

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

April, 2016

From Daniel's Den *Revitalization*

The numbers are from 80 to 90% of churches in the USA are either in decline, plateaued, or are growing at a pace slower than their community. Churches all across the nation are shrinking. The need for Church Revitalization is huge.

FBC Hamilton has been plateaued for a number of years. In the past ten years we have experienced a net increase of 24 members, which is about 2 per year increase. We are a plateaued church. The calling and challenge of the Great Commission is to "Go and make disciples!" We are committed to being "A light on the hill with a heart for the community". I am excited as I look to the future of FBC Hamilton as we are intentionally seeking to revitalize our ministry and mission.

I was encouraged when I read the following article. I reprint the article in full here, then I will make a few observations at the end.

6 Ways to Reverse a Church Decline by Thom Rainer
<http://www.churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/163049-6-ways-to-reverse-a-church-decline.html>

I don't particularly like the "quick-fix" formula some pundits offer to leaders of churches that are plateaued or experiencing a decline.

The approaches often appear to be man centered and methodological. Indeed, many times I think the solutions offered could just as easily apply to a civic organization as they could a church.

Nevertheless, I have had the wonderful opportunity to research churches across America, as well as to have literally hundreds of conversations with church leaders in a variety of settings.

What I have learned is that many churches have plateaued or declined. Many leaders are frustrated and seeking God's solution to the situation. And a number of churches exhibit common patterns when they break out of their numerical slump.

Allow me to share six of the more common ways I

have seen churches reverse a decline.

1. They enter a time of corporate prayer and fasting. Sometimes the period is a short duration, such as 24 hours. But in that time, many members of the body agree to pray and fast to seek God's face for His will for His church.

In some churches, the number of members who participate is relatively small compared to the whole membership. In other situations, a large number may participate. In each case, those who do pray and fast understand only God can ultimately give the increase to a congregation.

2. They start new groups.

Churches that start new small groups, new Sunday school classes, new home groups, new discipleship groups and a plethora of other possible groups, often experience turnaround growth. More often than not, the approach to starting these groups is more strategic than haphazard, and more intentional than incidental.

3. They start new worship services.

These worship services may be on Sunday morning, but they could be on other days and times as well. They could be new campuses or new venues. Like those that start new groups, many of the breakout churches strategically and intentionally make the starting of new worship services a vital part of the present and future of the congregation.

4. They emphasize the power of inviting.

The pastor emphasizes it from the pulpit. Printed and web information constantly reminds members to invite others. The leadership of the church seeks to make the act of inviting others part of the DNA of the congregation.

5. They emphasize the importance of groups growing.

Not only do breakout churches place a high priority on creating new groups, they often emphasize the importance of the groups themselves growing. Leaders attempt to instill a Great Commission mindset, not only

(Continued on the inside)

Reminder: April is Love Gift month.

April Missionaries of the Month:

Mexico

Timothy & Patricia Long

Nicaragua

Drs. Anita & Rick Gutierrez

Patti and Tim Long serve in Baja California, Mexico. **Patti** ministers as special education teacher and resource specialist at the Monte Horeb Baptist Grade School in Tijuana, a school that reaches out to the most vulnerable of the city's young population, its children with special needs. She also coordinates the STEP scholarship program for students at the school.

Tim serves in leadership development through the Baja Baptist Seminary, teaching present and future church leaders, both at its Mexicali campus and extension centers located throughout Baja California. He also coordinates a scholarship program for seminary students.

Family doctors, **Anita & Rick Gutiérrez**, train and equip local churches, pastors and missionaries to combat life-style related diseases like HIV/AIDS, heart and artery disease, diabetes, and malaria. They incorporate portable rapid screening tests and ultrasounds into weekly neighborhood health classes held by trained health builders. Through in-home sessions, they provide friendship evangelism and Bible study opportunities. They are continuing to develop a health education DVD series that can be studied individually or in small groups. Their vision is to train two or four health builders in each participating church.

Bible Book of the Month Zechariah

“Return to me, and I will return to you.”

Zechariah 1:3 (TEV)

Zechariah prophesied from 520 to 518 B.C. A promise of prosperity and peace is made conditional upon the rebuilding of the Temple.

