fall on our knees before the throne of grace asking for wisdom and help from the One who provides both with abundance and much love...

That is the back-story. As we sat at the kitchen table on that day in December, Mom told us that she had committed her kids to the Lord during those lonely days, asking God's protection and guidance upon our lives. She said she gave the Lord permission to use her son in any way that He desired, and that I was totally His—100%. I remember placing my hand on hers, telling her that I had not known that story before, and how thankful I was for her willingness to offer me to the Lord. I believe that it was this prayerful sacrifice of my mother on my behalf that followed me as I made my way in this world in my early years, which ultimately brought me into the Lord's ministry.

I could have gone any number of directions in college. I began with an interest in English lit and grammar; focused my studies in the sciences with a B.S. in Biology, and could have easily taken that major into the public classroom. I spent time substitute teaching my last year after finishing up my final few hours. But behind all of that was a desire to study theology and the Lord's ministry. I have a heart for the things of God, and believe that it began with my mother's commitment and prayerful invitation to the Lord to make me His very own.

On April 18th I began a new series in the morning worship services entitled, **The Great Adventure**. The focus is that the members and friends of First Baptist would become a people who understand the value and necessity of committed personal prayer. There are many reasons why those who are committed to the Lord should follow this path. Allow me to take a few lines to list them. **Twelve Biblical reasons why we should pray:**

1. Reason #1: God values our prayers.

In John's letter to the churches in Revelation, there is a scene in the fifth chapter where John sees with His own eyes the glory of the living and resurrected Savior as he stands before the throne of God in his regained power and splendor. The relevant portion of the text

reads:

*Then I saw a Lamb [Jesus], looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders...He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, **which are the prayers of the saints.** (Rev 5:6-8).*

That is a remarkable passage in many respects. But to think that the heart expressions of our lives in prayer are like a sweet-smelling incense in the presence of God is a sobering thought. When our praise, adoration, and

(From the Pastor's Heart, cont.)

petitions leave our hearts, *they are treasured* by the God who hears them. That is an image we need to hold firmly in mind. **God deeply desires that we would offer the prayers of our hearts to him**—words of praise, thanksgiving, petition for our own needs; intercession for the needs of others. God values our prayers.

2. We are instructed in the Bible to pray..

Matthew 5:44 *But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you;*

Romans 12:12 *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*

James 5:16 *The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

3. We should follow Jesus' example, and like Him, pray regularly..

Luke 5:16 *But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.*

Luke 6:12 *One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the [whole] night praying to God.*

And of course you know of the prayers of our Lord Jesus on the evening before his crucifixion. Jesus prayed to the Father that He would be able to complete the work the Father gave Him to do. And the Father answered that prayer.

4. Prayer is how we communicate our worship and praise to God.

Philip. 4:6 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

1 Thes. 5:17 *pray continually.*

5. Through prayer, God allows us to participate in His work on behalf of others.

Prayer can heal nations and grant us strength to endure difficulties. Prayer also plays a part in bringing others to faith in Christ. You already know the most powerful promise that we have used in times of national prayer:

2 Chron. 7:14 *If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

Isaiah 40:29-31 *He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

6. Prayer gives us power over evil.

Physical power and strength are of no use in the spiritual realm. Even the physically weak can be strong in prayer:

James 4:7-8 *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

7. Prayer is always available to us.

Nothing can keep a believer from coming before God. Governments may condemn and forbid God's Word, but there are no barriers to prayer.

Romans 8:38-39 *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

8. Prayer keeps us humble before God.

Through prayer we realize that God is in control and we can do nothing apart from Him.

Jeremiah 32:17 *"Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.*

John 15:5 *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

9. Prayer grants us the privilege of experiencing the reality, the presence, and the power of God.

Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

10. Answered prayer has the potential to be an incredible witness to unbelievers.

Skeptics will always have criticisms and doubts regarding answered prayer, but some will see the power of God at work, and as a result, may be drawn to Christ..

Acts 2:42 *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*



11. Prayer strengthens the bonds among believers. Scripture instructs us to pray for and confess our sins to one another. Through this we learn empathy and understand the needs of others.

Ephes. 6:18 *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*

12. Prayer succeeds where other means have failed. Prayer is not a last resort, but it can often make a difference where other methods have failed.

