



The messenger

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
157 W. JACKSON ST.
VIRDEN, IL 62690
www.virdenfirstbaptist.com
REV. Gerald Phillips,

INTERIM PASTOR

CHURCH PHONE: 965-4028

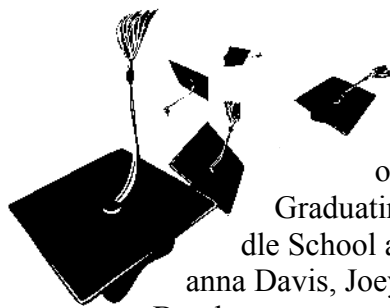
CELL PHONE: 217-494-9266

DEBBIE KERSHAW, EDITOR

E-mail: messenger@virdenfirstbaptist.com

April — May 2010

Graduate Recognition Sunday is May 30



Join us on Sunday, May 30 as we recognize the accomplishments of five of our young people.

Graduating this year from Middle School are: Ashley Peck, Brianna Davis, Joey Langley, and Tyler Burch.

Timothy Snodgrass will graduate from Southern Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in psychology. Tim plans to pursue his Master's degree and has already been accepted at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. Tim's goal is to pursue a career in child psychology.

There will be a time of fellowship following the morning worship so that you can share your good wishes with each of our graduates.

Up but not away

Many Christian denominations celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, which refers to a post-resurrection event that took place 40 days after Easter. This year it occurs on May 13

According to Luke, Jesus led his friends to a Jerusalem suburb called Bethany. While on a small mountain, he blessed his friends and then rose into heaven while they watched.

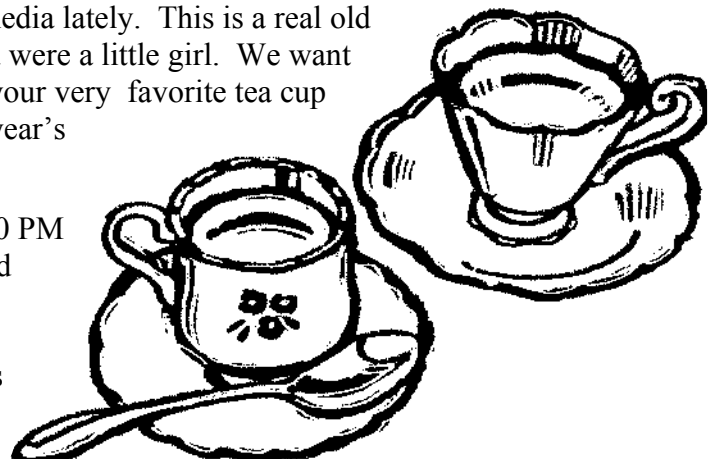
The ascension was such a momentous occasion that after Jesus disappeared, his followers had a worship service at the spot. Then they "returned to Jerusalem with great joy" (Luke 24:52, nrsv)

Because Christ had promised to be with his followers always (Matthew 28:20), from then on they knew he would be with them as Spirit. Jesus' body was up and away, but spiritually he was still and always would be their companion.

Mother-Daughter "Tea" planned for May

All the women of First Baptist Church are invited to attend a "Tea Party". Not the political kind that we've been hearing so much about in the media lately. This is a real old fashioned tea party— the kind you used to play when you were a little girl. We want you to dress up—where a hat if you have one—and bring your very favorite tea cup to display or use as we celebrate being a woman at this year's Mother-Daughter banquet.

It will be held on Thursday, May 13 beginning at 6:30 PM in Pitman Hall. A special program is being planned and there will be prizes and fun for girls of every age. Bring your mother, your daughter, your sister, your friend—it doesn't matter bring someone you care about and join us for "Tea".



April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Craig Paisley	2	3
4 Beverly Britenstine	5	6	7 Carter Dibler Mary Agnes Cain Debbie Kershaw	8 My excuse for the late April news was born!!	9	10
11 Sophia Hawkins	12	13	14 Terry Clark	15	16	17
18 Tony & Angie Kershaw	19	20	21 Karen Browning Aaron Snodgrass	22	23 Great Rivers Region Mission Conference Cherry Hills Baptist Church	
					John Liles	24
25	26	27 VBS Planning Meeting 6:30 in Pitman Hall	28 Supper 6 PM Kids Club Bible Study 6:45	29 Ayden Daniel	30 Helen Burris	

Letter FROM the Editor

My apologies for not getting an April newsletter out to you—I should have had it done BEFORE the birth of our Granddaughter, but I was doing some traveling in late March, and time just slipped away.

