



# First Baptist Church Newsletter

**SUMMER 2007  
EDITION**

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## **The Fluid Dynamics of Encouragement**

**by Pastor Howard**

Encouragement is like a pebble thrown into water. While there is always an immediate impact, the ripples continue indefinitely. Paul spoke of this when he wrote to the Corinthians, *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”* (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, NIV)

When you have been encouraged, your first impulse is to encourage someone else. Encouragement is infectious. The only way you can truly appreciate the encouragement you have been given is to give it daily to another. That person will in turn connect with someone else who needs a word of affirmation, and the ripples continue to grow. Encouragement begins a process which should go on forever.

Joseph Bayly was a bold and creative writer who impacted his generation by courageously tackling the issues of suffering and death. He himself had lost an 18 day old infant; a five year old to leukemia; and an 18 year old son to hemophilia complications. Shortly before the 18 year old died, he became engaged to a very godly woman. After his death and in the midst of her own sorrow, this young woman shared with the Bayly’s a poem by a German pastor Deitrich Bonhoeffer titled *“Next Year---1945.”* Bonhoeffer had written it for his own fiancée just three months before he was taken by the Nazis and executed at the age of 39. He wrote the poem while in jail during WWII.

## **C. E. Happenings**

**by Pastor Crawford**

The school year is coming to an end and summer is upon us. Many of you are looking forward to vacations or just being able to spend time outdoors with your family. One of the many things going on this summer is VBS, which is one of our biggest outreach events of the year. Children from all over Cedar Springs will attend VBS and some will not know Christ as their Savior. It is important that we reach out to these children with the truth of the gospel.

### **Inside this issue:**

<i>Encouragement continued</i>	2
<i>C.E. Happenings continued</i>	2
<i>5th Sunday Musicale</i>	3
<i>Pre-Musicale Potluck</i>	3
<i>Ladies’ Retreat</i>	3
<i>Church-wide Camping</i>	3
<i>On the Calendar</i>	4
<i>Grounds Keeping</i>	4

## **The Fluid Dynamics of Encouragement**

When Joseph Bayly wrote his book, *Heaven*, he included this poem in the book. Twelve years after the death of Joseph's oldest son and thirty years after Bonhoeffer's death, the Bayly's received a letter from a young pastor in Massachusetts. This pastor told of visiting a woman in a Boston hospital who was seriously ill. On one of his visits the pastor gave her a copy of Joseph's book, *Heaven*. The woman stayed up all night reading it. The next day she told of the comfort and help it had brought her.

This woman had immigrated from Germany shortly after the war. Her name was Maria Von Wiedermeier. At the time when Bonhoeffer was imprisoned and executed, she was Bonhoeffer's fiancée. From Bonhoeffer to Maria, from Maria to another grieving fiancée, from this fiancée to the parent of the one she loved, from one of his books to other hurting people, then through a friend of his back to Bonhoeffer's Maria as she lay dying in a Boston hospital. Ecclesiastes 11:1 says, "*Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again.*"

My friend, when you give away encouragement, you start a ripple effect. You never know what will happen with that kind word, that written note, that warm touch you give to a grieving, hurting person. You could start something that will never end. Why don't you consider how you might be an encouragement to someone today?

*"when you give away encouragement, you start a ripple effect ... you could start something that will never end"*

## **C.E. Happenings**

When did you accept Christ as your Savior? Many of us looked to God, repented, and put our faith in Christ when we were children. This is the time to reach most people; the world knows this. Much of the advertising and music is directed exclusively at children, because they know if they get them while they are young they most likely have them for life. We cannot afford to overlook this and be fighting to rescue those who are perishing.

VBS is a great opportunity because just like AWANA many parents will send their children. We need your help to make VBS a success. There are many ways you can help. We need 50 dozen cookies, beach-theme decorations, and volunteers. Most of all I urge you to pray! If you would like to help, please place decorations in the wading pool in the lobby or sign up for cookies on the bulletin board. If there is any other way you would like to help, please contact me. We need to be vigilant in our efforts; not only in VBS, but in our Sunday School, Children's Church, AWANA, and Youth Group.