Proverbs 3:5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Philip. 4:6-7 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

To his prophet Jeremiah, God revealed His heart—a heart that issues forth in good things for those who love Him:

Jeremiah 29:11-13 *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*

Prayer is commanded in the Scriptures. It is also an amazing privilege. God, the Creator, invites us to come to Him personally to share in a lifestyle of relationship.

In prayer, we hear the invitation of God Himself who says, **"I long for the pleasure of your company. Won't you join Me?"** I pray that we will find ourselves emboldened and willing to do so.

Because a mother prayed...Pastor

Church Family Picnic

Sunday
May 30th
5:00 p.m.
Holloway Park

Bring covered dishes to share
Beverages provided

Budget Status Report

The Month of March, 2010

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$61,943
Offerings	<u>69,349</u>
Over (Under) Budget	\$7,406
Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$61,525
Offerings	<u>69,349</u>
Over (Under) Actual	\$7,824

The Year Through March, 2010

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$190,877
Offerings	<u>173,663</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$17,214)
Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$194,776
Offerings	<u>173,663</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$21,113)

—The Board Of Trustees



WORK DAY
at the
CHURCH

An Opportunity For All

Saturday morning, May 8th, at 8:30 a.m. we will gather at the church for our Annual Spring Clean-Up of our grounds. Weeds need to be pulled, shrubs, trimmed, flowers planted, mulch spread, litter picked up, etc., etc! There is a job for every one. Please bring hand spades, weed eaters, rakes, blowers, pruning loppers, shovels, pruning shears, etc. Come when you can, stay as long as your schedule will allow. We will be here from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Thank you for using your time and talents to beautify the Lord's house.

—The Trustees



Carpenter's Hands Signs Of Love



Silent Dinners

The Silent Dinner for May will be held on Friday evening, May 7th at Eastgate Mall. See you there!

Happy Birthday



May 9 Mary Ella Hudson

—Maria Miller
Director of Deaf Ministries



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) or Mike (726-4000)

Missing Bible Study Leader Kits

If you borrowed any of the Ladies Bible Study Leader Kits from downstairs, please return them. There are several missing from the Bible Study box.



Awana May Calendar

5th - Regular Club Night
12th - Regular Club/Sparks Store
19th - Regular Club/T&T Store
27th - Awards Night & Fun Fair

Awana Night And Fun Fair

These will be combined this year on Wednesday, May 26th during club time. We will meet in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. for our awards and dismiss to the family center for our Fun Fair. We are getting 2 inflatables this year and will give away the winners of the Chinese raffle baskets. We will also have snacks and face painting. Please ask your families and friends to come and help celebrate another year of Awana.

Chinese Raffle Baskets and Store Nights

During the Sparks and T&T store nights, you will be able to purchase tickets with your awana bucks for the Chinese raffle baskets. There will be 7 different baskets on display to look over. You will put your ticket in the bags that you want to try and win. The Awana store helpers will be able to assist you on your night.

Awana Store Items

It is still not too late for our teachers or anyone to donate items for the Awana store. We look for items all year round to stock up our store. Many of you have already brought in items that you have found on clearance or sale!!! Thanks so much for supporting the store. Here are some suggestions: socks, \$1 movie candy boxes from the Dollar Tree, recess balls, stuffed animals, Christian CD's, basketballs, footballs, flip flops (children 11-4 and sm adult sizes 6-8), any appropriate t-shirts or games.

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

Missing Linen Tablecloths

If you borrowed the box of round linen tablecloths from the church office, please return them.

Ruth B. Scripture by Ruthie Wallace

This is my tribute to my Grandma, the preacher's wife, who lived and loved amidst the dancing shadows of my great and beloved Grandfather. He will forever live in my memory as a righteous oak (Isaiah 61: 3). And she, a lovely carpet of crocus blooming beautifully at his feet (Isaiah 35:1,2). He, a great glorious voice for truth; she, the faithful resounding echo of all he proclaimed. My Grandma Scripture was strong in the Lord, capable, steadfastly committed, kind, caring, and vigorous in her ways and work. She was heart and soul; and she endured faithfully to the end. I am among those who arise to call her blessed.

