

The Baptist Herald



Senior Pastor Isaac Zull

August 2008

Home-Made Home-Coming

I was disgusted by myself. Not in a filthy, dirty sinful way; but in a filthy, dirty just-got-back-from-camp way. I could feel and smell the campfires that still clung to my body, like memories of spiritual euphoria. My skin was sticky, like piece of duct tape that I tried to use more times than the now dusty adhesive would allow. I tired to walk in such a way so that no part of my body touched any other, hoping to forget how gross I knew I felt. I walked through the door and into the wonderful cool of air-conditioning; longing for a shower, a long shower to wash off the residue before it soaked any deeper. It was then that I smelled something different, the smell of something baked and as yet unidentified. First the shower, I was afraid of contamination if any of my skin touched the cool clean house. After the shower I lay down on the couch and then noticed the smell again. Every muscle approved of my recent decision to lay down and none of them thought walking all the way to the kitchen was a good idea. My legs suggested a short nap and my back and eyes agreed but the brain ignored both and continued to listen to the nose, which was interested. Finally the not tired parts of my body took control and ordered the rebels to open up, get up and walk to the kitchen to investigate. They reluctantly obeyed and I came round the wall to discover a marvel.

The sun shone through the window with radiant splendor. Laying on the kitchen counter sat a enormous cherry pie, all golden and bubbly with tart, red juice seeping out from under the rough and flaky crust. My heart swelled in my chest, and a choir of angels began to sing, "*Gloria, Gloria, Gloria!*" All the parts of my body, in unison, voiced their agreement with the decision to wait on the nap and we all drank in the sight. There is something about a whole, as yet uncut pie, cooling on the counter, the speaks to the heart of man in a way that few other created things can. It was as if the pie could say, just with its presence, so much that could never or would never be said. As I beamed down at my new friend, the pie spoke softly, "*We missed you and are glad you are home.*" "*I missed you too!*" my heart almost shouted back, "*And I can not tell you how good it is to be home. I will never leave again, unless of course my leaving will mean that on my return there will be another pie in your place, in which case . . .*" I had never felt so much affection, especially coming from a pastry and I wallowed in it. The pie spoke again, "*Remember I was made with the help of your four children, now how does that make you feel?*" Feel? I almost began to weep as I pictured the stress and strain of the past week and that result of that being such a wonderful creation. I told the pie how touched I was and how much more delicious it would be because of all that was endured to give it birth. Then I began to feel a twinge of guilt, where was my gift? How could I stand there empty handed in the presence of such love and generosity? The guilt was intensifying and was changing into self loathing. How could I come with nothing and receive everything? The pie spoke one final time, "*All I want form you in return is your joy.*" What a kind, gracious pie! I was amazed that even though it as still warm this confection seemed so mature and grounded. I slowly pulled away and walked back to the couch. I had just eaten and I wanted to savor that whole-pie-left on the counter feeling for as long as I could. I lay back down on the couch and closed my eyes and sighed in satisfaction, what a kind and interesting pie.

I wonder about the place in the life of a Christian for experiences. Maybe a conference or a camp or just a great prayer time, I wonder how we should handle them. When the disciples are on the Mount of Transfiguration they certainly had quite an experience. They immediately demonstrated two of the typical desires that people have when "in the moment". Peter suggests building three shelters, one fore each person; the goals were preserving the experience and glorifying it both reactions are very typically human. But God rebukes Peter even as he is in the height of ecstasy and identifies Jesus as his Son and then commands the disciples to listen to him. The experience was a wonderful gift but in order to handle it correctly the disciples will have to continue to listen to Jesus. Jesus tells them that they will have the opportunity to talk about this day but only after his resurrection. So the experience is most valuable when paired with listening to Jesus, not just once but consistently throughout your life. So after your experience don't just come home and scrub off the euphoria in the shower, but listen to God. Come back to and environment of consistent love and communication, kind of like a marriage where the great breakthroughs happen slowly over time. And where the simple things done in love can sometimes mean more than the highest height of the tallest mountain. So climb the mountain but make sure after you get down you come home for a piece of delicious, home-made cherry pie.

