

The Courier

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



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

July/August, 2015

From Daniel's Den "Revitalize: There is Hope for the future!"

I came to FBC Hamilton eight months ago and I am full of hope. I am excited to be in a great church in a great city in a great region of the country. Thom Rainer, president of Lifeway, one of the largest Christian companies in the nation, writes in his eBook REVITALIZING CHURCHES, "Let the discouragement end...there are reasons for hope for revitalizing churches". I agree! The first step in revitalizing is to face the facts of where we are.

Jerry Wallace has developed a chart for our last 12 years of annual reports to help us see ourselves. In fact we are plateaued. We have 146 baptisms, 99 added by letter, and we have had 171 deaths and 81 removed by letter. That means we have had a decline of net 7 over 12 years.

We are a maturing congregation.

AGE	Groups					
						37%
						19%
				16%		
		8%	11%			
5%	4%					
0-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70+

We have much to give and we have a passion to make a difference in our world to reach the younger for Jesus Christ.

The congregation has identified its strengths as:

1. God-exalting worship
2. Wise-administration
3. An Outward Focus through mission giving and service.

And we have identified our desire to grow in these areas:

1. An Outward Focus with even more coordinated hands-on outreach and mission in the community.
2. Servant-Leadership Development particularly mentoring to younger members.
3. Commitment to Loving and Caring Relationships through development of a sustainable small group/classes ministry.
4. Discipleship through evangelism and spiritual development.

When I became pastor, I was given these Pastoral Priorities as:

1. Preaching biblically based with practical value and relevancy to the listener.
2. Church Growth/Evangelism
3. Leadership/Vision capable of driving God's vision for our church.
4. Mission

Our church profile states: "First Baptist, Hamilton is often referred to as "that big church up on the hill." Our visible hilltop location, overlooking the river and town, is a very familiar spot to those in Hamilton and the neighboring communities. Visionary church fathers called us "Mt. Baptist". We are seen by our city; "a city set on a hill that cannot be hidden."

"It is our conviction to remain generous givers and helpers in our current ministry partnerships. Additionally we want to develop our corporate potential for outreach; to make greater effective use of our gifts, talents, and abilities, individually and as a unified body, to have a more hands-on involvement. We want to be known in Butler County, not as a city landmark, but as the hands and feet of Jesus. We want to be a vital Body of Christ in our community making Him personally known to the needy and evangelizing the lost; to draw many to "the church on the hill" where they can be loved and discipled. We need someone to lead us, a willing people, down the hill and into the life of the city we call 'Our Mission Field.'"

(Continued on the inside)



American Baptist Women's Ministries

Giving Opportunity For July/August

First Baptist Church is well-known in the community for its support of local food banks. Each month our church family will may donate a certain item for a local food bank. For the months of July and August, we will collect **barbecue sauce** and cans of **pork and beans** for the food pantry at New Life Baptist Mission. Place your donations in the box in the coat room outside the Family Center marked "New Life Baptist Mission". Please contact Nancy Whipple with any questions. Thank you for all the ways you serve "the least of these."

Missionary for the Month of **July**:
IM Latin America Desk
Susan Hegarty

Sue works in Costa Rica with the Baptist Federation, teaching pastoral students at the Baptist Seminary and serving as a liaison with American Baptist mission teams. She also teaches in the leadership development program for an interdenominational ministry that provides pastoral care for women. She assists the same organization as it rewrites class content and publications. This ministry seeks to give Christian hope to women in a male-dominated culture. Sue has previously served with International Ministries for 5 years in Nicaragua and for 12 years in Cuba in education and leadership development-related ministries.

Bible Book For July Song of Solomon

"I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine; he pastures his flock among the lilies."

Song of Solomon 6:3 (RSV)

There are many different differences of opinion and a variety of interpretations of the Song of Solomon. The theme of the book is love: pure sensuous, youthful, passionate love. For some it is an illustration of the love of God for His people Israel. Some believe it is an idyll of courtship and betrothal between two devoted lovers. Some see Solomon as a lover and a type of Christ. Personal love to Christ is the greatest need of the church today.

PRAY for campus ministries in colleges and universities around the country where American Baptists are touching the lives of students.

Missionary for the Month of **August**:
IM Global Consultant
Stan Slade

Stan plays two different roles in the work God does globally through International Ministries. As a global consultant, he

spends part of the time engaging directly in leadership training programs, both formal and informal, as a visiting teacher and coach. The rest of the time, Stan supports the work of other missionaries and of international partners as part of IM's home office staff. Whatever the setting, Stan puts his decades of study, learning and mission experience at the service of women and men who are investing their lives in the work of God's reign. He loves to see followers of Jesus energized for mission through a fresh encounter with Scripture.

Bible Book For August Exodus

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

Exodus 20:2 (RSV)

This book continues the story of the chosen people. The theme of Exodus, which means departure, is the deliverance of Israel from the oppression of Egypt and their separation to God.

God frees Israel from slavery and provides Moses as the Leader to direct them toward the Promised Land. God wants them to worship as a free people.

Exodus tells how the people kept the Passover on their night in Egypt; and how, when they camped at Mount Sinai, Moses gave them the Ten Commandments from God. It also describes the building and furnishing of a place of worship for Israel.

PRAY

For the staff of American Baptist Churches in the USA at Valley Forge, that they may be given spiritual wisdom to carry out their responsibilities.



We will be making our monthly trip to Matthew 25: Ministries for a wonderful day of fellowship, fun, and **WORKING FOR THE LORD** Thursday, July 23rd and also on Thursday, August 27th. We will leave the church at 8:30 a.m. returning at about 3:00 p.m. Come dressed to **WORK** - bring your own sack lunch and beverage. Remember - this is **NOT** just for the KeenAgers, there may be young people who would like to come along and see if they can keep up with the "old geezers", everyone is welcome to be a part of this ministry.