Thanksgiving was the last time I was with Grandma, and I wondered after we kissed and hugged if that would be our last goodbye. I watched her admiringly that visit. To me she appeared more lovely and graceful than ever. The gentleness in her eyes and voice seemed enhanced somehow. Her face was more delicate; her demeanor so peaceful, unhurried, and gently humble. She seemed perfected, I thought. Like a bride perfectly prepared for her procession down the aisle; readily anxious to meet her groom. I believe she was eager to meet her Lord! And yet she remained steady and patient; stilled and quieted in her soul. Waiting beautifully.

My Grandma was compassionate. The love of Christ compelled her. She hurt for the hurting; she extended her hands to the poor. Grandma listened with her heart, and she loved. She defended the oppressed; comforted the afflicted, and interceded for those she knew in need of the Deliverer. My Grandma was a warrior in prayer. She was quick to speak and act on behalf of anyone she knew needing mercy; anyone wronged, falsely accused, or dealt harshly against. She knew of grief and sorrow by way of experience. And she knew well of the joy that comes in the morning! Grandma was always ready to give a reason for the hope she professed, and she wanted everyone she met to know Jesus.

With endless mercy, love and grace, the Lord tended to my Grandma's heart. He was intimately acquainted with her; all her hopes, her joys, her sorrows and her losses. He laughed with her, and He cried with her. He fought for her, and He fought victoriously through her. The Savior knew her grief, He carried her sorrows, and He was the joy of her salvation. His stripes bought her forgiveness and brought her healing. While she lived on this earth He loved her! And His righteousness rested upon her. She was His princess, and she was beautiful to Him. And so will it be

through all eternity! Beginning the day long ago when she first believed Him for her own salvation until the moment of beholding Him in glory, He worked in her heart and in her life to make His own life abound in and through her. Death has taken her to the grave yet her life remains, fully hidden now in Christ on high. We who believe will embrace her again!

I still ponder the unknown - how the Father may have ushered her into His glorious presence. I've wondered if He called out her name. She knew His voice. She had been listening to Him for so many years. The voice of her Shepherd; the voice of the One she loved. If He had called her name, she would have lifted her head! I wonder when He called, did her body just fall back like a robe dropping to the floor as her spirit flew into the eternal expanse just beyond our reach, and into His everlasting arms? How precious for us who love her that Aunt Karen shared how she found Grandma on that bittersweet morning. How her body bore evidence of the grand surprise of meeting Jesus face to face! Fallen aback with eyes gazing heavenward. No fear. No worry. Only the shimmering reflection of the endless crystal sea in her beautiful blue eyes.

For all eternity she will dwell joyful in His presence. And so will we... one glorious day!

"...They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor."
Isaiah 61:3

"... rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; ... rejoice greatly and shout for joy... they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God." Isaiah 35 1-2



Congratulations!!

Congratulations to **Laurin Sprague**, Director of Fine Arts for the Hamilton City Schools, for receiving the Supervision, Policy and Administration Division Award from the Ohio Art Education Association. He won this honor for his dedication and leadership in building a quality and well-rounded arts program in our district.

National Nursing Home Week

May 9-15, 2010

I used to wonder how elderly folks must handle the slowness of time with hardly anything to do. Maybe they could cripple over to the neighbor's place for a few minutes or maybe turn the radio on, if they had one. Maybe one of the children would drive over from the big city and stay over night, but probably not. Maybe the insurance agent, who used to live down the road, would stop by, but then he is always so busy. Maybe if I hobbled down to the store, old Joe would be there for a game of checkers toward the back where the coal stove sat.

Then, having visited a nursing home, where two or three or four people shared a room that was rather dim and didn't smell much like roses, I wondered how they could stand it. Some were in bed or just sitting there in an old chair, maybe having given up hope of any visitors or even someone they knew from days in the past. If that is a picture in your mind of a nursing home, you haven't been in one for a long time.

Times have changed, and most of the "homes" in this part of the World are clean and bright, with activities on a daily basis. Lounges are there, with reading materials, or a place to visit with each other or maybe with a friend or relative. Most of the attendants are friendly and seem to really want to help those in their charge.

One thing has not changed! Most of those who are now living in a "home" really enjoy having a visitor or two, every now and then. If you haven't visited in a "home" lately, try it out. It would "make my day" for the person or persons you visit.