I've been thinking a lot recently about how the church at its core is really the people of God, and how usually we only speak of the church as a building, saying, "Let's meet at the church," or "On Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings our family goes to church." I'm certainly not suggesting that it is wrong to speak of the church as a building or that we must all get together and come up with another term to use in such situations. But I do think we would all greatly benefit from taking some time to really think about what it means to BE the church, to BE the people of God. We don't just go to church on Sundays and Wednesdays, we are the church 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We might not always be gathered together all the time, but we are no less the Church when we are at work, at home, or in the community.

As the people of God, the church, it is clear that God has called us to be a part of something pretty unique in this world. We are a special community, a community that has been established by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and one that is founded on the written Word of God. Because we are a people that have been set apart by God through the work of Christ, we must live together in such a way that reflects the wondrous glory of God and points others to Christ. One of the best ways we can seek to understand what God says about being the church is by taking a look at the many "one another" passages that are scattered throughout the New Testament. It is hard to read these passages and not get excited about just how incredible a calling that God has placed on His people. Can you imagine what would happen in our church, community, and world if the people of God lived life together in such a way? Let it be our desire and prayer that we at FBC would, indeed, be a church who...

Is kind and compassionate to one another (Eph 4:32)

lives at peace with one another (Rom 12:18)

Serves one another (Gal. 5:13)

admonishes one another (Col 3:16)

Loves one another (John 13:34-35)

Is devoted to one another (Rom 12:10)

Spurs one another on toward love and good deeds (Heb 10:24)

Accepts one another (Rom 15:7)

Bears one another's burdens (Gal 6:2)

Submits to one another (Eph 5:21)

Is patient with one another (Eph 4:2)

Does not lie to one another (Col 3:9)

Builds up one another (Rom 14:19)

Confesses sins to one another (James 5:16)

Encourages one another (Heb 3:13)

Does not slander one another (James 4:11)

Greets one another (Rom 16:16)

Forgives one another (Col 3:13)

Meets with one another (Heb 10:25)



We will be collecting socks for the Montgomery County Mental Health. These socks are put in the Christmas packages for people in Montgomery County and surrounding areas who are mentally handicapped.

A box will be placed in the Narthex for your socks. All sizes are appreciated.

**HOOSIER BLUE STAR MOTHERS
CHAPTER 13**

Of

**BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA
SERVING WEST CENTRAL INDIANA**

Our church has been invited to participate in preparing **FREEDOM BOXES** for all local men/women serving in the military. These boxes are mailed to members of the military stationed in the United States and all around the world. This is a mission project that will be done "long term" because Freedom Boxes are prepared and mailed once each quarter. A special container is in our church Narthex to receive your donations. A long list of suggestions has been given to each Sunday School Class and copies are available with the display....please take one to use as a guide.

Contact Georgia Phelps (866-0734) or email (fngphelps@sbcglobal.net) if you have an address of someone in the military who would be encouraged by receiving a Freedom Box. Addresses change frequently with all service personnel so our current list must be double checked each time boxes are ready to be mailed.

We sincerely believe that each person receiving a Freedom box gets our message of "Thank You", "We are Thinking of You", and "We Care About You". Please be a part of this wonderful outreach.

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE!!

KEENAGERS - On the Road Again!

Trip to the Beef House in Covington for a dinner theater. We leave the church at 12:00 after second service on Sunday, August 3rd. A buffet dinner at the Beef House and the play, "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do", with music by Neil Sedaka.

The cost is \$34.00 per person for the meal and play, plus we will share the cost of fuel. For information call Peggy Caldwell, 362-5863.

If you have not checked out our FBC Library lately we encourage you to do so. We have an excellent selection of books. There are many good resources available whether for your personal use or if you are teaching. We also have current fiction and Devotional books.



We do appreciate the donations of both new and used books to the Library. However, because our space is limited, we cannot have duplicates on the shelves. If a duplicate book is left in the Library as a donation and there is no name I have been taking them to Trinity Mission Outlet Store. If you wish to purchase a book for the Library please check with me to be sure we do not already have the book.