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(Continued from front - Daniel's Den)

We are looking for God's work to revitalize our congregation. God is stoking our passion for His Word and the people He loves. Yes, I am excited about FBC Hamilton! God is moving here and we are privileged to be a part of God's revitalizing work.

Pastor Dan

Update From Your Associate Minister Search Committee

Your Search Committee (Pastor Dan, Charles Campbell, Jan Smith, Cathi Thomas, David Walker, Rebecca Scripture, Laurin Sprague) have been very diligent. The Search Committee and some of the Youth Leadership Team met June 8th after the Search Committee decided to continue looking. Two possible names were before us. They both looked great. The statement was made, "Wouldn't it be great if we could have them both." I was decided we could certainly use the leadership of two gifted leaders, and through several discussions it was clear we could afford to call them both. Indeed we needed to put on a full court press to revitalize our congregation. On Monday, June 15th, the Search Committee met with a candidate for Youth Pastor, and Thursday, June 18th, had a Skype interview with Associate Pastor. Following the interview on June 18, the Search Committee felt led of God to issue a unanimous call to both men for two separate positions. One candidate, Aaron Osterbrock, met with the Advisory Board June 28th, and it is hoped the other will on July 19th, the date of the regularly schedule Advisory Board meeting, and a decision on both can be made.

Update From Your Leader Cabinet

A new venture this year has been to meet with a group of our leaders who we are calling the Leader Cabinet. This group is made up of the Sr. Minister, Moderator (Janet Baker), Clerk (Teene Campbell), Financial (Larry Bowling), and the Chairs of the Boards of Christian Education (John Wallace), Deacons (Jerry Wallace), Deaconess' (Carol Howard), Missions (Mike Braun) and Trustees (Jim Baker). We have discussed various topics regarding the future vision and direction of our congregation. We meet the fourth Monday of each month. At our June 22nd meeting we discussed the Associate Pastor and Youth Pastor positions, and steps toward implementing ACS (Automated Church Systems) to help care for our congregation and our outreach. Please pray for this group of leaders that they will discern God's will to lead us to follow God's vision to reach our city and county for Jesus.

Pastor Dan's July 2015 Message Series: The SUPREME Court

07-05 Freedom: Endowed by our Creator
07-12 Judgment: Jesus in the Courtroom
07-19 How to live in a Post-Christian Society
07-26 The Supreme Court of God

Budget Status Report

The Month of May, 2015

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$53,508
Offerings	<u>66,766</u>
Over (Under) Budget	\$13,258

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$66,345
Offerings	<u>66,766</u>
Over (Under) Actual	\$ 421

The Year Through May, 2015

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$272,462
Offerings	<u>293,175</u>
Over (Under) Budget	\$ 20,713

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$276,870
Offerings	<u>293,175</u>
Over (Under) Actual	\$ 16,305

–The Board Of Trustees

Second Quarter Business Meetings

The Advisory Board will meet on Sunday, July 19th, at 5:00 p.m. in preparation for the second quarter Business Meeting of the church. Items of business which require church action should be presented at this meeting. All elected officers of the church are on the Advisory Board.

The Second Quarter Business Meeting will be Wednesday, July 22th, at 6:45 p.m. Reports will be heard from Boards and Committees and other items of business will be acted upon. A very important item of business at this meeting will be the election of a Nominating Committee, whose responsibility will be to seek out officers to serve beginning January 1st, 2016. We trust that you will pray about those that you plan to nominate. This is a great responsibility and in many ways determines future action and ministries of the church.



Soft Ball Schedules (Second Half of Season)

June 23 # 3 @ 7:30 p.m.
 June 30 # 3 @ 8:30 p.m.
 July 7 # 1 @ 7:30 p.m.
 July 14 # 1 @ 8:30 p.m.
 July 21 # 4 @ 8:30 p.m.
 July 28 # 4 @ 8:30 p.m.

–Brian Chamberlain

Wednesdays Evenings 6:45 - 8:00

They are dividing into groups this year similar to Awana: Ages 2 - going to kindergarten; completed kindergarten - completed 2nd grade; then split boys and girls completed 3rd grade - completed 6th grades. Completed Grades 3-6 Girls will meet in room 208 upstairs. The girls will be learning the basics of being a Christian example among their friends and also doing a craft. Completed Grades 3-6 Boys will meet in room 107. They will learn a few basics of a sport, and the sportsmanship that goes with it as a Christian with a devotion and snack as well.

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



Awana Kickoff
 September 2nd
 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Hot dogs, chips, popcorn, snow cones and door prizes! Register tonight and get \$10 in Awana bucks to start the new year out! You can order your shirts, purchase your handbook, and be ready to go when our new Awana year starts on September 9th!

Cheryl Motzer & Claire Metzger,
Awana Commanders

Corrections and Additions To The Directory

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

Brantingham, Bill & Bert
 100 Capitol Crescent
 Apartment # 114
 Hamilton, OH 45013
 Phone: 513-737-4128

Lewis, Janet
 Email: janlew@cinci.rr.com

Wade, Shirley
 100 Berkeley Boulevard
 Butterfield Wing # 447
 Hamilton, OH 45013
 Phone: 513-896-8061

Sunday School Promotion Day

Sunday School Promotion Day for 2-year-olds through those students completing 5th grade will be August 30th during the last part of the Sunday School hour. These students should attend their new class on September 6th.

