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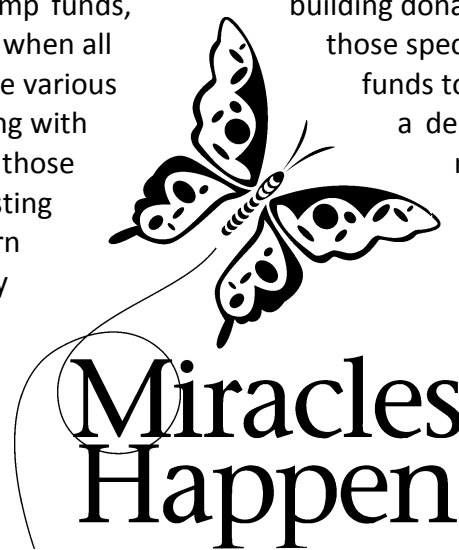
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**March & April 2008**

### ***First Baptist Church is praying for a Miracle***

First Baptist is expecting a miracle on June 8, 2008. On this "MIRACLE SUNDAY" we are asking God to bless this church, using its members and friends to participate in a one-time cash offering of \$25,000.00. No pledges will be solicited, this is an all cash (or check) donation to accomplish a dream. This Miracle offering should attempt to represent God's continuous blessings in the life of every person who chooses to participate.. And, more importantly, it should be *prayerfully* considered over the next few weeks leading up to June 8, 2008.

Miracle Sunday is a specific offering, with a specific goal in mind. It's not just to "pump up" out current operating fund, though that is included in our goal. During the year, certain giving to the church may be specific, those monies such as memorials, camp funds, general fund until the end of the year when all general operating account and into the various the past two years, our expenses, along with allow us enough cash flow to transfer those addition, we are still paying on an existing \$9,000.00. But even more of a concern ourselves and to the family of Dorothy and turn it into a memorial Christian in her honor for her years of service children. It was a project that was finished due to the lack of funds. estimated we need another \$10,500. represent our Miracle Sunday our entire annual budget! Obviously, without two things. The first is PRAYER and lots of it. Please begin now to pray for our day, your possible gift, and that God will bless the efforts of every individual, no matter what size gift he or she can provide. For most, this will quite possibly be the largest one-time gift that individual has ever made to First Baptist. The second thing that must happen is that EVERYONE who is or was an active part of the ministry of First Baptist Church is given the opportunity to participate. That means we need to gather the names of those who have moved away, the children of past members who quite possibly grew up in this church, and even those who were touched in a special way by Dorothy Oller, and would like to honor her memory.



Debbie Kershaw has a list of the names and addresses of those who have already been contacted regarding Miracle Sunday. Take a moment to look at that list then contact her with names and addresses of people you think would want to be a part of the Miracle. The first letter of three should go out the first week of March so please gather those names and addresses soon and get them to her so that no one is contacted more than once. Even our Wednesday night kids will be participating in this special day! Please begin to pray now and every day until June 8 ... Then, expect a MIRACLE!

# MARCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Emily Brown Diane DeSmidt
2 Ralph Berriman	3	4 Lonnie Crawford	5 Supper & Kids Club 6 PM Business Meeting 7 PM Choir 8:00	6	7	8
9  Area II Meeting in Greenfield Jane Primrose	10 Deaconate Meeting 7 PM	11	12 Supper & Kids Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45 Choir 8:00	13 ABWM Meets at noon	14 Bob Dibler	15 VAAC Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 AM Trivia Night 7 PM
16  Palm Sunday Easter Cantata 10 AM Cole Langley	17 Jane Garrison Bart Rogers	18	19 Supper & Kids Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45 Choir 8:00	20 Maundy Thursday Communion Service 7 PM Trent Cain	21 Community Good Friday Service 7 PM	22 Kaye Liles Ann Whalen
23 Community Easter Sunrise 6:30 AM Easter Breakfast in Pitman Hall to follow	24 Board of Christian Education 7 PM	25	26 Supper & Kids Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45 Choir 8:00	27 Patty Sloman	28	29  Christ is Risen!
30	31					



Plan to join us on Easter morning starting at about 7:30 AM. The Youth will be serving breakfast. Donations will be accepted to help fund the Youth activities throughout the year.

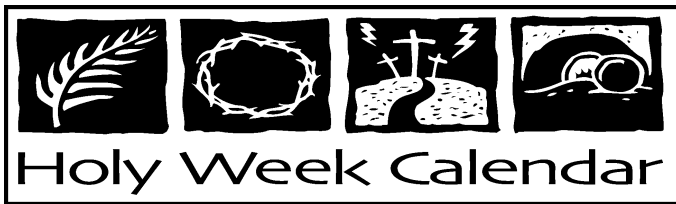
Did you know that we currently have an AVERAGE of 30 kids attending on Wednesday evenings? That is a lot of campers, canoers, and skiers to help fund. So many in fact, that we have divided them up into two age groups, elementary and Middle School/High School. Please plan to support the youth in their efforts.

