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Summer 2008

Miracle Sunday results in more than expected



Miracles Happen

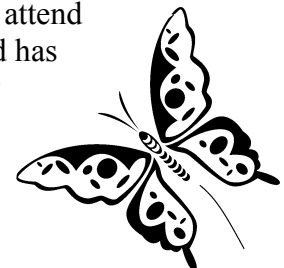
June 8, 2008 was a day we will all remember---Miracle Sunday. It was the culmination of weeks of prayer by our entire fellowship. As the service started and people began arriving, it was first of all a joy to see the sanctuary filled with over 80 people! There were former members, children of members past and present, and of course, current members and friends in attendance. There were children of all ages, some from our Wednesday night program, and it was good to be in the House of the Lord together. As the call was issued to come forward and present each Miracle gift, the excitement and anticipation began. Would we make the goal that God had called us to try to achieve? When the money was counted and the total revealed, there were tears of joy and shouts of praise. Our goal of \$25,000.00 was not only met—but was exceeded by \$569.25! As one young lady put it—the icing on

the cake! Since June 8, even more donations have arrived and the total now stands at \$26,694.25!!

The most wonderful part of this Miracle is not the amount of money raised. What was most amazing was the step of faith taken by everyone who chose to participate. God heard the prayers of his people, then laid upon their hearts, an amount to give. And then He blessed it. Like he multiplied the fish and bread—He multiplied our gifts. Where did the 25 cents come from? Most likely, one of our young Wednesday Night Kid's Club kids who were present for the morning worship! Isn't it wonderful that God blesses a quarter of a dollar as much as he does hundreds of dollars? It is truly the spirit in which the gift is given, not the gift itself.

Let's not lose this feeling—and let's not stop praying—earnestly praying for our church. Miracle Sunday is over—and that goal was reached. Now let us move forward together toward a greater goal—to expand the ministry and outreach of First Baptist. Don't stop praying for First Baptist—let's just change the focus of our prayers. Already we have heard from those who have been moved to attend worship more regularly, again--more important than the dollars raised. Now that God has proven to us that with faith we can reach a goal that most of us had doubts about ever being able to achieve, let us join together to pray for even greater things for First Baptist Church of Virden.



We believe in Miracles!

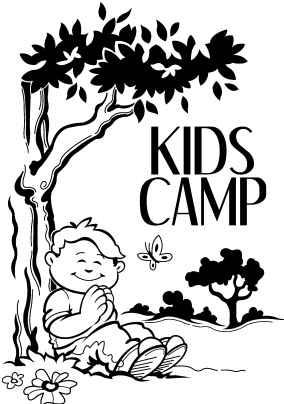




June



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Kid's Club and Bible Study 6:00 PM	5	6 Rick Gerson	7 Tom Dibler
8	9	10	11 No Kid's Club Norma Hotarek	12	13	14
15  Father's Day	16 Cole & Sue Langley	17	18 Kid's Club and Bible Study 6:00 PM Jourdan Cunningham Steve & Debbie Kershaw	19	20	21 CITY WIDE GARAGE SALE 8-1 In Pitman Hall
22 Ben & Amanda Clark Ray Klocke	23 Meeting for Little Miss and Mr contestants	24 Board of Christian Ed - 7:00 PM	25 No Kid's Club	26	27	28 Rich Weerts
 Tony Lomelino, Rochelle Lundstrom, and Brandy Palmer to church camp						
29	30 Jim Wright Mark Wright					
 Ryan Burch, Erin Turner, and Jay Turner to camp						



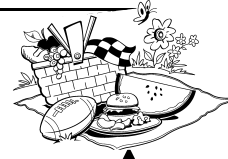
15 to attend summer Church Camp


Summer Church camp is in full swing and this year we have 15 youth attending Lake Springfield Baptist Camp! From a one day Kindergarten camp to a full week of Jr. High and Sr. High youth camps, the age range and camps are as different as the kids who attend them.