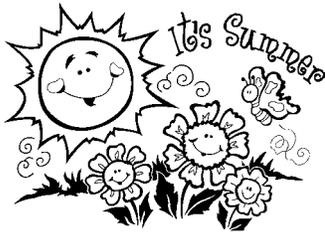
–John Motzer
Sunday School Superintendent

Crew 2015 Summer Calendar July

1 Wednesday: Hand out VBS Flyers/Pizza Delivery Race
6:45 - 9:00
5 Sunday: No Crew
8 Wednesday: #whodatspeaker 6:45 - 8:00
12 Sunday: Holloway Park Hangout 6:00 - 7:00
15 Wednesday: No Crew
19 Sunday: No Crew
22 Wednesday: Speaker #cannotknow 6:45 - 8:00
26 Sunday: Swim Party @wallacehouse 1:00 - 4:00
29 Wednesday: Speaker #guesswho 6:45 - 8:00

August

2 Sunday: Game Night 6:00
5 Wednesday: #speakerTBA 6:45
9 Sunday: Hamilton Water Night #modest swimsuits 6:00
12 Wednesday: Brick Painting #wearoldclothes 6:45
14 Friday: Campapalooza @braunhouse 7:00-9:00 Sat.
16 Sunday: No Crew
19 Wednesday: Speaker #wishUknew 6:45 - 8:00
23 Sunday: No Crew
26 Wednesday: Speaker #surpriseyo 6:45 - 8:00
30 Sunday: No Crew



Totally Terrific Tuesday/Thursday
Summer Schedule

Activities for kids who are **ages 3 through completed 1st grade. (Tuesdays)** We follow current laws and First Baptist recommendations and will not be able to transport children in church vehicles if they need a booster seat. Parents will need to provide transportation.

July

July 13-17: VBS - Journey Off The Map!!! 4 years old - Completed 6th grade. Come join us Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Register at www.firstbaptisthamilton.org.

July 21: Outie–Miami University Recreation Center in Oxford for swimming. \$6/person for over 4 hours of fun! Wear your TTT shirt, bring a sack lunch, modest swim suit, shower necessities (if you want to take one), and a plastic bag to put wet suits in; lockers are there for storage. Meet at church at 9:30 a.m. Pickup at church at 3:00 p.m. **Swimming is from 10:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m.**

July 28: Outie–Boonshoft Museum in Dayton. \$10.00 per child. Under 3 years old - free. Great hands-on museum with many different rooms to explore! Leave church at 9:15 a.m. Pick up to be confirmed. Wear your TTT shirts and bring a sack lunch.

Activities for kids who are **completed 2nd through completed 6th grades. (Thursdays)**

July

July 2: Outie-Sky Zone - Leaving church at 10:00 a.m. Pick up is at 2:00 p.m. Bring \$10 to jump and money for lunch at McDonald's!

July 13-17: VBS - Journey Off The Map!!! 4 years old - Completed 6th grade. Come join us Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Register at www.firstbaptisthamilton.org.

July 21: Outie–Miami University Recreation Center in Oxford for swimming. \$6/person for over 4 hours of fun! Wear your TTT shirt, bring a sack lunch, modest swim suit, shower necessities (if you want to take one), and a plastic bag to put wet suits in; lockers are there for storage. Meet at church at 9:30 a.m. Pickup at church at 3:00 p.m. **Swimming is from 10:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m.**

July 30: Outie - Creation Museum. Cost is \$12 for kids and \$15 for adults. Bring a packed lunch. Leave church at 10:00 a.m. and pick up is at 2:30 p.m.

August 4: Outie - Bowling at Fairfield Lanes followed by lunch and games at Fort Liberty Park. Meet at church at 9:30 a.m. Pick up is at 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$2 a game (shoe rental included).

Important Information!!

Participating kids **MUST** have a permission slip on file for this year. One slip will cover the entire summer. Kids from the same family cannot be on the same form. Forms can be filled out the morning of the event. Please allow extra time to do so. Please try to RSVP before the event so we can coordinate chaperones and transportation. We are following current laws and First Baptist recommendations and will not be able to transport children in church vehicles if they need booster seat. Parents will need to provide transportation.

You can make reservations by signing lists in the connector or emailing Claire or Cheryl at firstbaptistchildren@yahoo.com Also, please try to have the **exact cash for fees**. If transportation assistance is needed, let us know. Be sure to check out the church website for any updates. :) Emergency numbers on the day of activity are: Cheryl 608-8468 or Claire 907-4375.

–In His Work,
Claire Metzger & Cheryl Motzer
Co-Directors of Children's Ministries

KeenAger Opportunities

Plans are being made for the KeenAgers to go to the Omnimax around **August 3rd** to see *D-Day Normandy*. The cost is \$8.00 and is due July 19th. We will have lunch on the way.

We are also planning to go to a Cincinnati Reds game on **August 27th**. Tickets are \$15 and due July 5th. We will leave the church at 10:00 a.m.

We plan to attend the Friday matinee of LaComedia's *Church Basement Ladies* on Friday, **September 25th**. Our own **Twigg Cox** is in this production! The cost is \$36 and due August 23rd. They will be leaving the church at 10:00 a.m.

In **October** a road trip to Greenville, OH to tour many attraction is being planned. Please sign the lists on the KeenAger bulletin board. Watch the weekly bulletin for additional details.

–David & Janet Hazelwood

Journey Off The Map
VBS 2015
July 13-17
9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m



LADIES, JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND!