This book is a book of the future. It is a Book of Revelation of the Old Testament. Zechariah's enthusiasm for the rebuilding of the Temple kept the people at the task of finishing the work. He does not condemn the people, but presents in glowing pictures the presence of God to strengthen and help.

PRAY

That families will continue to grow in closeness and commitment to God because of people who take time to share God's message of love.



Giving Opportunity

For the months of March and April, we are collecting **peanut butter, canned green beans and boxes of cereal** for the food pantry at Laurel Avenue Church of Christ. Place your donations in the box labeled “Food Pantry” in the coat room outside the Family Center. Thank you for all the ways you serve “the least of these.”



The next scheduled Work Day at Matthew 25 will be Thursday, April 28th. 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.

KeenAger April Outing

The KeenAgers are going to the Rumpke Recycle Center in St. Bernard on Thursday, April 7th. The bus will leave church at 9:15 a.m. for the 10:00 tour. We will have lunch after the tour at McAlister's on Cox Road.

We will also go to a Cincinnati Red's game Wednesday, May 4th. The bus will leave church at 10:30 a.m. Please pay for your ticket by April 17th. Cost will be determined by number going. Please sign the lists on the bulletin board.

–KeenAger Activity Committee
Dave & Janet Hazelwood

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(Continued from front - Daniel's Den)

for the church as a whole, but also for each group individually.

6. They truly serve the community.

Many churches break their cycles of decline or plateau by providing means for members to serve the community. This service is far more than inviting persons to come to the church facilities. It involves such activities as painting public school classrooms, resourcing indigent school children, providing free refreshments at community events, and being a force for mobilization to meet needs expressed by community leaders. These six breakout suggestions are not some quick-fix formula to reverse decline. Inherent in each of them are changes in mindsets and attitudes. Some churches have succeeded by implementing only one of them. Others have successfully done all of them and even more.

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Observations: As we seek to revitalize our congregation, notice that we are doing all of these points. We are engaging in intentional prayer through The Prayer Covenant. We are emphasizing personal spiritual maturity through DiscipleShift. We are seeking to grow our worship opportunities through Sunday Evening Praise. We are implementing a welcome and outreach strategy through direct mail invitations. We are encouraging everyone to be a part of a small community group. We expect everyone to serve in the community through a variety of ministry partners. FBC Hamilton is revitalizing!

Be the light!
Pastor Dan

April message series: **True Religion** - James 1:25-27
4/03 - The Model - Luke 4:16-21; James 1:25
4/10 - Deal with yourself - James 1:25-26
4/17 - Look after the oppressed - James 1:26
4/24 - Deal with the world - James 1:25-27; Micah 6:8
5/01 - ... whatever you did ... for me. - Mt 25:31-46

-Pastor Dan Clemens

Looking Ahead

May 22nd - Cherubs Sing in Morning Worship

May 15th - KingsKids' Present *Legends At Camp Kirkwood* - 6:00 p.m.

Budget Status Report

The Month of February, 2016

Projected (Budgeted) Spending \$ 65,213
Offerings 53,599
Over (Under) Budget (\$ 11,614)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending \$56,918
Offerings 53,599
Over (Under) Actual (\$ 3,319)

The Year Through February, 2016

Projected (Budgeted) Spending \$141,398
Offerings 110,648
Over (Under) Budget (\$ 30,750)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending \$134,836
Offerings 110,648
Over (Under) Actual (\$24,188)

-The Board Of Trustees

First Quarter Business Meetings

The Advisory Board will meet on Sunday, April 17th, at 5:00 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 20th, at 6:30 p.m. Reports will be heard from the boards and staff.

Looking Ahead



WORK DAY
• at the •
CHURCH

Saturday, May 7th

April's Monthly Mission Opportunity

The Father's House is a Hamilton Christian organization dedicated to assist local foster families. It is located at the old Hamilton Orphanage on "D" Street. On Saturday, April 30th, we will be holding a workday at their site. The hours and work to be done is to be determined, but lunch will be provided. Please keep the date open as more information will be coming! Please see Pastor Aaron or Laurin Sprague for more information.