Oh, since I have reached the elderly stage of life, I have wondered how time could go so fast! It seems like my birthday comes around every three months or so. In the meantime, see us down at Tri. Co. Extended Care on Friday evenings and see, hear, and feel the togetherness of the folks down there. They really look out for each other and sing like angels (In the ears of the Lord)! We don't have preachers like we do at FBC, but the Word of the Lord is proclaimed for the hungry folks!

–Walter Petry



The next scheduled Work Day at Matthew 25 will be Thursday, May 27th. 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

KeenAger May Outing

The KeenAgers will be going to Hamilton High School's Rhapsody In Blue Dinner Theater at Tori's Station in Fairfield at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 21st. The cost is \$25.00. Please sign the list on the bulleting board by Friday, May 14th. There is a limit of 30. They will leave the church at 5:15 p.m..

–KeenAger Activity Directors
Bernie & Martha Griesinger



Serve City Dinner

There is an opportunity for service as we provide another meal for the Serve City Shelter on Thursday, May 20th, at 6:00 p.m. We are in need of people who can come to serve, prepare food, and/or make a monetary donation. You may sign up at the table in the connector. This event is sponsored by the Women's Ministry Council. Thank you for your help and support.



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 January, February, and March, 2010.

Threes

Marilyn Bowling

Beginner/Kindergarten

Camden Lamb

Primary

Nellie Roberts

Trevor Allen

Senior High

Jeremy Spence

TNT

Chris Metzger

Homebuilders

Debbie Allen

Yada Sisterhood

Ruth Gaskins

FOCUS

Jean Grimes

Jerry Hampton

Carol Howard

Bill Roberts

Keystone

Ron Gerth

Bert Brantingham

Bill Brantingham

LaVerne Gerth

Mike Gipson

Harold Sapp

Lindel Sapp

Irene Schilling

Parenting

Mike Braun

Stan Brown

Office

Linda Gibbs

Dennis Metzger



Sunday School Promotion Day!

Sunday School Promotion Day will be during the last part of the Sunday School hour on May 30th for all children completing grades 6 through 12. On June 6th, these students should report directly to their new class. All other school age children will be promoted in September at the beginning of the new school year.

—John Motzer
Sunday School Superintendent

Yada Sisterhood

On Sunday, May 23rd, the Yada Sisterhood Sunday School Class will begin a 10 week study based on Liz Curtis Higgs' book *Bad Girls of the Bible*. Eve, Potiphar's wife, Lot's wife, Delilah, Sapphira, Rahab, Jezebel, Michal, the woman at the well, the sinful woman – whether they were "Bad to the Bone," "Bad for a Moment," or "Bad for a Season," these infamous sisters show us how **not** to handle the challenges of life. Liz Curtis Higgs combines a contemporary retelling of their stories with a solid, verse-by-verse Bible study of their lives and the lessons we can learn from them.

LADIES – Come join us in Room 111 at 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings for this series, or for as many weeks as you can, if you have vacation plans! Our class is a light-hearted, Bible-based, ministry-involved, caring & sharing group of women and we would love to have you give us a try! If you are interested, please see Diane Wallick to purchase your book (\$10.00) and read about our first "Bad Girl"- Eve, so you can be ready for our first discussion on May 23rd. If you have any questions, please give Diane a call at 863-4227.

—Diane Wallick

VBS 2010 Hero Headquarters July 12 - 16

We will discover how unnamed heroes in the Bible joined forces with God to make a difference and we will learn how we can be a hero for God today! You will love our superheroes! Each day Pizza Man, Maintenance Mac, and Water Woman will engage you with hero challenges. Don't miss out on our AMAZING Bible stories, POWER Projects, and SUPER Snacks!

There are still positions available for workers. We really need helpers for the nursery and toddler rooms. Let Claire or Cheryl know if you can help out.

—Claire Metzger & Cheryl Motzer
Co-Directors of Vacation Bible School



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

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

On Tuesday, April 20th we held our eighth meeting of the 2009-10 MOPS year, and what a busy meeting it was! We honored our Moppet workers with a breakfast buffet and small thank you gift. We appreciate our workers so much and know that our Mops program would not be possible without your dedication, support and love to this ministry. We also said goodbye to one our Mops mom's - Barbie Begley who graduates this phase of motherhood and moves onto the next. This month's topic was sibling rivalry and we held an open forum discussion on the topic. Everyone enjoyed sharing their opinions on discipline while also hearing what other mom's had to say. We also enjoyed a yummy breakfast and planted a herb garden to use later this summer.