Christian Authors Book Club
Meeting Date-The second Monday of every month.
Meeting Time-11:00-12:30 (lunch after at Perkins)
Location-Fairfield Lane Library, 1485 Corydale Drive
Questions-call Nancy Follmer (863-3816)
or Judy Farris (777-0139)

2015

July - *Gray Mountain* by John Grishom
August - *Life Support* by Robert Whitlow
September - *Bridge to Heaven* by Francine Rivers
October - *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis
November - *All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony
Doerr
December - *The Penny* by Deborah Bedford

2016

January - *Dominion* by Randy Alcorn
February - *A.D. 30* by Ted Dekker
March - *The Judge* by Randy Singer
April - *Keeper Of The Covenant* by Lynn Austin

City Of Hamilton July 4th Parade

**Right To Life Invites You
To Be A Voice For The Voiceless**

Butler County Right To Life invites us to walk with them in the City of Hamilton's 4th of July Parade Saturday, July 4th, to show support for the dignity of all life from the womb to the tomb! Line-up is at the Butler County Fairgrounds (Tier 4) located at the intersection of Fair Avenue and Ohio Route 4 between 9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. The parade begins at 10:00 a.m. Ask for directions to the Right To Life group entry when you get there. A ride during the parade and the return will be provided if needed! Participants will be walking, however, limited seating will be available. Families are especially encouraged to participate. If you haven't had the opportunity to do something for the pre-born babies now is the time! Please contact Mike Mignery at 867-1832 or Sarah Kissel at 477-5701 for further information.

We will be spending the week going off the map on a journey and learning to trust our guide. Day one we will get to know our guide. Day 2, we will follow our guide. Day 3, we will trust our guide to lead us. Day 4, we will stay on track. Finally on Day 5, we will learn to keep watching. Be sure to invite your friends to join you on this adventure. Friday we will have the closing program starting at 11:35 a.m. in the sanctuary, so be sure to tell your parents, grandparents or family to see what we have done all week. Lunch of pizza and dessert will be served immediately following the program. We would like to also invite any of the church congregation to join us in celebrating the VBS week at the closing program.

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

**Donations For VBS
Teachers' Snack Room**

Please mark you calendars now for VBS: July 13-17 to help provide yummy snacks for all of the workers! Please bring snacks - baked goods, casseroles, fruit, cheese, anything - to the kitchen on Sunday or anytime that week marked "Teachers Snack Room". It doesn't have to be breakfast foods. We have had soup, mini sandwiches, etc too. Many of our teachers have been up at the crack of dawn getting ready and may not even get a break until 11. Thanks! And if you come during the week, stay and chat a while!

—Cathi Thomas
VBS staff & teachers snack room coordinator

New Believer's Class

We will be holding a New Believer's Class beginning sometime after VBS for the kids who have made decisions during VBS, church camp, or any other time. If you are interested or have a child that you would like to join us, please contact Cheryl or Claire.

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

Four More Letters for FBC

Unity City Wide Faith Based Alliance Picnic

First Baptist Church of Hamilton, has earned the right to add four (4) more letters to the well known letters of "FBC." I will get to that in a moment.

The Purpose/Vision of the Alliance is: *"We will glorify God through unity, fellowship and brotherly love, while promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are a working ministry laying aside all denominational differences to strengthen the community we serve, according to Biblical principles."*

The Theme Scripture is: *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: That went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore." Psalms 133:1-3.*

I would, once again, like to thank Pastor Dan Clemens and Jerry Wallace for their vision, excitement and leadership in getting the ball rolling for such a great mission event. Also thanks to all those in the First Baptist Church family that donated everything from baked beans, green beans, potato salad, coleslaw, cookies to watermelons, water and ice, and yes even cash. Many positive comments were made about the pulled pork, chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs that were furnished by Alliance donors. The entertainment was ongoing and uplifting. And the spirit of GOD could be felt throughout the entire Booker T. Washington Community Center.

The other area of delight for me was that the First Baptist Church family showed their support, not only in donations but in their active participation in attending, serving and enjoying the entire event. Your Christian attitude was indeed demonstrated by your donations and your participation. I am, as always, honored to be a member of the First Baptist family.

The sight of the entire body of believers and non-believers, alike, dwelling together, breaking bread and praising GOD, I feel, was as close to a day of Pentecost, as we could imagine, in today's climate.

I could even see a blessing in the rain that fell all the night before and the morning of the picnic. If GOD was testing our resolve to worship him no matter what, I feel we passed with flying colors. As a reward we were blessed to have a great time in the LORD, indoors in air conditioned comfort, and out of the heat and humidity that came when

the rain stopped. When the sun came out, it was almost as if it had not rained at all. **"Praise GOD."**

Now to get to the **"Four More Letters."** First Baptist has earned the right to add these four letters to FBC. The letters are, **"CCAC"**. Now the entire title will read; **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of HAMILTON-the CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION CHURCH.**

Thank you FBC-CCAC for being a GOD inspired and Holy Spirit led family. We are honored and blessed to be a small part of you.

As ever, yours in Christ,
Walter & Maxine L. Hillman

New Curio Cabinet Theme: "You Are The Potter, I Am The Clay"

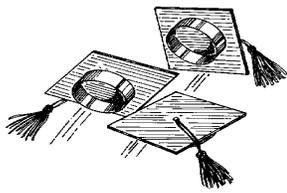
Isaiah 64:8 has been chosen as the theme verse for a change in the curio cabinets. "Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand."

Are you willing to share your objects made of clay? Do you have something you painted and glazed in a ceramic class, or that was purchased while on vacation in an interesting place. Perhaps you (or a family member) are a potter and made an article on a potter's wheel that could displayed. An item made by a local potter would also be great! It can be a bowl, pitcher, vase, plate, mug, figurine, etc. and the more colorful the better. I would like to start collecting them as soon as possible. Please remember it should not be over 13-14 inches tall. Put you name on the bottom and a note telling how you acquired it, its history.