Parents are requested to fund 10% of each of the camper's total fees, while the church pays one half of the fees. The remainder is raised through various projects throughout the summer--starting with the City Wide Garage Sales. The ice cream truck in the park during the 4th of July celebration is yet another way of raising funds. Plan to participate

in any way you can with these projects, or drop your donation in the camp fund jar at the back of the sanctuary and help send a kid to church camp this summer!

July



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Lance Hickey Roger & Gloria Smith	2 NO Kids Club	3	4	5 Dale & Betty Mullen
← Ryan Burch, Erin Turner, and Jay Turner to camp →						
6	7	8	9 Kids Club 6 PM Business Mtg 7	10	11 Red Paisley	12
← Cierra Palmer to church camp →						
13	14 Audrey Price	15	16 NO Kids Club	17	18 Linda Gerson	19 VBS Pool Party 6 PM
← Canoe Trip →						
← Tyler Burch and Alex Walters to church camp →						
20	21 Sharon Crawford Don & audrey Price Travis Kershaw Trevor Kershaw	22	23 NO Kids Club VBS Instead!!	24 Carl McKinney	25	26
← Jeffrey Palmer to church camp →						
← Vacation Bible School 6 PM - 8:30 PM - Opening at United Methodist →						
27 Worship in the Park at 10 AM	28 Pastoral Relations Mtg 7 PM	29 Debbie Klocke	30 NO Kids Club	31		



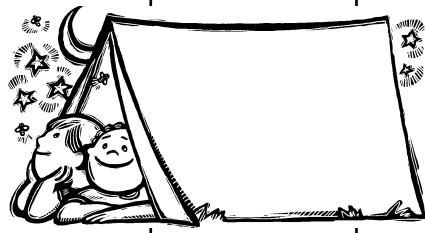
Welcome to God's Big Backyard. Get ready for an outdoor adventure that starts in your own backyard and gets bigger each day as kids take the love of Jesus into their neighborhoods and community! This adventure begins on Sunday, July 20 with the opening and closing portion of each evening being held from 6 PM to 8 :30 PM at the United Methodist Church in Virden.

Kids will learn how to serve Family, Friends, Neighbors, their Community and Jesus through a series of lessons, songs, crafts, games, and even food! No opportunity is passed by to explore and teach the love of God as we celebrate together.

The Community Vacation Bible School is sponsored jointly by First Baptist Church, First Christian, First Presbyterian, United Methodist, Church of the Brethren, Prairie Temple Assembly of God, and joining us this year--Trinity Lutheran Church!

Volunteer to be a part of this very SPECIAL ministry. See Debbie today on how you can help.

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Angus Bacon Thaddeus Turner Julius Turner Brianna Walters Danielle Burch To Church Camp
3	4	5	6 Kid's Club and meal at 6 PM	7	8 Lonnie & Sharon Crawford	9 Kim Daniel
10	11 Deaconate Meeting 7	12	13 No Kid's Club	14 Steve Kershaw	15 Tim Snodgrass	16 Ray & Libby Klocke
17	18	19 Linda Liles Richard Weerts	20 Kid's Club and meal at 6 PM	21	22	23
24	25 Trustee Meeting 7 PM	26 Tracy Lewis	27 No Kid's Club Libby Klocke	28	29	30
31 Carroll Morony						

A true friend

that the gentlest of hands will take and sift it, keep what is worth keeping and with a breath of kindness blow the rest away."

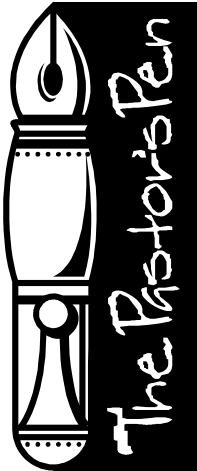
That's why it's so important to have Christian friends. We share the good and bad, confident that our friends won't judge us as a result. Instead, true friends celebrate our successes and encourage us during disappointments. As the Bible says, "A friend loves at all times" (Proverbs 17:17, NRSV).