## Mother Daughter Banquet planned for April

Bring your favorite mom, daughter, or any other lady to this year's Mother-Daughter Banquet on Sunday, April 27 at 5:30 PM.

This year's theme will be determined soon and committees will be formed to plan the evening's program. The meal will be pot luck and held in Pitman Fellowship Hall.

It has been a couple of years since we've shared this special event together, so plan now to attend. Let's make it a reunion of the ladies in our life that we love the most. Mark your calendars!



Holy week services will begin on Palm Sunday with the choir's cantata. At 7 PM on Thursday, April 20, please plan to attend our own church's Maundy Thursday Communion Service in the sanctuary. The Community Good Friday Service, sponsored by the Virden Ministerial Association will be held at and hosted by the Christian Church on Friday at 7:00 PM.

Easter Sunday morning at 6:30 AM the VMA will sponsor the annual Community Easter Sunrise Service. The services will be led by Virden United Methodist Church. Following the service, our youth will serve breakfast in Pitman Hall. Our regular Sunday School and worship times follow and the younger group of Wednesday Night Kids will perform a special skit called "The Easter Tree" during morning worship.

This special Holy Week of services is something we all need to share with our families, so plan to attend together.



Worship with the First Baptist Church choir on Palm Sunday, March 16 as they present the inspirational Easter musical "The Day He Wore My Crown." This cantata was performed years ago when Dorothy Oller was still able to accompany the choir on the piano. Since her passing, most of the music has had to be sung to orchestrated tapes. But, this year we have the opportunity to pull out this old favorite and perform it again because Betty Schien has agreed to accompany our choir with her amazing piano talent, just as she did with our Christmas music this past December.

Sue Langley will be our narrator, and of course the choir is directed by Janis Hawkins. Plan to attend and bring the whole family to enjoy the music of the season.

## The investor

Two old friends met one day after many years apart.

One man asked, "How has everything been going with you?"

"Well, I used to be as rich as Bill Gates," replied the second man.

"Wow! How did you manage that?" asked his stunned friend.

"One day I opened the Bible at random, closed my eyes and dropped my finger on a word. The word was 'oil.' So I invested in oil, and boy, did the oil wells gush! Then another day I dropped my finger on a different word in the Bible, and it was 'gold.' So I invested in gold, and those mines really produced!"

"Amazing! But you said you 'used to be as rich as Bill Gates.'"

"Yeah, I lost it all. One day I closed my eyes and pointed at a page. When I opened my eyes, my finger rested on the words 'Chapter Eleven.'"



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  Craig Paisley	2 <b>Supper &amp; Kids Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45 Choir 8:00</b>	3	4	5
6  <b>HOLY Communion</b>	7 <b>Deaconate 7-PM</b>  Mary Agnes Cain Carter Dibler Debbie Kershaw	8	9 <b>Supper &amp; Kids Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45 Choir 8:00</b>	10	11  Sophia Hawkins	12
13	14  Terry Clark	15	16 <b>Supper &amp; Kids Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45 Choir 8:00</b>	17	18  Tony & Angie Kershaw	19
20	21  <b>Pastoral Relations-7 PM</b> Karen Browning Aaron Snodgrass	22	23 <b>Supper &amp; Kids Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45 Choir 8:00</b> John Liles	24	25	26
27 <b>Mother - Daughter Banquet 5:30 PM</b>	28	29  Ayden Daniel	30 <b>Supper &amp; Kids Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45 Choir 8:00</b>  Helen Burris	 <b>Kid's Club</b>  <b>Every Wednesday</b>		

### Building a church

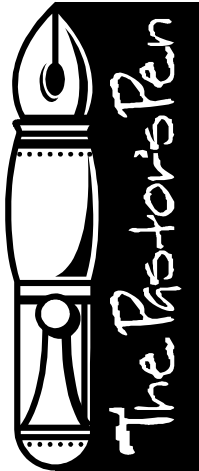
Computer programmer Amy Hughes found a unique way to express her faith. The Lego enthusiast built a church out of 75,000 Lego pieces.

The church is about 7' by 5 1/2' and seats 1,372 little Lego people. The building has almost 4,000 windows, mosaics, an altar and crucifix, a pulpit, a detailed pipe organ, a narthex, bathrooms, stairs and a balcony that seats an 80-member choir. Photos are posted at [www.amyhughes.org/lego/church](http://www.amyhughes.org/lego/church).