Have you taken time to enjoy all the collectibles in the "God's Animal Kingdom" display? Please don't just hurry by. It was fun to assemble all of the animals. Some brought a smile, and some brought back memories. Someday we will live in harmony with the animals; those that are now wild and unfriendly will become pets!

"Thank you" to all who help with the cabinet displays. It couldn't be done without your contributions. I will do my best to keep them safe and handle them with care.

Carol Howard, 887-9415...Please call soon.



Congratulations To Our Graduates!

Results of those who responded to the questionnaire sent to recent graduates.

Emily Nicole Cain

Oliver graduated from Miami University with a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education. She will be teaching first grade at Ridgeway Elementary in Hamilton. Her favorite Bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11, *“For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* Emily says that “FBC has helped me in my Christian walk by the close relationships I have made and those supporting me and holding me accountable.”

Mark Boyle

Mark graduated from Hamilton High School. He says that after a structured gap year of working and loving on his own, he plans on moving to New York to help further his dream of being a performer. His favorite Bible verse is John 15:13, *“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”* Mark says this about FBC, “First Baptist provided me with my first and only youth group. For that, it will always have a special place in my heart. Although he is not here now, Jeremy Spence helped to shape me into the man I am today through his wisdom and life experiences that he shared.” He has received numerous award at high school related to performances, including three consecutive best soloist awards and best performer in the most recent musical.

Chloe Cochran

Chloe graduated from Cicinnati Christian High School and plans to attend Grace College in Winona Lake, IN majoring in Public Relations. She is a member of the Grace College Cheer Squad and hopes to be working on the campus newspaper and also with the drama department. Her favorite Bible verse is Isaiah 41:10, *“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”* Chloe says, “First Baptist Church has provided me with a complete Christian family of teachers, mentors, good friends, surrogate grandparents, and hopefully lifelong friendships. I have learned the true value fo the word of God and how to apply it’s teachings to my everyday life, especially when life gets a little overwhelming. I appreciate the compassion shown to one another at First Baptist and how all are welcome who love the lord. I hope to share that

compassion and love for others as I set out on my new life at Grace College.” Chloe received the following awards and honors: Captain Varsity Cheer Squad, CCS Senior Class Officer, National Honor Society, Sports Editor for *Paw Print* (CCS Senior high newspaper), Grace Merit Scholarship, Grace Millennial Scholarship Academy Award, & Grace College Athletic Scholarship.

Teri Lynne Horsley

Teri graduated from Northern Kentucky University receiving her Master of Art in Public History.

Megan Miller

Megan graduated from Lincoln Memorial University with a Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences. Megan says, “I will continue my passion for medicine, missions, and my love for the geriatric population. With my degrees in Zoology, Gerontology, Spanish and now my Masters in Biomedical Science, I am patiently waiting for the Lord’s guidance and direction. I have complete some first year medical school classes with Lincoln Memorial DeBusk Medical School and look forward to full acceptance into the 2019 Medical School Class. I covet prayers as decisions are made.” Her favorite Bible verses are Romans 8:31, *“If God is for us, who can be against us?”* and Romans 12:12, *“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”* Here is what Megan says about First Baptist, “The First Baptist family has been a constant source of love, support, and guidance for me my entire life. From a young age I have seen our church’s genuine love for Christ and willingness to serve others. First Baptist provided me with tremendous strength and encouragement as I faced many difficulties, especially at the beginning of this school year. I cannot fully express how powerful all of your prayers are and I am so thankful for the people here at this church.”

Heather Nguyen

Heather graduated from Capella University with a Masters of Science degree in Human Services with Specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy. Her plans after graduation are to be a mom to her kiddos, a wife to her husband, and pray daily for God to direct her steps. She will take her National Marriage and Family Therapy Exam in July and look into working part-time for the VA beginning when school for the boys starts. Working with War vets is also a cause very close to her heart. Heather’s favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:8, *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”* Matthew 6:30 (KJV), *“Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?”* Heathers says about FBC, “Being raised with strict Pentecostal standards, I learned order and purpose; these

values did not keep me from straying away from Jesus in my early and mid-20's. moving in next door to Pastor Den and Ruth afforded me the opportunity to build my, not my mother or father's, relationship with the Lord. FBC has taught me the love, the love that truly, madly, deeply lifted me! Amen!" Heather is an member of Chi Sigma Iota which is part of the National Chi Upsilon Chi Honor Society.

Joey Sackenheim

Joey graduated from Talawanda High School and will be attending Ohio University and is interested in Architectural Design.

Alexander Sprague

Alexander graduated from Hamilton High School and plans to attend The Ohio State University for Neuroscience w/Pre-Med. His favorite Bible verse is: 2 Kings 2:23-24. *"From there Elisha went up to Bethel. As he was walking along the road, some boys came out of town and jeered at him. 'Get out of her, baldy!' they said. He turned around, looked at them, and called down a curse on them in the name of the Lord. Then two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two youths."* Alexander says, "FBC has molded me into the person I am today. Through friendships, mentorships, and CREW events, I began and solidified my walk with Christ. FBC will always be my home church where I can go for love, support, and guidance wherever life leads me." Alexander received the following awards and honors: Joe Nuxhall Scholarship, Ohio State Maximus Scholarship, 4th in class, tennis MVP award, 2nd Team All-Conference Quiz Team, Cincinnati Tennis coaches Association Division 1 Sportsmanship Award, AP Scholar, Outstanding Community Service Award, and the Janet Manley Award for 4 years of dedicated service to drama.

