



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

of PHILLIPSBURG, NEW JERSEY

Volume 1, Issue 6 – Summer 2010 – News, Events and Opportunities

Inside.... June, July and August calendar of First Baptist events, meetings and programs

Return to Ghana

A trio of First Baptist members will return to Ghana this summer: Bill Wintermute, Kelsey Taylor and Jeff Mutchler. The group will leave New York on July 16. After arrival they will spend one day in Accra, Ghana. The Source of Light main office is located here, this is the missions agency of Daniel Sappor (FBC sponsored missionary). They will then take a three hour road trip to Tefela, a small village in the Volta river region. Jeff Mutchler describes their goals:

We will work on an all purpose building that we started last year.

We will also run a VBS program for 300-400 grade school children in three

different villages.

In the evenings we will hold a Youth group geared for the high school age.

We will also be visiting a large prison to help with a ministry that serves there.

Last year we were able to get the foundation and slab finished for the all purpose building. This year we hope to get it under roof.

We will also be taking some basic first aid supplies with us as the children are prone to infected cuts and scrapes.

It's a long work filled two weeks but well worth the souls that are reached. We will return on July 31st. and a second team will go to disciple the ministry workers and pastors for two weeks.



FBC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010



AUGUST 9-13, 9AM-NOON

The VBS Team is very excited to announce Hero Headquarters! At Hero Headquarters, kids will meet unlikely Bible heroes who are often overlooked. In fact, we don't know a single one of their names! They were not famous leaders or called by God to perform amazing miracles—yet their small acts were used by God to do wonderful things. With you on our team, First Baptist can help kids discover that if they're willing to be used by God in any situation, no matter how big or small, they can make a

difference. With God's power at work, they can be heroes right where they are!

While many of the team positions are filled, there are still openings for any willing volunteer. Please prayerfully consider where God would have you serve. Contact Mary Wintermute to discuss your role.

There is one key role that each member of this church can and must fill, that of prayer warrior. Please include the VBS leaders and volunteers, as well as children and their families in your prayers.

Registration is now open at www.fbcphburg.org. All are welcome. As always, there is no cost to participate, however participants are invited to contribute to the annual service project. We will again have a concurrent "moms study".



Mary Wintermute
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BREAD OF LIFE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. - 2 CORINTHIANS 2:14 NIV

This newsletter is published monthly by First Baptist Church of Phillipsburg. Submissions and suggestions from members and friends are welcome and should be received by the newsletter editor no later than the 19th of the month prior to publication. Send contributions to newsletter@fbcphburg.org or deliver to the church office (810 Red School Lane, Phillipsburg NJ 08865). The next issue will be published September, 2010.

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Ever Had a Bad Hair Day --- Or a No Hair Day?

You probably find them all the time lying here and there; kind of an annoyance so you just flick them into the trash or pull them off your coat and toss them out your car window. I saw one a month or more ago, and found myself renewing the routine of my past, picking it off my nightcap (yes, nightcap) and throwing it into the trash can by my bedside. Suddenly I picked up the trash can and searched frantically inside trying to find it. Where did it go?? It had looked to be about 1 1/2 to 2 inches long and was the first one I had seen that was long enough to notice for almost a year!

It was a hair.

One slender, short, solitary reminder of what I had been through – what my entire family had been through – for the past year. I began to try to dig it out of the trashcan and hold it, measure it, and even just stare at it for a little while. I wanted to hold it in the palm of my hand and feel the tickle of it, to imagine its weight and stare at its promise.

It promised that things were swinging back to normal. The extremity we had gone through was past. There are still doctor's visits – lots of them. There is still bone pain to a degree. There are still visits to the hospital for blood tests, scans, and more infusions. There is a lot of ground to re-gain that had been lost: energy and strength being chief among them. There are still concerns with every new ache and pain or perceived lump that is discovered. But the draining days with

chemotherapy were over at least. The loss of appetite, feelings of nausea, thrush (yuck!), absence of strength, shortness of temper due to steroids, all of those things were improving – all evidenced by that short, little hair.