Hughes, who once dreamed of being an architect, spent a year and a half on her project, dubbed the Abston Church of Christ. ("Abston" is a fictional name derived from ABS, the type of plastic used to make Legos.)

She also used the Lego church as an exercise in sermon-writing. Pondering why people seek refuge in a house of God, Hughes writes, "The Lord is here because we are here, not because we built a beautiful building."

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20, NRSV).



Dear Church Family,

It's almost Spring—officially that is. We have had a long, cold, snowy winter, and most of us will be pleased to see the 2007-8 winter a thing of the past.

In January I shared with you that First Christian Church had invited us to share their efforts with Angel Food Ministries. The response has been substantial. During this first month of our involvement, Pastor John Huxtable tells me that the number of orders has increased substantially. Some of those are from our church. Thank you to everyone who saw to it that people were made aware of this vital ministry. Some of our Kids Club families have already placed their orders.

The other ministry I mentioned in January is the Baptist Blitz, a building project in partnership with Habitat for Humanity to be conducted in Baton Rouge, Louisiana during the period 4/27-5/3 and 5/12-17. Last year it was conducted with six other Baptist denominations and/or organizations. This year, however, it is strictly American Baptist. I'm thrilled to report that two people have signed up already, and two others have taken a registration packet.

Please consider this hands-on mission opportunity. It is, of course, helpful for the families who will have homes as a result (the objective is to complete five homes). However, the benefits of a trip like this extend far beyond the recipients. The personal benefits are great. You will have an opportunity to work side-by-side with American Baptists from all over the Great Rivers Region—and all over the country. You will be energized and encouraged in your personal faith. And you will have the opportunity to begin a ripple effect that could light a spiritual spark through our congregation.

For the praise of His glory,

*Pastor Diane*

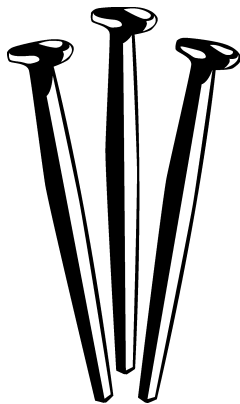
### **There's more!**

## **Christian Symbols**

### **Nails**

Nails symbolize Jesus' passion and suffering because they were used at his Crucifixion. They are often depicted in groups of three because two nails were used to secure Jesus' hands, and a third was used to secure his feet.

Three nails are also used to identify Jesus as a member of the Holy Trinity.



On the first Easter morning, three women found an empty tomb. The discovery left them trembling and afraid. They didn't know there was more -- a resurrected Lord.

Later that day, the risen Jesus appeared. As happy as the disciples were about this miracle, they didn't yet know there was more -- a gift of the Holy Spirit that would make their joy complete.

Early Christians in Corinth were so delighted by the gift of baptism that they could scarcely imagine there was more -- the resurrection of the body to eternal life.

As great as Easter is, it's only the "first fruits" of what lies ahead. Celebrate the fact that Christ is risen, but remember that the best is yet to come!

**First Baptist Church is a caring church family that desires to grow in our passion for Jesus Christ and to encourage others in our community to grow with us.**

**NATIONAL**



Day of  
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This year our church has the privilege of hosting the National Day of Prayer Service at 12 Noon, Thursday, May 1, in the

park on the Virden Square. This is a great opportunity to gather the community together to pray for our nation, our state, and our own community. Watch the weekly bulletin for details, and try now to make arrangements to be present.

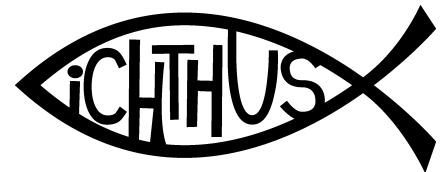
**Why a fish?**

One of the most significant statements the early Christians used was "Jesus Christ, God's son, Savior."

Because Greek was the universal language then (the New Testament books were written in Greek), Christians often said and wrote, "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior" in Greek.

That phrase, if printed as an acrostic (using the first letter of each word), looks like this:

I=Jesus  
CH=Christ (anointed)  
TH=God  
U=Son  
S=Savior



The acrostic forms the work ICHTHUS, which is Greek for fish. If Christians needed to know where to gather for worship, they could look for a fish and perhaps an arrow pointing in the right direction. Persecuted Christians, seeing a fish on the door of a home or business, knew it was a safe place occupied by fellow Christians.

*"The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions."*  
---Calvin Coolidge

