



First Baptist Church Newsletter

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A Childlike Love

by Pastor Howard

It has been a great joy to watch as my first grandson has been growing up! To observe so many of the “firsts” in his life. Just recently we have watched him begin to stand alone and soon I’m sure we will see him take his first steps. One of the most precious things to observe has been Logan’s development emotionally. Of course there is that glow and recognition of his parents, but equally important (at least to this ole grandpa) has been his eager grin and enthusiastic agitation to get into grandpa’s arms. It’s pretty obvious that this grandson is smitten with his grandpa (and I might add the opposite is true)!

I’ve often wondered if the same childlike love and devotion were evident in my own life toward my Heavenly Father. I must confess, I often come up short here! How about you? Jesus said, *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.* (Luke 10:27) But even more so, did you catch that last phrase, *and* (love) *your neighbor as yourself?* Why is it that we fail here time after time? After all, He did say, *by this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.* (John 13:35) It is a mark of identification, or a character trait of those who belong to Him!

Why is it so difficult to love the unlovable? Why do we shy away from expressing encouragement, compassion, grace and mercy? Why do God’s people spend an extraordinary amount of time tearing one another down, belittling others, and participating in gossip, backbiting, and slander (which God hates by the way)? Paul tells Timothy to *shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer...* (2 Tim. 2:16-17) Sound familiar?

I’ve come to what I think is a Biblical conclusion (please correct me if I’m wrong). Romans 5:5 says, *“...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”* This passage is found in the context of our victory in Christ and our blessed hope. The reason I suspect that we fail in this area most is because we become focused so exclusively on ourselves that we forget that we are the conduit through which God intends to work and demonstrate his love. When *I* get in the way, the Holy Spirit is unable to work.

Inside this issue:

<i>A Childlike Love continued</i>	2
<i>Awana Clubs Resume</i>	2
<i>Commitment to Youth</i>	3
<i>On the Fall Calendar</i>	4





A Childlike Love continued

The answer, get out of the way, you cannot love as God intended for you to love. It's only through the enablement of the Holy Spirit that we can do this! Remember Galatians 2:20, "*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*"

Bill & Gloria Gaither wrote a beautiful song which reflects Christ's mission. Reflect upon the words and ask yourself if this is your mission...

*"God sent His Son; they called Him Jesus.
He came to love, heal and forgive.
He bled and died to buy my pardon;
An empty grave is there to prove
MY SAVIOR LIVES."
(Because He Lives)*

Awana Clubs Resume

by David Freeland, Awana Commander

As the fall season approaches and children return to school, I am looking forward to starting a new year of Awana. If you are unfamiliar with the Awana program, I would like to take a brief moment for an explanation. We combine verse memorization, games, and a lesson time to teach and provide training for children from ages 3 through the sixth grade. Awana (Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed- pulled from II Timothy 2:15) traces its origin to Chicago, 1950. The program has expanded to 12,000 churches in the United States and 4,300 more churches world wide. All of the Awana workers have been entrusted with the honor of helping to teach children about God through his Word. It has been a wonderful blessing to see numerous volunteers showing their commitment to this incredible outreach opportunity.

I did want to share a few upcoming dates that I would like to share with you. If at all possible, your attendance at many of the Awana student events would be very much appreciated.

- Awana resumes – September 12, 2008; Start time: 6:30 PM; End time: 7:55 PM
- Awana Leaders' Conference – October 13, 2008
- Local Awana Grand Prix – February 9, 2008
- Regional Grand Prix – February 16, 2008
- Awana Games & Sparks-A-Rama - March 22, 2008

In closing I would like to ask that you keep the Awana program workers and all of the attending children in your prayers. Working with as many students as we do, there are many unknown traps set before us that we can overcome only by God's power.

Commitment to Youth

by Pastor Daryl Crawford

As fall approaches and another school year is about to begin, the youth leaders and I are anticipating a great year. We are looking forward to see how God is going to bless the youth of FBC. We covet your prayers this fall. We want to emphasize our mission statement as youth leaders and to let you know we are committed to love and minister to families and their children.