Logan Stanger

Logan graduated from Ball State University with a degree in Special Education Mild Interventions. He plans to move back home and pursue a teaching position as a high school Special Education teacher. He also plans to coach athletics through the school where he is employed. His favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:13, *"I can do all through Him who gives me strength."* Jeremiah 29:11, *"For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Concerning her FBC church family Logan states, "The First Baptist Church has been a great church home to me since the day I was born. Everyone here is family and cares for one another. All have inspired and guided me in my walk with the Lord. He was on the Dean's List (3.5 GPA) 7 semesters, was the Presidential Scholarship Recipient, Executive Council Member of the Year, NIC Undergraduate Award of Distinction, and was the E. Graham Pogue Memorial Scholarship winner.

Amy Wallace

Amy graduated from Miami University with a BA in Psychology. She has been working in Fairfield City Schools as an aid. She plans to return to Miami University to get her Masters of Education in Special Education and teaching license in K-12 Intervention. Her favorite Bible verse is Psalms 61:2, *"From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I."* Here are her words about First Baptist, "FBC is part of my extended family. The people here have seen me grown up in a physical way and in my Christian walk. First Baptist has helped me grow in my walk by leading by example, all of the Sunday School teachers and other leaders have shown me what it means to be a light in the world.

Samuel Wallace

Samuel graduated from Middletown Christian High School. He will be attending Miami University, Oxford, where he will be pursuing both a degree in Electrical Engineering and taking a job involving research in his field. His favorite Bible verses are Isaiah 40:28-31, 41:10-13, *"Do you not know, or have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth, and He does not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases power to the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who wait on 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 faint. So do not fear, for I am with you says the Lord, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. For I am the Lord your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear."* Samuel graduated with honors, was inducted into the National Honor Society, and received a merit scholarship to Miami University.

Important!! We need all college students addresses as soon as possible. Please call Becky Scripture 856-7177 or the church office 868-1412.

–Becky Scripture
College/Career Coordinator



Child Care Schedule For July

Nursery (Morning)

July 5 - Krys Schramm, Sydney & Nikolas
July 12 - Linda & Larry Wallace
July 19 - Judy Wallace, Amy & Anna
July 26 - Ruthie Wallace & girls

One & Two Year Olds

July 5 - Carolyn Dudley
July 12 -
July 19 - Jan Smith & Cathi Thomas
July 26 - Carolyn Dudley

Kiddiechurch

July 5 - Claire & Chris Metzger
July 12 - Claire & Chris Metzger
July 19 - Sharon Brewer & Vicky Baker
July 26 - Deb Clemens & Anna Wallace

Kinderchurch

July 5 - Jill O'Hara & Dorothy Hollowell
July 12 - Lois Anderson & Anna Wallace
July 19 - Jill O'Hara & Dorothy Hollowell
July 26 - Claire & Chris Metzger

Child Care Schedule For August

Nursery (Morning)

August 2 - Carolyn Dudley
August 9 - Linda & Larry Wallace
August 16 -
August 23 - Carolyn Dudley
August 30 -

One & Two Year Olds

August 2 -
August 9 -
August 16 - Cathi Thomas
August 23 -
August 30 -

Kiddiechurch

August 2 - Claire & Chris Metzger
August 9 -
August 16 - Sharon Brewer & Vicky Baker
August 23 - Claire & Chris Metzger
August 30 - Deb Clemens & Anna Wallace

Kinderchurch

August 2 - Jill O'Hara & Dorothy Hollowell
August 9 - Lois Anderson
August 16 - Jill O'Hara & Dorothy Hollowell
August 23 -
August 30 - Claire & Chris Metzger

As you can see, the childcare schedule has a lot of empty spaces.



Wednesday Family Dinners

July 1

Menu: Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Bread Sticks, Jello Cake
Hosts: Deacons

July 8

Menu: Sloppy Joe Sandwiches, French Fried Potatoes,
Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Cherry Crumb Cake
Hosts: Deaconesses

July 15

Menu: Barbecued Chicken Sandwiches, Potato Salad,
Cole Slaw, Ice Cream
Hosts: Yada Sisterhood/Men's Class

July 22

Menu: Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy,
Corn, Tossed Salad, Watermelon
Hosts: Keystone

July 29

Menu: Sliced Turkey with Gravy, Scalloped Potatoes,
California Blend Vegetables, Applesauce,
Brownies
Hosts: FOCUS

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 \$1.50 for children under twelve who eat from the hot dog table. 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.

**There will be no Wednesday Dinners
during the month of August!**

July/August Greeters

Stacy Dickman, Nancy Follmer, Jerry Hampton,
Sandy Keller, Evelyn Maddox, & Mary Petry
Mike Gipson, Substitute

Gary Swindall, Sunday School Greeter



Kirkwood Camp Schedule 2015

ABC/OHIO summer camps at Kirkwood for the remainder of the summer will be:

June 28-July 3 - Senior High Camp \$310.00
Director: Bethany Atchison

July 10-11 - Beginners Camp \$135.00
Director: Kim Flach

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 1/2 of the fee up to \$150.00 of those who attend **First Baptist regularly** to attend ABC camps.

For additional information or registration forms, contact Brian Chamberlain, 256-9384 or see him at church. You are encouraged to register on line at www.campkirkwood.net!

-Brian Chamberlain
Camp Coordinator



Letter From John Coats (Missionary to Cambodia)

Dear American Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,

I want to present to you what I believe to be a prophetic message of signs and events that have already been occurring and also some that may occur in the very near future that may have extensive impact on America, and to a lesser degree perhaps on the rest of the world. Let me first quickly say that I am not a prophet. I have had no visions or dreams, nor has God spoken to me. This is not gospel. Nor is what I present here original, at least for the most part. Most, though not all, of what I am presenting here is taken from other voices which I believe are more prophetic. While I may interpret a few of these signs a little differently than others, I believe these signs nonetheless to be from the Lord and I will usually speak in the first person to show that I take them seriously myself.