Katherine and Wayne Niles To Visit

Our missionaries from the Republic of the Congo, Katherine and Wayne Niles, will be our guests for the Sunday School hour and worship on Sunday, April 17th. They will be arriving on Saturday the 16th and spending the night. If anyone is interested in hosting them in your home for that evening/night, please let Pastor Dan or Cathi Thomas (Mission Board chair) know.

Pathway to Hope Pregnancy Care Center Fundraiser

Pathway to Hope Pregnancy Care Center invites you to their annual fund raising banquet on Thursday, May 12th, at 6:30 p.m. at Receptions Conference Center in Fairfield. FBC is hosting 2 tables at this event. Guest speaker is Gianna Jessen, an abortion survivor, advocate for life, and one of the women who testified before Congress this past year to defund Planned Parenthood. If you would like to attend this event (dinner is complimentary), please let Pastor Dan or Cathi Thomas (Mission Board chair) know by Monday, April 18th.

World Mission Conference In Greenlake, WI

Several FBC families and individuals will be attending the World Mission Conference in Greenlake, WI from July 4-9. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about what God is doing in the world, and to connect personally with IM missionaries from around the world. If you are interested in attending, please see Cathi Thomas or any member of the Mission Board for registration and accommodation information.

Local Short-Term Mission Trip To Camp Kirkwood

FBC is planning a local mission experience May 22-26, helping Camp Kirkwood prepare for the upcoming camping season. Participants will help in cleaning, painting, and grounds maintenance during the day and have fellowship in the evening. Meals will be provided and participants will be spending the nights at the camp. Please sign up in the connector if you are interested in being part of this mission experience. If unable to attend the entire session, you can sign up to help for part of the time too. See Ann Brown for additional information.

Because He Was God

Because He was God He always has been,
And forever He always will be.
Because He was God He gave up the splendor
Of heaven to set mankind free.

Because He was God He came to this world
To show mankind how to live.
Because He was God He repeatedly tried
To teach us to love and forgive.

Because He was God He did miracles,
But still mankind wouldn't believe.
Because He was God He prayed for us all—
That the love of the Lord we'd receive.

Because He was God He angered men:
He upset the status quo.
Because He was God they schemed and they planned
Ways to silence this threatening foe.

Because He was God He could have come down
From the cross, and set Himself free;
But, Because He was God He chose to stay there
And suffer for you and for me.

Because He was God my debt has been paid,
As He hung there on Calvary.
Because He was God I am now white as snow
When my Father God looks upon me.

Thank you, Jesus!

—By Florence Jones

Aaron's Attic

Four Questions That We All Need To Ask Ourselves

After a productive discussion with our Sunday School leaders at our training on March 12th, I thought it might be helpful to share the same ministry-calibrating material with the church in general. Our Vision Statement states, "We are believers in Christ Jesus, called of God; gathering for worship, instruction, and fellowship and scattering for care, evangelism, and transformation of the world for His Kingdom." It is a worthy vision and to move toward this vision we must occasionally ask ourselves what our strategy is to see this vision come to fruition. We, as a pastoral staff, see the central method of Jesus's ministry and the way to working toward our vision as one and the same: discipleship in community. We see Christ's example of calling men to Him to join Him in His mission in **Mark 1:17**, "And Jesus said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.'" Paul helps us to see the value of sharing our lives together as well as the Gospel in **1 Thessalonians 2:8**, "so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well." It's important to see discipleship (the process of following Jesus, being transformed by Jesus, and joining with Jesus in His mission) with building community. A statement that best encapsulates our ministry strategy comes from the book *Discipleshift*, "Discipleship is the emphasis, relationships are the method." I'm writing this article for the whole church to read because we each need to ask ourselves a few questions...I'll get to them as we go.