Pat Snow - 362-6919

ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL OUTING

Raccoon Lake for August 3: CANCELLED due to flooding Sunday, August 3: cookout & swim party & Pete & Bronna Utterback's home.

- Will carpool to Utterback's after church or meet there at 12:30 if you aren't at 2nd service.
- Pick up time 3:30 pm
- Bring swim gear and a friend!
- Questions?? Contact Utterback's 364-1435 or McMurry's 794-8714

Saturday, August 23: KINGS ISLAND Day Trip

- Cost: \$20.00 + food
 - Leave from FBC: 7:00 am
 - Return to FBC: 1:00 am Sunday
- MUST RSVP to McMurry's by Thursday, August 21.** 794-8714 or 918-6826 (Kim's cell)

The American Baptist Women's Edna Martin Circle will meet Tuesday, August 5, from 9:30 am to 11:00 am in the Thankful Hearts Classroom for a workday. We will be sorting cards and rolling bandages, so please bring your scissors.

Don't forget to save your cancelled stamps, Campbell's labels and devotionals!!

Please contact Linda Kunold for further information.

Dear Church Family,

We are busy with our fall programs. The summer was a huge success! We are very blessed to have had such godly men and women to work with us. We pray for their success at their individual colleges this year.

Chapel time will start again in September. Pastor Isaac is always a big help! I am in need of people that come and do story time, it is from 9:00-9:30 a.m. on Thursdays. I know this church is blessed with many retired teachers and many wonderful grandparents, please share some time with us. Please continue to help with school supplies, as you know they go quickly with so many children. Please continue to lift us up in prayer.

Julie and The Guiding Light Staff



Letters and News From Our Congregation

First Baptist Church Family,

On Tuesday, July 8 we sponsored a Mission Dinner for The Cougill Family. Scott Cougill is the Director for Youth for Christ International across Asia and the pacific. Cathren (Gourley) Cougill shared with us some of the things they do as they serve the Lord through Directing, enabling, and pioneering with YFC. Faith, the 17 year old daughter, was also here. The dinner was well attended and a generous offering was taken for Youth for Christ and the Cougill family. Thanks to everyone who made a special effort to share the evening with us.

Missions Bard

Dear First Baptist Church,

Thanks to all who helped in any way for the Summer Lunch program.

Letty Calder

Church Family,

Many, many thanks to all of you who sent cards and best wishes for our 60th anniversary. It is a joy to have such caring Christian friends.

Margie & Bill Henderson

Week 1:
Gary Isenburg

Week 2:
Adam Thompson
Kasie Levitt
Mabel Pearsons



Week 3:
Bethany Stanford
Harold Anderson
Jim Craig

Week 4:
Dennis & Beverly Lepper
Elizabeth Rogers
Laura Ella Sobzack
Linda Gallatin
Luke Menard
Mary Jane Porter



Congratulations!

Frank & Lucy Moore will celebrate their 60th anniversary on August 21.

**One Step Closer
A Community Prayer and Study Group
Will start August 5, 2008
From 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
At the Center for Women's Ministries
203 S Water Street
See Pat Patton for more information**



Arianne Vaught
500 Wilson Avenue, Crawfordsville, IN 47933
Patti Kinslow & Dylan
1108 N 975 E, Darlington, IN 47940
Keith Krout
803 E Pike, Crawfordsville, IN 47933

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Hands And Hearts Circle has collected shoe boxes and is making them available to anyone in the church who needs them. Most are wrapped, but some are not. They will be placed in the narthex.

It is not too early to begin filling shoeboxes with school supplies, hard candy and simple toys. For most of their lives, these children have only known suffering and hurt, so the opportunity to reach them and their families through a simple shoebox is a privilege.

The Finance Committee would like all groups to submit their budget requests by the last Sunday in August. Please put your request in the Deacon's box or the church office.



Contact Ken Barclay with any questions.



JUNE GIVING

Monthly Operational Budget	\$35,071.56
Monthly Operational Received	\$36,479.50
Monthly Mission Budget	\$ 6,820.41
Monthly Mission Received	\$ 8,238.26