MISSION STATEMENT

We exist to **LEAD** students into an authentic relationship with Christ, nurturing them in their spiritual and physical **NEEDS**, in order that they may become wise obedient disciples who are able to **SUCCEED** in giving an answer for the hope that is in them.

LEAD

- D**iscipleship
- E**xcellent Examples
- E**ternal Life
- P**ersevering Prayers

NEEDS

- F**ellowship
- A**cceptance
- N**urturing of Spiritual and Physical Formation

SUCCEED

- T**ools to deal with life with a biblical worldview
- O**pen to God's will
- P**roclaimers of God's Grace

SCRIPTURE:

**Matthew 10:16; 28:19, 20; Colossians 2:6-8; I Thessalonians 2:1-10;
I Peter 3:15**



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
233 S. MAIN STREET
CEDAR SPRINGS MI 49319**

Phone: 616-696-1630

Fax: 616-696-3820

Email: fbccedarsprings@charterinternet.com

Website: www.fbc-cedarsprings

Sharing Christ's Love and Word

Pastor Howard

Home 696-3129

Cell 788-9659

Pastor Crawford

Home 696-0899

Cell 799-2788



On the Fall Calendar ...

SEPTEMBER

3	.....	Labor Day Holiday - Church offices closed	
4	.....	Nominating Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
5	.....	Praise & Prayer	7:00 PM
7	.....	Campfire for grades 4-6 @ Lucarelli's	6:30 PM
8	.....	Jr. High Junk Food Potluck	5-8 PM
9	.....	Kids' Klassic Ministry Fair - Gym	9:30 AM
		AM Service with Terre Ritchie, CBH Ministries	10:45 AM
		CAARP Class	4:45 PM
		Choir Rehearsals Begin	5:00 PM
10		Monday PM Ladies' Bible Study @ Janet House's home	7:00 PM
11	.....	Tuesday AM Ladies' Bible Study - Tower Hall area	9:30 AM
		Ladies' Lunch @ Country Buffet (sign-up posted for reservations)	11:30 AM
		Youth FHP at the Crawfords' after school	to 5:30 PM
		Men's Bible Study begins	7:00 PM
12	.....	Awana Clubs resume	6:30 PM
14	.....	Sr. High 5th Quarter - basement reserved	9-11:30 PM
16	.....	Sr. High SNAC	7:15 PM
20-22	.....	Ladies' Retreat at Lake Ann	
24	.....	Youth Service Project	TBA
		Board Meeting	7:00 PM
25	.....	Youth FHP at the Crawfords' after school	to 5:30 PM
		Deaconess Meeting	7:00 PM
29	.....	Sojourner Class Hayride	
		Sr. High Corn Maze	6-9:30 PM
30	.....	Jr. High SNAC	7:15 PM

OCTOBER

5	.....	Sr. High 5th Quarter	9 - 11:30 PM
6	.....	Red Flannel Festival	
7	.....	Sr. High SNAC	7:15 PM
12-14	.....	Youth Retreat @ Lake Ann	
13	....	Sojourner Class at DeWeese's	
16	.....	Annual Business Meeting	7:00 PM
18	..	Ladies Night Out @ B. Caniff's	7:00 PM
19	.....	Sr. High 5th Quarter	9 - 11:30 PM
20	.....	Basement Reserved	All day
		Jr. High Leaf Raking	
22	.....	Board Meeting	7:00 PM
23	.....	Deaconess Meeting	7:00 PM
28	.....	Jr. High SNAC	7:15 PM
30	.....	Harvest Night @ Pine Ridge	

NOVEMBER

4	.....	Daylight Savings Time ends	
9-10	.....	Youth Super Bowl	
15	...	Ladies' Night Out @ J. House's	7:00 PM
16-18	.....	Missionary Conference	
17	.....	Youth Service Project	
18	.....	Youth SNAC	7:15 PM
21	.....	No Awana Clubs	
22	.....	THANKSGIVING DAY	
23	.....	Church offices closed	
26	.....	Board Meeting	7:00 PM
27	.....	Deaconess Meeting	7:00 PM
30	.....	Sojourner Class Banquet	