Thirteen years ago on September 11, 2001, the World Trade towers in New York City collapsed in utter destruction. A week later, the NY Stock Exchange suffered its greatest one-day point crash in US history, sparking a general major downturn in the market. Seven years later, the same market suffered a yet greater one-day crash in US history, and that crash became part of the Great Recession. These happened at unusual scriptural appointed times. Additionally, in recent decades we have and are experiencing a series of sets of unusual lunar eclipses, also falling at scriptural appointed times. Are these random events, or is it possible God is trying to get our attention? I have been researching these events and examining scripture, and I have come to believe that probably God is trying to get our attention.

More specifically, I have become convinced that God is signaling to us Americans in particular that America is in danger of imminent severe judgment. From these signs, I believe it also very likely that soon something major will happen to Israel, and that whatever it is will probably be either in fulfillment of some scripture or lead to prophetic fulfillment, and possibly will somehow be linked to America.

The ultimate purpose of this presentation is to catalyze Christians and non-Christians to become urgent about getting ourselves right with God, submitting to Him, obeying Him, and behaving as if time is getting shorter to do His work. The purpose is not to create fear or panic, or motivate anyone to act in ways contrary to God's word. I believe God is graciously giving our nation time to repent, and also giving us warning so we can prepare for what is to come.

To avoid any confusion, I want to say at the outset that it is not my purpose to make any predictions about the specific timing of the Messiah's return or the Rapture, though I do think these signs generally suggest the time may be rapidly approaching for the Messiah's return.

John Coats

-Submitted by Lil Wilson

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

July 2015

5
 9:15 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship
 5:30 CREW (canceled)
 6:00 Evening Programs

12
 9:15 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship
 4:30 Board of Missions
 5:30 CREW -Holloway
 Park Hang Out
 6:00 Evening Programs

19
 9:15 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship
 4:30 Diaconate
 5:00 Advisory Board
 5:30 CREW (canceled)
 6:00 Evening Programs

26
 9:15 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship
 1:00 CREW -Swim Party
 @ Wallace Home
 4:00 C.E. Board
 6:00 Evening Programs

6
 9:00 VBS
 11:00 WMC Book Club @
 Lane Library in
 Fairfield

20

27

7
 7:30 Men's Softball # 1

14
 9:00 VBS
 8:30 Men's Softball # 1

21
 9:30 MOPS Steering
 9:30 Totally Terrific
 Tuesday "Outie"
 Miami U Recreation
 Center in Oxford
 8:30 Men's Softball # 4

28
 9:15 Totally Terrific
 Tuesday "Outie"
 Boonshoft Museum
 8:30 Men's Softball # 4

1
 6:00 Family Dinner
 6:30 Children's Programs
 6:45 CREW
 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer

8
 6:00 Family Dinner
 6:30 Children's Programs
 6:45 CREW
 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer

15
 9:00 VBS
 6:00 Family Dinner
 6:30 Children's Programs
 6:45 CREW (canceled)
 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer

22
 6:00 Family Dinner
 6:30 Children's Programs
 6:45 CREW
 6:45 2nd Qtr. Business Mtg

29
 6:00 Family Dinner
 6:30 Children's Programs
 6:45 CREW
 6:45 Bible Study & Prayer

2
 10:00 Totally Terrific
 Thursday "Outie"
 Sky Zone

9
 5:30 Board of Trustees

16
 9:00 VBS

23
 8:30 Matthew 25

30
 10:00 Totally Terrific
 Thursday "Outie"
 Creation Museum

3

10

17
 9:00 VBS
 11:30 VBS Closing & lunch

24

31

4
 Independence Day!!
 9:00 Men's Prayer
 Gathering
 10:00 4th of July Parade

11

18

25



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 - Aidan Gleason
Isabella Wallace | 15 - Isabell Johnson | 28 - Don Tragesser
Jay Wallace
Nancy Whipple |
| 2 - Bernie Griesinger
Shelley Lakes | 16 - Glen House
Skyley Yates | 29 - Ray Chambers
Paul Grimes
Natalie Lakes |
| 3 - Bob Borden
Jewell Bowling
John Diedrichs | 17 - Justin Baker
Carole Busch
Benjamin Geiss
Madelyn Hall
Margaret Hoel
Mitchell Inloes
Emogene Kellum | 30 - Rosie Burtis
Ralph Jones
Laurin Sprague
Zachary Dichtl |
| 6 - Elizabeth Ellison
Mark Hanna
Noah Krall | 18 - Kim Siman | 31 - Jerry Busch
Patty Flack |
| 8 - Amber Murrell Kiesel | 20 - Peggy Avance
Kristy Buchanan
Erin Gingrich | |
| 9 - Glendene Hall
Barb Hendricks
Sydney Spicer | 21 - David Hazelwood
Tabitha Smith Spicer
Betty Bailes Zeller | |
| 10 - Beverly Flaig
Jill Walker
Ray Wallace | 24 - Nathaniel Geiss | |
| 11 - Melynda Hazelwood | 25 - Cameron Hampton | |
| 12 - Vivian Bowling
Emily Rankey
Tim Swicegood | 27 - Mary Flo Braun
Chance Patrick | |
| 13 - Colt James Chamberlain
Merle Grubbs | | |
| 14 - Charlotte Kate Braun
Ryan Finnerty
Anne Hazelwood
Connie Taylor | | |