We put a lot of stock in hair, don't we? Between shampoos, products, cuts, styles, coloring, etc., having hair can come at quite a price. Since January or February a year ago, I've only had three haircuts – not counting the shave I had near the end of April of last year that left me looking like a porcupine and wondering how on earth the guys with 1/4" long hair can stand how it feels. Shortly after that shave, I found a new use for my lint roller – yup, I'm telling – I used it to take care of all the little left-over 1/4" hairs that were falling out every day; just rolled it back and forth over my scalp. It worked great!

But that was *after* the first time when masses of hair began falling out in my brush and hands. The first day it happened I admit, I was angry and sad all at the same time. I cried. And cried. How on earth do you have crying jags without your family seeing you so they aren't hurting, too? How do you tell God it just isn't fair when you know He is crying right there with you, holding you through it? How do people enter something like this without a family beside them? I'm so glad for both my biological family and my church family; you have meant the world to me. But, honestly, it's just hair. I can say that now. Put in perspective, there are things much worse to lose than hair.

You could lose your sanity. How many moms with little children have felt that way? You could lose your home to a fire – years of memories gone up in smoke. You could lose a loved one; this past year at church has been

"Hair" continued on page 4

Ladies Retreat

Every November, the women of FBC “retreat.”
What is the definition of “retreat?”

1. The act of retiring or with *drawing one’s self, especially from what is dangerous or disagreeable*
2. *The place to which any retires; a place of privacy or safety; a refuge*
3. *A special season of solitude and silence to engage in religious reflection*
4. *A period of several days of withdrawal from society to a religious house for exclusive religious devotion*

Our special time meets all of the above criteria, and promises to have all the ingredients for a memorable weekend - Spiritual growth and renewal. Christian fellowship. Uplifting music. And lots of fun! What a great opportunity to get to know the wonderful and diverse women of First Baptist in a beautiful and relaxing natural setting, Traber Center! (www.trabercenter.org)

This year’s we celebrate a milestone...our 20th anniversary. In addition to inviting newcomers, we have invited all past participants to join us for a special reunion weekend. Our session speaker for

this year FBC’s own teaching dynamo, Mary Mace. In addition, we will have a special presentation reflecting on the past 19 years of retreats, plus many enjoyable activities.

Registration begins in September, with online and in-person sign-ups available. The cost for the retreat is \$160.00 (1-2 per room) or \$135 (3-4 per room), and this includes accommodations, all meals, and retreat materials. Special “savings banks” are available from the Retreat Committee. Financial assistance is available for special requests.

Our hope is that you will spend much needed time away from your hectic schedule of everyday life, and learn about what God wants to share with us. This retreat is also a wonderful opportunity for you to reach out and invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers and other interested women to a weekend of rest, reflection and fellowship. Mark your calendar for November 5th-7th and prepare for an memorable spiritual experience!

Refresh your mind and spirit
Escape from stress and pressure
Think about your relationship with Christ
Renew your commitment to serving God
Enjoy fellowship with other Christian women
Allow yourself to hear the Spirit speaking to your heart
Transform your pain and sorrows into a passion for life



Terry Ferguson
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“Hair” continued from page 3
so hard with the passing of those we have known and loved. You could lose your credibility or integrity. But I think more than any of those very hard, very difficult things, that the worst things we can lose are chances. Chances, as in opportunities to see what God has for us and choosing instead to walk right past them.

Only you know what opportunities the Lord has put in your life. Opportunities to love others as God loves us; to show Him our love through service. Opportunities to diligently raise our children to honor Him; to love our spouse – especially in the hard times – and keep our eyes off the grass that often looks greener. Opportunities to speak or live the gospel out loud when you know the Spirit of God is

prodding you to *just say it*. Opportunities to be honest, but to speak the truth in love, knowing that it’s just as possible for you to fail as it is for the person who blew it. None of these words are spoken lightly since I speak to myself before you read a word. Many other things could go in here – you can fill in the blanks yourself.

“Hair” continued on page 7

Defining the Elder Fund / *Reflections*

I will very confidently disassociate myself from the label of baby boomer, I am a war baby, born close to the end of World War II. Because of that I was old enough to have memories of the late 1940s and early 1950s. For my family it was an interesting time because my dad was overseas until well after the cessation of hostilities in Europe. As such we lived in one big house with four generations until my dad could reestablish himself and my mom and dad had enough money to buy a house.