Our outings for the month of April include the Vera Bradley outlet sale on Friday, April 30th. We will be meeting at the church at 9 am and departing for a fun filled day of shopping and fellowship at 9:15. Our May outings include an evening at Renck's Garden Center along with a family outing to the Cincinnati Museum Center. Be sure to check out our bulletin board located outside the toddler rooms for all these events! We will be finalizing our summer activities as well and they will be available in the next few weeks. We recently began our fourth bible study, Grippled by the Greatness of God by James MacDonald. We are only a few short weeks into the study but have fourteen ladies attending, several whom are joining us for the first time!

Our last meeting for the MOPS year will be Tuesday, May 18th. This meeting is the Spring Fling aka the rescheduled Pamper Fair!! We have so many fun things planned for this meeting that I truly hope that you make it a point to attend. It is going to be such an awesome event!!

Please continue to be in prayer for our MOPS group; our current steering team and the ones who will begin in a few short months, our moppet workers, the bible study and all of our moms who have attend and who have yet to come. May we continue to be a light in the world of motherhood offering support, encouragement and love.

On Planet Mom but not alone-
Elise
Coordinator



**From The Heart Of
Judy**

College Corner

E-Mail From God

Have I Got A Plan For You!

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”—Jeremiah 29:11

Dear Child,

Sometimes it seems like everyone, including your friends, your parents, and maybe even yourself, has a plan for you. Well, I have a plan for you, too. I created you with a plan in mind. It is your destiny—the reason you exist.

We have adventures to go on, you and I. There are new friends for you to meet and new places for you to explore. There will be tough times, but I’ll give you strength; and when you’re lost, I’ll show you the way back home. So when you need to make a decision, pray first and then listen. You will hear a whisper inside yourself. Trust me. I only want to bless you!

Your Trail Guide,
God

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



**Men’s Soft Ball Schedule
(First Half of Season)**

- April 20 # 3 @ 7:30 p.m. vs. Comm. Christian
- April 27 # 3 @ 6:30 p.m. vs. Lindenwald UMC
- May 4 # 3 @ 6:30 p.m. vs. Paducah Ave. Bapt.
- May 11 # 4 @ 8:30 p.m. vs. Ham. Chris. Ctr.
- May 18 # 2 @ 7:30 p.m. vs. Springdale Naz.
- May 25 # 2 @ 8:30 p.m. vs. Paducah Ave. Bapt.
- June 1 # 5 @ 8:30 p.m. vs. Shandon/Macedonia

—Jeremy Spence

**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!



May 6, 2010



Child Care Schedule



Wednesday Family Dinners

Nursery (Morning)

May 2 - Kathy Inloes & Joey Sackenheim
 May 9 - Claire & Chris Metzger
 May 16 - Jenny & Rob VanMeter & Justin
 May 23 - Aleesha Spence & Teen Helper
 May 30 - Claire & Chris Metzger

One & Two Year Olds

May 2 - Allison & Andrew Sommers
 May 9 - Heather & Simon Nguyen
 May 16 - Ruthie & John Wallace
 May 23 - Sandra Imhoff & Teen Helper
 May 30 - Andrea Mardis & Teen Helper

Kinderchurch

May 2 - Vicky Baker & Dorothy Hollowell
 May 9 - Kerri Miller & Teen Helper
 May 16 - Vicky Baker & Dorothy Hollowell
 May 23 - Cheryl & John Motzer
 May 30 - Debbie Allen & Lauren Schwartz

May 5

Menu: Ham, Hash Brown Casserole, Green Beans, Applesauce, Rolls, Brownies
 Hosts: Trustees

May 12

Menu: Spaghetti and Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert
 Hosts: Keystone II

May 19

Menu: Chicken and Noodles, Honey Glazed Carrots, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert
 Hosts: Chancel Choir

May 26

Menu: Hamburgers and Hot Dogs with all the trimmings, Macaroni Salad, Cole Slaw, Potato Chips, Dessert
 Hosts: Deacons

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.



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 Child Care Coordinator:

Andrea Mardis - (520-5457)

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

May Greeters

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



Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank

It's That Time Again...