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.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

August 2015

2
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
6:00 CREW Game Night
6:00 Evening Programs

3
KeenAgers to Omnimax *D-Day Normandy*

4
9:30 Totally Terrific
Tuesday "Outie"
Bowling @ Fairfield Lanes

5
6:30 Children's Programs
6:45 CREW
6:45 Bible Study & Prayer

6
5:30 Music & Worship

7

1
9:00 Men's Prayer
Gathering

8

9
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
4:30 Board of Missions
6:00 CREW-Hamilton
Water Night
6:00 Evening Programs

10
11:00 WMC Book Club @
Lane Library in
Fairfield

11

12
6:30 Children's Programs
6:45 CREW Brick Painting
6:45 Bible Study & Prayer

13
5:30 Board of Trustees

14
7:00 CREW -
Campapalooza @
Braun's House

15

16
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
4:30 Diaconate
5:30 CREW (canceled)
6:00 Evening Programs

17

18

19
6:30 Children's Programs
6:45 CREW
6:45 Bible Study & Prayer

20
8:30 Matthew 25

21

22

23
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
4:30 CE Board
5:30 CREW (canceled)
6:00 Evening Programs

24

25

26
6:30 Children's Programs
6:45 CREW
6:45 Bible Study & Prayer

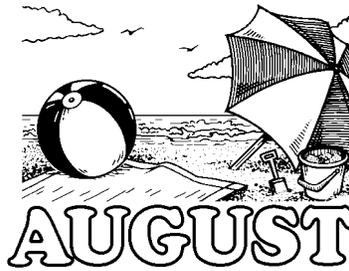
27
10:00 KeenAgers to
Cincinnati Reds

28

29

30
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
5:30 CREW (canceled)
6:00 Evening Programs

31



HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1 - Naomi Hoskins
Jeff L. Miller | 13 - Andrew Garver | 28 - Jaxon Rion
Linda Wallace |
| 2 - Brenda Abney | 14 - Jeff Hollowell
Jared Messer | 29 - Josh Irwin
Olivia Hoskins
Alexandria Patrick |
| 3 - Betsey Dietrich
Lauren Imhoff
Todd Keith
Janet Lewis
Jerry Wallace | 15 - Diane Wallick | 30 - Johanna Hines Mackey
Atha Wallin |
| 4 - Madalyn Buchanan
David Zeek | 17 - Barbara Begley | 31 - Ed Allen
Samantha Blackwell
Malvrie Landis
Carl Schwab |
| 5 - Guy Bauer
Lauren Hampton
Edith Rish | 18 - Bill Burton | |
| 6 - Dale Braun
Shelley Ebbing
Erla Krastins | 19 - Dale Kimble | |
| 8 - Charles Campbell
Norbert Lerch
Doug Wallace | 20 - Kristen Bowling
Steve Martin
Jeff Schwab | |
| 9 - Braydon Wilson Boyd
Brennon Walter Boyd
Cindy Shalloe | 21 - Josh Day
Herb Murrell | |
| 10 - John Motzer | 23 - Wendy Bauer
Emily Cain
Conner Gleason | |
| 11 - Janet Baker
Jessica Day
Judy Wallace | 24 - Shirley Wade
June Winkler | |
| 12 - Simon Nguyen
Tim Schwartz | 25 - Bill Roberts | |
| | 26 - Ruby Gessendorf | |
| | 27 - Matt Acus
Elise Martin | |

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



Personal Notes

From Calvary Baptist (Kokomo, IN), Anderson Baptist (Anderson IN), & Judson Baptist (Kokomo, IN)

Thank you so much for allowing us to be here this weekend! We had a blast and one youth asked Jesus into her heart! God is good! We are leaving milk and juice in the refrigerator as well as some cream cheese. Enjoy! Thank you so much. Have a great year and we hope to see you next year!

From Ron Gerth, Greg, Linda, Brad, Karen, & family

I and my family want to thank Pastor Dan, Pastor Bill, my Keystone Sunday School class and church family of First Baptist Church, Hamilton, Ohio for the beautiful flowers, cards, and sincere expressions of their love for LaVerne. I know she would be so pleased with your love that has been shown for her life here at First Baptist and in the community.

From Evelyn Mesler

Thank you for your uplifting cards, notes, and visits. I have made the choice to have more PT for strengthening reasons. Because of your prayers, the healing process has gone extremely well. Bless you.

From Carolyn Sigg (Classical Conversations)

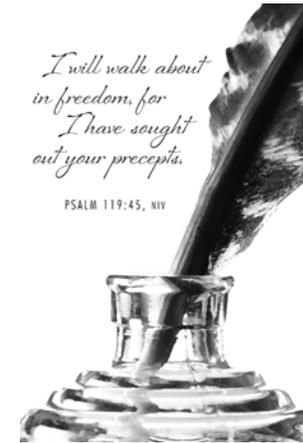
On behalf of the local Classical Conversations groups, thank you so much for your generosity in allowing us to use your building last week for our 3-day Parent Practicum. You and your staff and volunteers were so gracious and helpful. The three days were a vital part of encouraging and equipping parents to continue in the hard work of schooling and discipling the next generation. You should receive a check in the next week containing an offering from the parents. Thank you!

From YMCA Badminton Group

The members of our Y badminton group have really appreciated the use of your beautiful church these past weeks while our facility was being rejuvenated. Thank you so much!

From Mary Jane Vastola (daughter of Everett Hoskins)

Thank you all for the love, encouragement, cards and prayers you gave Dad and our family through the years. I don't believe there's a more friendly and caring congregation any where. He will bless you because you have blessed us.



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: Dr. 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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