I promise to TRY and do better, but with the little princess almost 3 hours away, it might be difficult not to miss a Sunday or two in lieu of visits up north. Thank goodness the grandson is only 45 minutes up the road, or you might never see Steve and I!!!

This grandparent gig is the best thing EVER!! Seems like only yesterday it was ours and the Hawkins kids in the nursery on Sunday—now it's a whole new generation of Hawkins kids! I wouldn't trade a minute of any of it. Thanks for understanding!

—Debbie Kershaw

One Old Testament prophet believed that God had consecrated him to be his spokesman even before his birth. He wrote: “Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”



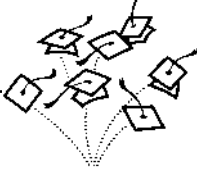
Choose the correct prophet from the list below.

- A. Amos
- B. Jeremiah
- C. Micah
- D. Hosea



Answer: (See Jeremiah 1:4-10)

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Angie Kershaw Kathy Price	3	4 Marilyn Clark	5 Supper and Kid's Club 6:00-7:00 Business Mtg 7:00 PM	6 Pulpit Committee Meets 7 PM 	7	8
9	10	11	12 Supper and Kid's Club 6:00 Bible Study 6:45	13 Mother- Daughter Banquet 6:30 in Pitman Hall	14 Janis Hawkins	15 Don & Helen Burris
16 Guest speaker Rev. Lynn Betts Food Pantry Sunday	17	18	19 Supper and Kid's Club 6:00 Bible Study 6:45	20	21 Ryan Brown Ralph & Marge Berriman Ben Clark	22
23  PENTECOST	24	25	26 No Wednesday Activities	27 Middle School Graduation 	28 High School Graduation Terry & Marilyn Clark	29 Catherine Sloman
30 Graduate Recognition Sunday	31 Memorial Day					

Pulpit Committee begins work

It is the job of the Pulpit committee to seek a candidate for the pastoral leadership position at First Baptist. For those of you who are new and do not know the procedure, please understand that this is a process that involves many hours of hard work, research, visits, and interviews.

As we are still in the very early stages of this process, it is important for everyone to begin (if you haven't already) to pray for the committee and the task ahead of them. They will meet on Thursday, May 6 to begin the process of preparing the paperwork that must be submitted to our national office for the purpose of obtaining profiles of possible candidates further down the road. May God bless the work they do on our behalf.

prayerchain

Virden First

Baptist Church

Revised 4/2010

Pastor Gerald Phillips
 965-4028 (Ch): 494-9266 (Cell): 546-2033 (H)

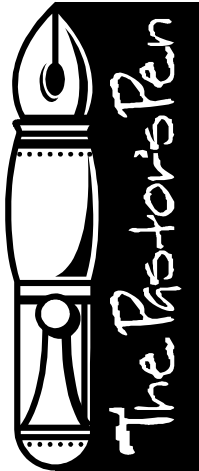
Norma Hotarek And Beverly Britenstine
 965-4086

Wanda Hein 965-3828		Carol Paisley 965-3530		Debbie Liles 965-3081	
Mary Agnes Cain 965-3102	Debbie Kershaw 965-3537 dkershaw@psbank.net	Janis Hawkins 691-1685	Betty Wallace 965-3628	Patti Sloman 526-3477 Pattipj1@yahoo.com	Marge Berriman 965-4458
Doris Weerts 965-4439	Linda Snodgrass 899-6090	Kathy Price 965-5833	Pam Hawkins 415-9216	Alicia Kirchner 248-5376	Helen Burris 965-4423
Mary Payne 965-3886	Audrey Price 965-3947	Tracy Lewis 965-5140	Jill Hawkins 691-4341	Jane Primrose 965-1351	Libby Klocke 965-4563
					Sue Langley 965-3998

8 When Pastor Jerry is not available, leave a message at the church AND on his cell AND call Norma or Beverly.

REMEMBER:

- ◆ When you receive the call, ask the caller to wait while you find a pencil and paper to **WRITE DOWN THE REQUEST**. Don't wait until you hang up. You can be interrupted or forget just in the time it takes to look for your prayer list!
- ◆ Pray **RIGHT AWAY**. The requests that come on the prayer chain are urgent. A brief word of prayer at the time of receiving the call will



IS IT REALLY “NO BIG DEAL?”