It seems it was only yesterday when the summer was ending and the school year was beginning. Yet, it is almost summertime and with that means graduations, open houses, and plenty of free food. Yes, I like free food and it is one of the reasons the beginning of summer is so fun for me, but I have digressed. This is one of those bitter sweet moments in my life as I celebrate those graduate but also remember when they first came into the CREW and how much they have grown in the past six years.

I know that all our graduates are looking forward to being finish with high school, college, or their post-graduate degree but I encourage you all to finish strong and then enjoy your break before the next endeavor God has for you. I also hope you will check in with me to make sure I have you down on our list of graduates (a list will be made available in late May or early June). Even if you think I know you are graduating it is always appreciated if you remind me so I make sure you are on the list.

Another request we have for graduates is to look at some picture you wouldn't mind sharing with the church as we try to do a slide show featuring our graduates during the Baccalaureate Service. We would like a couple pictures from each graduate no later than May 23 as this will give us enough time to put together a top-notch presentation. Please have them in no later than May 23. You can turn them in to myself, Aleesha, or in my mailbox located in the main office.

Thirdly, please put on your calendars June 13 as that is our Baccalaureate Service in the morning followed by a luncheon immediately following the service. More information will be sent out in a letter later in May but please mark your calendars now. If you don't receive a letter by June 1 please let me know ASAP. This probably means we were not aware you were graduating, or had graduated early this school year.

Lastly, I want everyone to know the CREW Summer schedule is about completed and will even include the events schedule through the end of the 2010. A copy will be made available online, in print, and I will try to email some important dates soon. Please let me know how you would like to be informed the CREW News so I can communicate better with you as parents, students, and those who love the CREW. I try to send something out via email

at least once a month and I try to make sure the blog portion of the CREW Student Ministries section of the site is updated with the email and other items throughout the month. Please make it a habit to check the site often so you stay on top of things.

As always if you have any questions, concerns, or other items you want me to know about please don't hesitate to call or email me. I look forward to celebrating graduation with you and your family this May and June.

Be God's,
Jeremy

Upcoming Events:

Sponsor Child: 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. Check out the new picture of David we received the other week.

Church Softball: Games have started and the team is playing well. All we need now is more people to join our growing number of fans. Go online, www.firstbaptisthamilton.org, or see the calendar page of the Courier, to get the schedule and come support the FBC Softball team.

May 1st: CIA Project to help clean up the Historic German Village District. We will start in the morning and finish sometime around noon. 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.

May 5th: \$50 non-refundable deposit is due if you plan to go to the Alive Festival. Total cost is \$100 per person but the other half will be due when we leave in June. See Jeremy with any questions and to sign up. No extra tickets will be purchased for this event so please plan on attending now.

May 8th: All church clean up day starting at 9:00am. Please help clean up the grounds, plant flowers, clean out the van, and other projects that our Trustees feel needs to be accomplished. This is a great way to earn community service hours.

May 23rd: Last evening for small groups. Please finish strong with your groups and gain the momentum to carry on through the summer.

May 30th: Church picnic in the Holloway Park. See the details located elsewhere in the Courier for more information. This is a great time to rub shoulders with other FBC people and see how great our church family really is.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2010</h1>						1 8:00 Men's Prayer Gathering CIA Project to Clean Up Historic German Village District
2 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 CREW Small Groups	3	4 9:30 MOPS Steering 6:30 Men's Softball #3	5 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	6 National Day of Prayer! 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 ONE Ministry	7	8 8:30 Spring Clean-Up Day Letter Carriers' "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive
9 Mother's Day 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	10 11:00 Women's Book Club at Fairfield Lane Library	11 10:00 Holloway Circle 10:30 Abell Circle 7:00 Smith Circle 8:30 Men's Softball #4	12 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana/Sparks Store 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	13 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Board of Trustees 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 ONE Ministry	14	15
16 8:45 Sunday School Appreciation Day 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Diaconate 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 CREW Small	17	18 9:30 MOPS-Pamper Fair 7:30 Men's Softball #2	19 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana/T&T Store 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	20 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:00 Women's Ministry Council to Serve City 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 ONE Ministry	21 6:00 KeenAgers to Tori's Station for Rhapsody In Blue Dinner Theater	22
23 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 CE Board 6:00 Evening Celebration 6:00 CREW Small Groups	24	25 8:30 Men's Softball #2	26 6:00 Family Dinner 6:30 Awana Awards Night & Fun Fair 6:30 Lifeline 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 Carpenter's Hands 8:00 Chancel Choir	27 8:30 Matthew 25 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Music & Worship 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 ONE Ministry	28	29
30 9:15 Sunday School Promotion 10:30 Worship 5:00 Church Picnic @ Holloway Park	31 Memorial Day! Church Offices Closed					



MAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1 - Harold Sapp | 12 - Helen Baker
Jeri Begley | Don Perry
Amanda Mason |
| 2 - Glenn Madden | 13 - Bill Abrams
Denise Cox | 27 - Joshua Chamberlain
Daniel Morris
Iva Voss |
| 3 - Bob Arnold
Jeff Hazelwood
Tracy Scott
Douglas Rocco
Sizemore | 15 - Drew Helton
Priscilla Phillips
Cress | 28 - Jerry Hampton
Geraldine Smith
Bryan Wallick |
| 4 - Logan Stanger
Andrew Withrow | 16 - Raegan Miles
Olivia West | 29 - Dorothy Hollowell
Heather Keith |
| 5 - William Cox
William Sizemore | 17 - Mollie Johnson
Sydney Ruwe
Ashley Wilson | 30 - Richard Apgar, Sr. |
| 6 - Lorraine Collier
Lisa Dulli
Lilly Gibson | 18 - Ruth Gaskins | 31 - Frances Bailey
Isaiah Witmer |
| 7 - Zeke Gibson
Justin Zeek | 19 - Darlene Gibson
Ron Herzog
Lucille Lancaster | <u>Note:</u> 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. |
| 8 - Anna Apgar
Warren Townsend | 20 - Danielle Williamson
S a m a n t h a
Williamson | |
| 9 - Lyndsay Begley
Tonya Metzger
Paul Dudley
Alex Hendrickson
Mary Ella Hudson | 22 - Elyssa Hines
Jeanette Schwab | |
| 10 - Clinton Harris
Pauline Johnson
Omega Murrell | 24 - Josh Metzger
Marilyn Shearer | |
| | 25 - Tiffany Jordon | |
| | 26 - Juanita Hazelwood | |

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



Personal Notes

From Flo Gill

To my brothers and sisters in the body of Christ at First Baptist Church. Thank you for the many cards, prayers, and visits during my surgery and convalescence. James 5:16 *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.* I count as riches the privilege of being one of you. May the Lord bless and keep us all.

From Janet Lewis

Thirty-five treatments in as many week days to grow new blood vessels around my heart; and a matching number of drivers to get me to Bethesda North Hospital. How thankful I am to my friends at First Baptist for providing that transportation. Thanks, too, for your prayers, cards, and calls.

From Anna Profitt

I would like to express my appreciation for the communion that was served to me during Easter week. Ron and Laverne Gerth, Mike and Billie Gipson, and Jewell bowling were so kind to visit me at my house. There are certainly wonderful ambassadors for the Lord. Health issues prevent me from attending services at church so it means a great deal to be able to share in this worship experience face-to-face with such friendly and loving Christian brothers and sisters.

From Doug & Rosemarie Willey

Words fail to express our heartfelt thanks for the outpouring of your love and support in the homegoing of our grandson, 10 year old Max Douglass Willey. We certainly sensed the power of your prayers upholding us as we met and ministered to family and friends and conducted his Celebration of Life, attended by 300 plus people. Max's soccer team attended the service wearing white t-shirts with his picture on the front and his team number on the back. We are so blessed to have you as our friends in the Faith. Please continue to keep Doug, Jr., Christine, Matt, Mandy and Marissa in your prayers too.



Letter Carriers' Food Drive

Local food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters are facing unprecedented requests for help at a time when new jobs are hard to find. Shared Harvest Foodbank in Fairfield also has felt the strain of trying to ensure our partner agencies have sufficient supplies of food to assist those who need it most.

You can lend a helping hand by participating in the largest one-day food drive in America. The National Association of Letter Carriers holds its 16th annual "Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive" Saturday, May 8th.

Please help to contribute by setting non-perishable food donations by your mailbox the day of the drive. As letter carriers deliver the mail that Saturday, they'll collect the food, and their goal is to top last year's collection of 74,452 pounds of food in Butler County.

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

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