As you know, Pastor Dan led us through a sermon series in February on "The 5 Stages of Discipleship" (also from *Discipleshift*) and asked us to evaluate which stage we see ourselves in. Our options were: Dead - Infant - Child - Young Adult - Parent. Unfortunately, I don't have the space to place a three-page evaluation sheet within this article but if you would like one please feel free to email, call, or see me and I will get you one. The first question we must ask ourselves is: **which stage of discipleship am I in?**

After acknowledging our current stage we need to evaluate how we're doing individually in the four different growth areas as a disciple of Jesus: 1) Relationship with God 2) Relationships in the home 3) Relationships with God's family/church 4) Relationships with the world. **How are you doing in these 4 growth areas? Is there an area that you need to focus on growing in?** Keep in mind that we are constantly needing to grow in all four of these areas and areas 2-4 depend on how well our

relationship with God is going.

Paul, as mentioned above in 1 Thessalonians 2:8, understood the value of sharing the Gospel as well as sharing his life with those he was ministering to. Joseph Hellerman states, "Spiritual formation [becoming more like Jesus] takes place primarily in the context of community." **What community group are you a part of?** Are you in a weekly small group/community group? Are you in a Sunday school class? Or a Wednesday night class? Or some sort of Bible study? **To really be formed by Christ, to become more like Jesus, every one of us needs to be living life in community with other believers; the Sunday morning worship service, though it's a great start, isn't enough.**

And the last thing we must evaluate is who is your Barnabas and who is your Timothy? Barnabas was a mentor to Paul and Paul mentored Timothy. **Who is your mentor? Or who is walking alongside of you and encouraging you in your relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ? Is there someone whom the Lord is leading you to disciple?**

We are not meant to live the Christian life alone; even Jesus had three whom He was very close to (Peter, James, and John) and 12 whom He was in intimate community with. Our Lord wants us to be doing the same: growing in Him alongside of others. Discipleship is the emphasis, relationships are the method. Please reflect on the emboldened questions and feel free to contact me or Pastor Dan or Pastor Justin if we can help you in any way with connecting you with a mentor or a community group.

In His Grace,
Aaron

Casket Empty
New Testament Seminar
Saturday, May 21st 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
At First Baptist - Room 200.

God's Plan of redemption Through History
The Story of the Bible Simply Explained
with Jesus at its Center

Lunch will be provided to all who RSVP by May 15th to: aaron.osterbrock@firstbaptisthamilton.org. Free Child Care will be provided but please RSVP with childcare needs.

-Aaron Osterbrock
Associate Pastor



**Promotion of Camp Kirkwood
And Conference Center
At Miami Baptist Association
Moderator's Dinner
April 12th**

Thank you for praying for the MOPS ministry. With your support, MOPS is able to help equip moms with the knowledge and encouragement they need to be the moms that God has called them to be. It's what draws moms to MOPS in the first place and keeps them coming back month after month. Moms are grateful for MOPS and the positive influence that it has on their families. If you know a mom with young children, let me encourage you to invite them to come out to our next meeting so that they too can experience the blessing of MOPS.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 19th from 9:30a.m.-11:45a.m. Our topic is *Fierce Fundamentals: Educational Activities for Kids*. Laura Kruze from Club Z Tutoring will be speaking to us on ways we can help our children learn. Moms will have the opportunity to learn about fun educational activities that they can do with their children, and they will also discover new strategies to help a struggling child succeed at learning.

Several additional MOPS events are planned in April. The MOPS Bible Study will meet on April 12th from 9:30-11:30a.m. at First Baptist Church. Moms will have the opportunity to get to know each other better at a dessert and game night on April 14th at 7p.m. at Valerie Osterbrock's house. The month will end with a spring farm tour at the Niederman Family Farm on April 26th at 9:30 a.m. Please contact me at allison_sommers@yahoo.com if you have any questions or if you want to get involved in MOPS.

Serving Him,
Allison Sommers

**A FIERCE
FLOURISHING**

The dinner will be in the Fellowship Hall of Kenwood Baptist Church, 8341 Kenwood Road, Cincinnati 45236, at 7:10 p.m. Sign in from 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.

The meal is complimentary! RSVP is required! You are asked to be as generous as possible in your contribution to Camp Kirkwood. Please RSVP to: Kenwood Baptist Church (513-791-0355) with your name and church affiliation by **April 6th**.