Recently I became aware of a situation involving some bullying, in which a big kid was taking full advantage of his size by trying to choke a boy half his size. The response of the bigger kid, at least initially, was that this was no big deal. Of course not, for him! The small boy had a different take on the situation! This, along with some reports in the news of even more serious bullying has caused me to reflect on the emotional climate we are in; how we got this way and what we might do about it.

There has been a lot in the recent news about the suicide hanging of a girl in Massachusetts. It seems clear that she was being harassed and bullied by a group in her school (nine have been arrested, two for statutory rape) and the situation became so intolerable for her that she took her own life to escape. She was fairly new at the school and had dated one of the boys there for a while, but broke the relationship several weeks ago. We don't know her frame of mind or her emotional stability. We do know that she was bullied, abused and harassed to the extent she could not have a decent high school experience. To add to her suffering, the school officials were either unable or unwilling to intervene on her behalf.

Where does this come from? There is probably no single good answer; likely many issues are contributing factors. Here are a few of my own observations. The extent and level of violence in our society is alarming to me. While I am not “up” on electronic games, it appears that many of those are extremely violent and nurture the idea that differences are often settled with guns, knives, explosives, etc. The movies that attract a lot of youth attention often use a lot of violence, some of which (maybe most?) involves the stronger using their “power” to destroy the weaker. The nearly universal use of cell phones and Internet connections provide an excellent opportunity to be a bully and remain anonymous. Such a combination of hollow bravery and genuine cowardice cannot help develop healthy relationships.

Most any police officer will verify that some of the most troubling situations they deal with are those with one-half of a couple trying to harm the other half. And, it is very often the stronger male trying to put the female in “her place.” Children who grow up in abusive situations often are abused themselves, and they far too often see parents and other adults attempting to settle disputes with loud voices, fists, guns, knives or some other weapon that's handy. And they learn that lesson well, and carry that idea to school and wherever else they go.

Is there anything we can do? Yes, I believe there is. Prayer would be a good place to start, but it's going to take more than prayer! Parents will need to be very involved in finding ways to keep their teenagers from getting hooked on violence in any of its many and often subtle forms. They will need to be attentive to kids being bullied—or becoming bullies. School personnel cannot avoid being part of the solution. They may need better resources or training, but must be able to intervene when a bully just can't seem to control him or herself.

As a church, we too have a role. The ministry with children and youth is an important effort to let them know that they are important and loved, and that violence and retaliation are not the best ways to settle disputes. But there's more. The parents, as well as the children, need to know the love of Christ and the power God can bring to their lives. Jesus said, “*My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.*” *Jn 14:27*. May God grant us wisdom and courage to know what to do and when.

Grace AND Peace,
Pastor

Attention Parents: Camp forms past due

Lake Springfield Baptist Camp has a number of opportunities for your camper to take part in the fun this summer, but the forms are due NOW! Parents, please pick up and return the camp forms to the church office as soon as possible. Be sure to sign both the camp form itself AND the scholarship form that is attached. The church will apply for a scholarship on your child's behalf.

There are a number of new camps being offered this year, including a Sports Camp for grades 4-7 and a Music/Art/Drama Camp for grades 4-7. Remember that camps are based on the grade the camper is in this school year, not this fall. A camper is eligible for a scholarship from First Baptist only if he or she attends either Sunday School or Wednesday Night Kid's Club on a regular basis. Camps range in cost from \$25 for a Kg-2nd grade day camp, all the way up to a week long camp at \$240. Parents should turn the forms in to the church office or send them to Debbie Kershaw. Please do not mail them in directly to prevent billing errors to the church.

Great Rivers Region Camping is designed to help children, youth, and adults step closer to Christ. It is through church camp that many youngsters find life long friends and memories of experiencing Christ in a deep and meaningful way.

If you would like to help send a child to camp this summer, please designate an amount in the memo portion of your check and write in "Camp Fund". Let's make summer church camp a lasting memory for all our young people here at First Baptist.



First Baptist Church
157 W. Jackson St.
Virden, IL 62690

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