According to an Arabian proverb, "A friend is one to whom one may pour out all the contents on one's heart, chaff and grain together, knowing



*"A friend loves
AT ALL TIMES."*

PROVERBS 17:17, NRSV



Dear Church Family,

It is such a joy to be able to write this month and praise God for his greatness in moving in the hearts of those affected by First Baptist Church's 155-year ministry to participate in Miracle Sunday. In the weeks leading up to that day, we looked at the miracles of Jesus as recorded in Scripture. We found that Jesus performed miracles to allow people to see who he was and believe, to move people to glorify God, to encourage people to pray, and to instill trust in God's goodness and protection. It is evident that God did all of those things and more as we gathered for worship on June 8.

As I met with the Finance Committee to hear the suggestions of Rev. John Grisham from our Great Rivers Region, I heard gulps when he suggested such an event for our congregation. However, as the committee prayed and met to discuss possibilities, it seemed that God was working to change their thinking. That first meeting with John Grisham was my one and only session with the committee, and at that time we talked about the goal of retiring the loan, and I thought a reasonable, even ambitious, goal would be \$15,000. When I learned that it had been set at \$25,000, I confess—I doubted.

God has increased my confidence in His care for our needs through this experience. How about you? As we move into the summer months, we have a great challenge—children going to camp, going on the annual canoe trip, and coming to Vacation Bible School. The funds donated on Miracle Sunday make it possible for us to move ahead to free up the \$300 used each month to pay off a loan that would have lasted years, to finish the Christian Education Center in the basement in Dorothy Oller's memory, and to move ahead to reach our community with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let's not forget the Miracle that happened here on June 8, 2008, but let's not dwell on it, either. If we do, we're like the owner of a new car who's afraid to take it out of the garage for fear of getting it dirty. If we keep looking back, we have missed the miracle. The miracle is the opportunity to move forward. Let's put it in gear and get underway.

For the praise of His glory,

Pastor Diane

To our Church family,

We can't begin to thank you for your prayers for Tony and for the rest of our family over the last few months. The next few years will be difficult, but we feel a sense of being able to begin to hope for a time when our family can once again be whole. Tony is doing well thanks to all your prayers and support. Please continue to remember him as he begins this long journey down a road he's never been before.

It is beyond our imaginations how anyone can go through life without the support and encouragement of a church family and the power of prayer. We are without a doubt, examples of how prayer lifts one up and gives them the strength to endure. God is using each day to prove His love to us in miraculous ways. In His Love,

Steve and Debbie Kershaw



One great hour of sharing.

Our June mission tithe goes to the One Great Hour of Sharing, an offering that makes real the love of Christ for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disasters, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time.

The following denominations (*Virден churches*) participate in OGHS:

- [American Baptist \(ABC\)](#) *First Baptist, Virден*
- [African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church \(AMEZ\)](#)
- [Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\)](#) *First Christian, Virден*
- [Church of the Brethren \(COB\)](#) *Virден Church of the Brethren*
- [Cumberland Presbyterian Church](#)
- [Presbyterian Church \(USA\)](#) *First Presbyterian, Virден*
- [Reformed Church in America \(RCA\)](#)
- [United Church of Christ \(UCC\)](#)
- [The United Methodist Church \(UMC\)](#) *Virден United Methodist*



American Baptists share God's healing love with blast victims through OG

Thanks to [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) (OGHS) undesignated disaster funds, National Ministries was able to respond when [First Baptist Church](#) of Oconomowoc, Wis., was destroyed in an explosion and fire early in April. Within hours of the blast, American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin got word from National Ministries that

\$5,000 would be released through the region to help residents of two neighboring homes, owned by the church, that were gutted.

As more and more communities in Illinois and neighboring states are affected by natural disasters, the One Great Hour of Sharing will be present to help those in need. Thank you for your participation.

What attracts people to church?

Why do people select a particular church? A convenient location? Yes. A good speaker in the pulpit? Yes. Inspiring music? Yes. An attractive building? Yes.