Your History Committee

Although we have more or less been silent for a couple of weeks, we are making progress on church history. Your committee has reviewed material from the early 1950s through the late 1980s, covering the terms of Pastors Hurst, Scripture, Johnson, and Willey. When we say review material, we are referring to personally scanning weekly bulletins, weekly and monthly couriers, monthly business, advisory board, trustees meetings as well as annual reports, and material supplied by you.

We have gathered much valuable information but some of this requires additional information to tie-up loose ends, therefore, we are asking anyone who can help us on the following:

- Boy Scouts: The date they were established, when was it discontinued, when was it re-established?
- Christmas Banquets: When was this started?
- New Life Mission and Serve City: When did we become involved?
- Men's Saturday morning prayer meeting: When started with breakfast and without breakfast?
- Thanksgiving morning football game between the "has-beens" and "will bes". Is it still being played?
- Hamilton Men's Bible Class: Date it was started, where did they originally meet, who were the teachers?

There will be additional requests for information and everyone's help is appreciated. As we move forward with this project, we will require additional help. At present the greatest help you can give us is your PRAYERS.

–Nancy Follmer, Naomi Hoskins,
Jim Powell & Teri Horsley

Empty Bowls

Our EMPTY BOWLS Painting Party in February was a great success-even for those who were not particularly gifted artistically! First Baptist members plus many visitors (nearly 80 people) painted 100 bowls and had a fun evening of food and fellowship. But that night was just the first thrust of the EMPTY BOWLS fundraiser for our community. We still have 2 more ways to help the Open Door Food Pantry.

1) On Saturday, April 9 at Zion Lutheran Church from 11:00 to 2:00 you may have lunch and choose a souvenir bowl (our painted bowls should be offered there). Costs will be \$10 for adults, \$5 for children but kids under 6 free may eat for free. All of the proceeds from this event will go to the Food Pantry.

2) We have been asked to help supply desserts for this fundraiser luncheon. (Someone in the community must have heard about all the great cooks at FBC!) There is a sign-up sheet at the table by the gym if you would consider doing this. Any type of dessert will do but they need to be prepared in a disposable container. If the dishes are dropped off in our church kitchen by Friday, April 8th, they will be transported to the event. Any desserts not used will be donated to the Open Door Food Pantry.

The local EMPTY BOWLS coordinators were surprised and excited about the support our church offered and were extremely grateful. Let's continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those less fortunate in our community and help to make this fundraiser a great success!



Kirkwood Camp Schedule 2016

ABC/OHIO summer camps at Kirkwood will be:

June 19-24 - Jr High Camp	\$325.00
June 26-July 1 - Junior Camp	\$325.00
July 3-8 - Senior High Camp	\$325.00
June 26-29 - New Adventure Camp	\$235.00
July 8-9 - Beginners Camp	\$145.00

Early Registration Discount \$10 if postmarked by April 1st
First Time Camper Discount \$10
Bring-a-Friend (attending camp for the first time!) Discount \$10
Family Discount (2nd, 3rd, 4th ... member to register this summer) Discount \$10

The Board of Christian Education decided that the church would pay a portion of the fee of **those who attend First Baptist regularly** to attend ABC camps. For additional information or registration forms, contact Camp Coordinator, Brian Chamberlain, 256-9384 or see him at church.

—Brian Chamberlain
Camp Coordinator



Volunteer Days At Camp Kirkwood

You have been invited by Camp Kirkwood to sign up for the April 9th and 23rd Volunteer Days at Camp Kirkwood. More info: www.campkirkwood.net



We're past the halfway point in the Awana year and we are bursting with pride with how much our clubbers are studying God's Word. We are encouraged by the commitment and passion of our listeners to give their time and energy not just on Wednesday nights, but to pray faithfully over their groups and check in on those who are absent. The following are our dates in April. We look forward to spending more time individually and with each small group.