## 5th Sunday Musicale

Another 5th Sunday Musicale, is scheduled Sunday afternoon, July 29th. It is a terrific way to showcase the talent we have here at First Baptist. We are working from the requests made in March, which we weren't able to schedule into our April musicale. We will meet together downstairs for a potluck meal after the Morning Service and conclude with our musicale in the auditorium. No Evening Service is planned.



## Pre-Musicale Potluck

A Potluck Fellowship Meal will be held on Sunday, July 29th following the Morning Service.

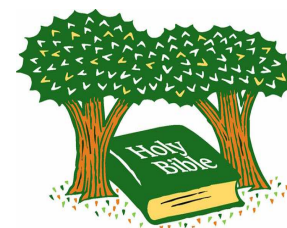
Those with last names beginning with the letters A-M are asked to bring a main dish & dessert; those with last names beginning with the letters N-Z are asked to bring a main dish & salad; beverages and table service will be provided.



## Ladies' Retreat at Lake Ann

Ladies, pick up a registration form from the literature rack and make your reservation for the September 20-22 retreat at Lake Ann ASAP. A deposit of \$40 is due with your registration; the total cost of the retreat is \$114.

We will have a lot of fellowship and fun with other ladies from FBC of CS, as we get away from the busyness of day-to-day life and have our spiritual "batteries" charged. If you have questions, please contact our retreat coordinator, Bonnie Caniff at 887-2426 or 540-2354.



## Church-wide Camping Weekend

A church-wide camping weekend is planned August 24 & 25 at the Mecosta Pines Campground. Make site reservations ASAP by calling 231-856-4556.

If you need more information, please see the flyer posted on the bulletin board or contact Keith / Bonnie Caniff at 887-2426.



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**Grounds Keeping**

Our grounds keeping is on a weekly volunteer basis from May to October; (volunteers must be age 16 and older). Equipment and fuel are available. A sign-up is posted on the bulletin board; stop by and see if there is a week or two that will fit with your summer schedule.

**On the Summer Calendar**

**JUNE**

2&3	..... Gym Reserved	all day
3	Graduation Open House for Katie Smith - FBC Gym	1—4 PM
5	..... Baby Shower for Jamie Pease	7:00 PM
17	..... <b>Father's Day</b>	
18-23	..... Mission Trip to Manistee (van reserved)	
21	Ladies Night Out "Chocolate & Friends" at Howard's [bring a favorite food item for dipping in chocolate]	7:00 PM
22&23	..... Church Reserved	all day
23	..... DeWeese/Ambler Wedding	1:00 PM
24	..... Basement Reserved	1—5 PM
26	..... Board Meeting	7:00 PM
	..... Deaconess Meeting	7:00 PM
27	..... Youth Pool Event at the Anderson home	6:30—9 PM
30	..... Basement Reserved	Noon—5 PM

**JULY**

1	..... Youth Campfire at the Freeland home	7:15 PM
4	★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ <b>Independence Day</b>	
8-12	..... Vacation Bible School	6—8:30 PM
15	..... Youth Campfire at the Randles home	7:15 PM
17	..... Bridal Shower for Kristin Frandsen	7:00 PM
18	..... Youth to Cedar Point	TBA
19	Ladies Night Out "Game Night" at the Dehos home	7:00 PM
24	..... Board Meeting	7:00 PM
	..... Deaconess Meeting	7:00 PM
29	..... 5th Sunday Musicale & Potluck	Noon—??

**AUGUST**

5	..... Youth Campfire at the Sommer home	7:15 PM
9-11	..... Youth Camp Out	TBA
10&11	..... Auditorium Reserved	all day
11	..... Frandsen/Leppen Wedding	3:00 PM
16	Ladies Night Out "Movie Night" at the DeWeese's	7:00 PM
24-25	Church Camp-Out at Mecosta Pines Campground	
28	..... Board Meeting	7:00 PM
	..... Deaconess Meeting	7:00 PM