Because of this there was a special bond with the grandparents and great-grandparents on my mom's side. There are a number of fond ones but two that were regular Sunday events. We frequently, when we came home from church with my Grandfather, would stop at the confectionary store (that is a term that really dates me) and buy two things, a Sunday newspaper, and a ½ gallon of Bryers Ice Cream. Bryers, I surmise because my grandparents had emigrated from Philadelphia to North Jersey and Bryers was a Philadelphia product, it was and still is a very good ice cream. I always enjoyed both, the newspaper for the comics and the ice cream just because it was ice cream.

But there was another

memory about Sunday, my grandfather was, among other things, the benevolence treasurer of the church. In those days the church had two part envelopes, one part was for General fund and one for Benevolence fund, which loosely corresponded to our Missions Budget and our Elder Fund. Each Sunday after the dining room table was cleared from Sunday dinner (yes, the entire family always met in the dining room for a full dinner) the giving envelopes would come out and right there in our house the Benevolence offering was counted. The fun part was every so often I would be allowed to help open envelopes and maybe even get some to play with.

Earlier this week I was reflecting on that time period because I have ended up doing much of what my grandfather did. In our house, I prefer Bryers Ice Cream, other brands are rare and take a back seat. But I also find myself in the position of being responsible for the keeping of the accounts for the Elder fund. Although it is not an official "treasurer" position it does very much function that way.

So what is my purpose here, simply to reflect on times gone by? Yes, that is part of it because it illustrates the value of creating memories for our children and of being examples

of Christian Service to them. But I wanted to take the opportunity to talk about what we call the "Elder Fund". We have merged the Missions giving into the general budget so our Elder Fund becomes the Benevolence Fund. It appears as a "quiet" fund, there are still envelopes, but I am not sure most of the congregation know what it does and may therefore only take a passing interest in the Fund.

The current Elder Fund plays a significant role in our church life. Much more so that is readily apparent and that is by design. But, every once in a while it is a good idea to remind the congregation about this low key and "quiet" fund that does a big job. It has a number of elements that constitute the fund which can be broken down into the following:

Benevolence Component

This part of the fund is the one where funds for helping people who have needs come from. Examples of this are, helping people who are having financial difficulties, it may be through buying food, paying some bills, providing for car repairs or even house repairs, but something that would help people get back on their feet. These finances are used to from a church-wide perspective to help fill our obligation as believers to care for those in our midst. Occasionally it is used for

a someone's neighbor if there is an evangelistic purpose. It is also used to help people going on missions trips or similar by providing on an individual basis funds to help meet the goals for fund raising. Similarly, it frequently provides assistance to people who do not have enough finances to attend a church sponsored event such as a retreat or seminar. Here the purpose is to see people grow in Christ or even to provide a place to come to know Christ.

Seasonal Giving Component

Did you ever wonder what happens to the money that you put in the Easter, Thanksgiving or Christmas offering envelopes? It goes to the a special fund that is used for special projects, usually of a missions nature. It is not used for any church projects or as part of the regular budget. Last year, for instance, after the participants in the missions trip from Ghana returned, the

Board, upon hearing the reports of those who went sent, provided an additional \$4000 to help complete the project. It came from the seasonal giving.

Missions Giving Component

Recently we have made the congregation aware of missions projects that need our support. This is where the giving goes and is used for a specific need. Currently all designated missions giving such as for the Hazard trip go to and are dispensed from this component. If there is giving in excess of need the balance will then be used for other projects where there might be a shortfall.

Student Memorial Fund Component

The student memorial fund was established during the 1970s to be used to assist college students who were intending to go into full time Christian service and were taking courses leading to that. It had been used several times a number of years ago but

has not been used recently. However, there are currently several candidates among our youth who are being led in that direction. The Student Memorial Fund has two components, an endowment which generally is funded through gifts, either

simply because of a person's concern or through giving via wills. That endowment is then invested, generating income which is used to distribute to students. It is a great way to establish a meaningful memorial to an individual.

As you can see, the Elder Fund is an important component to the work of FBC. Everything that is spent through this fund has a direct bearing and influence on promoting the cause of Christ. Whether it is providing for our neighbor or our brother or supporting the propagation of the Gospel, there must be a central purpose of promoting Christ.

The congregation in recent years has been generous in its support of the specifically designated funds that has allowed a lot of good things to happen. That is the beauty of giving to this fund, we all know its purpose but where and how it is used changes from day to day, it is giving with the sole purpose of helping others. Hopefully, you will now have a little better understanding of where the giving goes and the beneficial work the fund does.