Awana April Calendar

- 6 - Regular Club Night
- 13 - Regular Club Night
- 20 - Royalty Theme Night
- 27 - Regular Club Night

Grand Prix winners:

Speed

- 1st Place - Conner Bowling
- 2nd Place - Isaiah Witmer
- 3rd Place - Makayla Witmer

Design

- 1st Place - Isabel Brown
- 2nd Place - Drew Walker
- 3rd Place - Nate Walker

Adult Speed - Marilyn Bowling

Adult Design - Megan Miller

Cubbie winners:

- 1st Place - Anna Brudzinski
- 2nd Place - Ciaran Metzger

Sparks winners:

- 1st Place - Bailey Cicco
- 2nd Place - Lauren Brudzinski

-Claire Metzger & Cheryl Motzer,
Awana Leaders

Sunday School Breakfast
April 10, 2016

The Sunday School Breakfast will be April 10th starting at 8:30 a.m. in the Family Center. Biscuits and gravy, breakfast casserole, cereal for the kids, and fruit will be served.

-Brian Begley
Sunday School Superintendent

Childcare

Thank you for those who routinely give up their time during the church hour to watch, comfort, love, entertain, teach, feed and clean (!) our loved children. We always have open slots, so don't be shy - take a turn, you'll find that while you are blessing our kids you are being blessed also!

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

Vacation Bible School
Submerged!
July 11-15
9:00 a.m. -12:15 p.m.

It's never too early to think Bible School! We are scheduling our class teachers and starting to plan out all the different areas. Please see us if you can help. We averaged 125 children last year and around 80 teachers. This may seem a lot of help for the children but when you consider the different ages we always need more help. Prepare to embark on an adventure like no other, scouring the mysterious fathoms of the deep sea. Thrilling discoveries await just beyond the portholes of your submarine. Things look very different once you get below the surface - and that's true for life above the surface, too. As kids submerge themselves in God's Word, they will discover that Jesus saw people differently. He didn't just see what's on the outside; He saw who people were down deep. As kids learn to see themselves and others as Jesus sees them, they can realize that everyone needs a Savior - even those who look like they have it all together. A relationship with Jesus Christ changes everything! All you have to do is dive in! So who is ready to jump in and swim with us?

Teachers need to get their orders for any products from Lifeway to Cheryl or Claire ASAP because supplies will go fast. (like student kits, etc.) Many areas need main leader in classroom as well as nursery and toddler care for teacher's children. There will also be yard banners available with the submerged logo, our dates and information. Please tell Claire or Cheryl ASAP if you would like to put one in your yard. Busy roads are the best advertisement!

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





From The Heart Of Marilyn

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,
Marilyn bowling
College/Career Coordinator



Softball season is upon us and we are looking forward to a fun-filled season of sportsmanship and camaraderie. Games are played on Tuesday nights beginning in April at North End (Ford's Field) in Hamilton. Must be 16 years of age. Please contact Brian Chamberlain at 256-9384 or email me at Bchamberlain@deloitte.com for sign up information. Looking forward to seeing you all at the ball field.

God Bless,
Brian Chamberlain
Director of Sports and Recreation

Just-in Time's

March was a great month! We took fourteen students to Dare 2 Share up in Dayton, OH. It was fun to see students enjoying a time that has become special to many of them. We had several students who were new to the event (myself included!) and it seemed to be a real winner. I think the best part of the weekend was watching students connect dots between what they have been learning on Wednesday nights to what was being taught up front at the conference. As we continue to unpack what we learned that weekend, pray that our students would learn to live it up for God as they live it inward with the Holy Spirit. And ultimately that they would see the purpose God has for them in the way they can live it out towards their peers.

Here are the important dates for April:

April 3 - Progressive Fast Food Dinner! We'll start off with a little appetizer at one of Hamilton's finest fast food joints and then progressively work through a few courses until finally ending with some delicious dessert! Students will need to bring \$5 and we'll take care of the rest. As they say, come hungry, leave happy.

April 10 - Our sixth leader development will be 4pm to 6pm this evening. For students we will be having our Praise Service starting at 6pm.

April 17 - We are going to be doing an open recreation night this evening. From 6 to 7:30pm we will be playing gaga, kickball, four square, basketball, you name it. Bring friends and let's see those competitive sides!

April 24 - Our seventh leader development will be 4pm to 6pm this evening. Students have a family night, so enjoy an evening with them!

April 6, 13, 20, 27 - We will be beginning a new series this month for our Wednesday night Bible study. We will be discussing God's Story: Creation, Fall, Rescue, and Redemption. This will be a two part series and will be followed up in May with Our Story: Before Christ, At Christ, and After Christ.