But a more essential element in attracting visitors, newcomers, and prospective members is friendliness -- both in the pew and throughout the community. Where there is a warm dynamic congregation with an enthusiasm that's contagious, visitors will usually be found, and will return.

A church can buy many advantages with money, such as nice buildings, trained leadership, effective advertising and an abundance of supplies for spiritual and social use. But old-fashioned friendliness, of which the world is sorely in need, can't be purchased with money. It comes only from the hearts of dedicated people who love God and enjoy helping others feel at home in their church.

Benefits of worship

We go to church to be with others who either know God or wish to know God. The church is a place of acceptance, friendship and fellowship. It's a place to honor and worship our loving Creator who accepts us as family.

In church we pray to God, sing about God, hear God's word for us to find support and direction for whatever challenges face us. In church we find comfort in our sorrow, encouragement in our struggles and the Holy Spirit's assurance that "all things work together for good for those who love God" (Romans 8:28 NRSV).



prayerchain

Virnden First Baptist Church

Revised June 2008

Pastor Diane
965-4028 (Ch); 965-4465 (H)

Norma Hotarek
965-4086

Mary Agnes Cain 965-3102		Carol Paisley 965-3530		Debbie Liles 965-3081	
Ettie Rae Dabler 965-4008	Wanda Hein 965-3828	Janis Hawkins 965-3971	Betty Wallace 965-3628	Patti Sloman 1-217-516-3477	Marge Berriman 965-4458
Linda Gerson 217-414-3418	Kathy Price 965-5833	Pam Hawkins 627-3317	Gloria Smith 965-3636	Tracy Lewis 965-5140	Helen Burris 965-4423
Debbie Kershaw 965-3537	Audrey Price 965-3949	Pat Whalen 965-5654	Jane Primrose 965-1351	Anna Kiel 965-4693	Libby Klocke 965-4563 (H)
Ann Whalen 217-415-0214		Doris Weerts 965-4439	Linda Snodgrass 627-2726	Sue Langley 965-3998	

When Pastor Diane is not available, leave a message at the church AND at the parsonage and call Norma.

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 begin the prayer coverage immediately and will also help you remember to pray more extensively later.
- ◆ Call **RIGHT AWAY**. If the person you are to call is not available, leave a recorded message or make a note to call again later and then call the next person on the list.

"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." James 5:16b

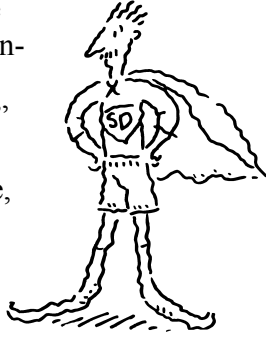


Dad's incredible

Author Jim Wallis tells how his young son ends telephone conversations with him.

"Daddy," the boy says, "I love you, I like you and you're incredible."

What makes an "incredible" father? It isn't as difficult as it might seem. Children, of course, aren't awed by the size of your paycheck, office or retirement account. Instead, it's the simple, everyday gestures that make you a #1 dad.



In *Stories for the Family's Heart*, Steve Stephens offers some sure-fire ways to be incredible in your kids' eyes:

- Play tic-tac-toe and hide -and- seek.
- Be consistent.
- Buy ice cream cones.
- Don't discipline in anger.
- Count stars together.
- Pray with (and for) your children
- Hug and say "I love you" often



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Viriden City Wide Garage Sale is next Saturday, June 21, from 8 AM - 1 PM. Our church will be taking part, with the proceeds to the Camp Fund.

We will be serving Bar-B-Q sandwiches with chips, so we will need some people to help serve the food as well as some to collect money.

Tables are set up in Pitman Hall and are ready for you to bring your items. Please place your items on the appropriately labeled tables. We will only be marking those items that we feel need to be priced separately. The rest of the items are "name your own price" to the buyer.

You may bring your items in any day this week. So, start cleaning those closets!

Community Vacation Bible School
July 20- 24 6 PM - 8 :30 PM

Opening and Closing at the United Methodist Church