For further updates please follow our Facebook page, go to goo.gl/P5BIry to see our Google Calendar and go to goo.gl/jnSSnq for a downloadable PDF version of the calendar. If you have any questions, call Justin at (513) 658-2277.

—Justin Davis
Youth Pastor



Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

April 3 -Krys Schramm & Sydney
April 10 - Linda & Larry Wallace
April 17 - Allison & Andrew Sommers
April 24 - Natalie Lakes & Anna Wallace

One & Two Year Olds

April 3 - Cheryl Lambertson, Hannah&Emma Imhoff
April 10 - Brianne & Thomas Ellison
April 17 -
April 24 - Megan Miller & Teen Helper

Kiddie Church

April 3 -
April 10 - Claire & Chris Metzger
April 17 - Sharon Brewer & Lauren Hampton
April 24 - Deb Clemens & Teen Helper

Kinderchurch

April 3 - Dorothy Hollowell & Jill O'Hara
April 10 -
April 17 - Dorothy Hollowell & Jill O'Hara
April 24 -



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 childcare 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 Co-Ordinator: Cheryl Motzer (868-1888). Thanks for volunteering as a child care worker and may you always know how much we appreciate you!

-Cheryl Motzer
(868-1888)
Childcare Co-Ordinator



Wednesday Family Dinners

April 6

Menu: Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Fruit Jello, Rolls, Loretta's Texas Sheet Cake
Hosts: Deaconesses

April 13

Menu: Spaghetti Casserole, Tossed Salad, Bread Sticks, Brownies with Ice Cream
Hosts: Keystone

April 20

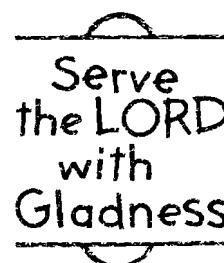
Menu: Chicken and Dumplings, Peas and Carrots, Fruit Jello, Rolls, Cherry Cobbler
Hosts: FOCUS

April 27

Menu: Scrambled Eggs, French Toast, Sausage, Biscuits & Gravy, Hash Brown Casserole
Hosts: Trustees

Reminder: Adults should contribute \$5.00 per person for the meal (including children who eat from the main table), \$15 per family (those living in the same household, and the cost for children under 12 years old who eat at the "Hot Dog" table is \$1.50. 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.



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

April 2016

3

9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
6:00 KingsKids
6:00 Progressive Fast
Food Dinner
6:00 Evening Ministries

10

8:30 Sunday School
Breakfast
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
4:00 Sixth Leader
Development
Seminar
6:00 KingsKids
6:00 Evening Praise

17

9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship - Niles
4:15 Missions,
Diaconate, CE
Boards in Rm 200
5:00 Advisory Board
6:00 KingsKids
6:00 Open Recreation
6:00 Evening Ministries

24

9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
4:00 Seventh Leader
Development
Seminar
6:00 KingsKids
6:00 Evening Ministries

4

11

11:00 Women's Book
Club at Fairfield
Lane Library

18

5:30 Serve City Meal

25

6:30 Cabinet Meeting

5

9:30 MOPS Steering

12

9:30 MOPS Bible Study
10:30 Holloway Circle
10:30 Abell Circle
6:00 Smith Circle
6:30 Moderator's Dinner
Promotion For
Camp Kirkwood at
Kenwood Baptist

19

9:30 MOPS

26

6

5:45 Family Dinner
5:45 Awana
6:30 Student Ministries
6:30 Bible Study & Prayer
7:00 Praise Team
7:30 Chancel Choir

13

5:45 Family Dinner
5:45 Awana
6:30 Student Ministries
6:30 Bible Study & Prayer
7:00 Praise Team
7:30 Chancel Choir

20

5:45 Family Dinner
5:45 Awana-Royalty
Theme
6:30 Student Ministries
6:30 1st Quarter Business
Meeting
7:00 Praise Team
7:30 Chancel Choir

27

5:45 Family Dinner
5:45 Awana
6:30 Student Ministries
6:30 Bible Study & Prayer
7:00 Praise Team
7:30 Chancel Choir

7

9:15 KeenAgers to
Rumpke Recycle
Center w/lunch at
McAlister's

14

5:30 Board of Trustees
5:30 1st Annual 40 Day
Prayer Covenant
Banquet at Hilton
Netherlands Plaza

21

28

8:30 Matthew 25

1

8

15

22

29

2

9:00 Men's Prayer Gathering

9

11:00 Empty Bowls at Zion
Lutheran Church

Volunteer Day at Camp
Kirkwood

16

9:30 WMC Dressmaking

23

2:00 Installation Service for
Rev. Dr. Ernest Jones
Executive Minister ABC
of OH in Columbus

Volunteer Day at Camp
Kirkwood

30

The Father's House Work Day



April

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 - | Monica Bowling
Desmond Jenkins
Rosemary Thompson | 13 - | Glenn Winkler | 25 - | Allen Hampton
Kathy Inloes
Jon Whipple |
| 2 - | Daniel Brown
Eris Cappelli
Carolyn Dudley
Katie Scott
Jake Yates | 14 - | Diana Bueker
Callum Errol Metzger
Elizabeth Rose Metzger
Katie Rankey
Krys Schramm | 26 - | Becky Blanchard
Josh Farmer |
| 3 - | Melynda Caswell
Bo Stanger | 15 - | Ashley Inloes
Marcella Walter | 27 - | Conner Bowling
Donna Brown
Carol Rose |
| 4 - | Joey Fryer
Karen King
Brad Tamplin
Savannah Yates | 16 - | Benjamin Bowling
David Gabbard | 28 - | Chris Campbell
Dale Thomas Dawson
Brad Gerth
Don Kellum |
| 5 - | Marian Allen | 18 - | Michelle Owen | 29 - | Linda Arnold |
| 6 - | Valerie Ashcraft
Hailey Mardis
Manuel Sanchez
Don Grimes | 20 - | Dean Minnich
Jean Riczko | 30 - | Nick Emenaker
Valerie Osterbrock
Anna Wallace |
| 7 - | Beth Hanna
Michelle Stith | 21 - | Stacy Dickman
Camden Lamb | | |
| 8 - | Elizabeth Joy Wallace | 22 - | Stan Brown | | |
| 9 - | Kim Gingrich
David Hollowell
Merle Kimble
Shelby Martin
Jim Powell
Jane Thiel | 23 - | Linda Hoover
Ashley Lakes
Wayne Simpson | | |
| 10 - | Irene Schilling | 24 - | Sharon Click
Andrew Huff
Ruth Metzger
Corbin Garrett Strunk | | |
| 11 - | Mark Braun
Shelee Webster | | | | |

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 Jim & Mag Baker

Jim and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and expressions of sympathy at the passing of Jim's brother, Gary Baker, on March 5th. We were overwhelmed by the outpouring from our church family at Gary's visitation and funeral. Gary had many struggles through the years and he was in a lot of pain in the end with his cancer. We praise God that he was a believer and is now with the Lord and no longer suffering. Special thanks to Pastor Dan for a beautiful service and comforting the family especially Gary's daughters, Paula and Kelly. We are very blessed to be part of the First Baptist Church family. We love you all.

From Wayne Beyerlein & family

Thanks to everyone for your thoughts and prayers for my daughter, Deborah Bridge, and family during her illness. We appreciated it very much. In Christ.

From Debby Gibson

Thank you so much for praying for me and my family before, during, and after my surgery. God is so good and it was so comforting knowing I had people praying for me when I was afraid of the unknowns of surgery and also the difficulties of recovery. I appreciate the prayers, visits, cards, and gifts from my church family. God bless!

From the Hampton family

The family of Beulah Hampton would like to thank their church family for the prayer support and the love that was shown in mom's homegoing. Thanks to the funeral committee for the meal they provided, all those who helped, and for the beautiful flowers.

New Pictorial Directory Coming!!!

Book a time to get your family picture taken for the new directory May 10 - 14. A free 8 X 10 given for each sitting. More information coming!!

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 Senior Pastor: Dan Clemens; 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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