Doug Mace
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Care Net Baby Bottles

Fathers' Day is quickly approaching and that means it is time to return your Baby Bottle. We pray that your participation was a blessing to your family. Thank you so much for participating in this offering.

There is still time to pick up a Baby Bottle, fill it and return it on Fathers' Day. We don't want anyone to miss out on the fun!



Debra Dockendorf is FBC's liaison with Care Net of the Lehigh Valley. Feel free to contact her with any questions (859-3102).



The week of June 21-26 we will have a "Mission Trip to FBC". Would you be willing to help out by providing a lunch for this group? If so please contact the office (office@fbcpsburg.org).

“Hair” continued from page 4

But before you fill in the blanks, before you even go there, remember that our God – the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, the great “I AM,” that great Shepherd of the Sheep, is the God of second, third and uncountable opportunities. So, go back to those whom you haven’t loved and show it. Love God by obeying His Word. Use that next teachable moment you have with your child – you can go back to that moment; kids have great memories. Commit to looking at your spouse and, instead of playing the “fail list”

over and over in your brain, begin a new play list of what attracted you in the first place, or deliberately look for and recall what he or she does well. Work hard to rebuild trust where you have blown it and ask God to help you to be a man or woman of integrity again. Be willing to wait on His method and timing. Most of all, if you have walked past the opportunity to accept the most astounding gift ever offered to you – the gift of eternal life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ on your behalf – do a 180 and turn back, I implore you. Ask the pastor or a godly friend to

explain it to you. You do not want to be called upon to pay the price for all the things you have done that have been like mud thrown in the face of Jesus. He paid the price for your sin (and we all sin) so you don’t have to. He loves you that much to give you the opportunity of a lifetime. And I can guarantee you . . . it’s better than having hair!



Deb Gatz is a long time member of FBC who has graciously volunteered to share her journey with us.

Summer Adult Sunday School Update



“Community is the system of life interaction with others and is essential for living full and meaningful lives. The community of believers, the Church, was created not only to equip those who have found life in Christ but also to reach those who have not yet responded to His grace.”

So describes the study

guide for our continuing series on the birth and growth of the church. Lessons for the summer include:

- June 6th Facing Opposition: Peter and John before the Sanhedrin
- June 13th Creating Community: Sharing Among Believers
- June 20th Integrity Before God: Ananias and Sapphira
- June 27th Worthy of Suffering: Persecution of the Apostles

- July 4th Shared Ministry: Choosing the Seven
- July 11th The Martyrdom of Saints: The Stoning of Stephen
- July 18th God’s Perfect Plan: The Dispersion of the Church
- July 25th An Instantaneous Conversion: Philip and the Ethiopian
- August 1st The Apostle to the Gentiles: The Conversion of Saul
- August 8th From Jews to Gentiles: Peter and Cornelius
- August 15th Bringing People to God: The Church at Antioch
- August 22nd Reaching the Lost: Paul’s First Missionary Journey
- August 29th Supporting Missionaries: Paul and Barnabas Return to Antioch



Phil Gatz and Michael Moussa – “Your Summer Adult Sunday School guides”



Come join us this summer around your family vacation time!



It's That Time of the Year!

As the school year is coming to an end, the summer events for the FBC Youth Group are about to begin. We are so excited to see what God is going to do, and can't wait to see how lives are going to be changed as a result. Here are a few things that we have going on

June 2nd – Bring Your Parent to Youth Group Day

We want all of our parents of teens to enjoy what our teens experience every week, as well as have an opportunity to have any of their questions answered. We are looking forward to a great time of food, singing, and looking into God's Word. All parents of teens are strongly encouraged to attend.

July 10th-17th – Missions Trip to Hazard, KY

Twelve of our teenagers have

been working hard to raise support and be prepared to serve on this trip. We can't wait to help people in need, and share the gospel through the VBS we will be running. There is simply no way to thank enough those who have helped contribute to the funding needed for this trip. We are extremely thankful for the investment you have made in this ministry. We could not do this without your support.

July 25th-31st – Lake Ann Camp

With over 20 young people already registered, we are thrilled to have our largest group ever attending Lake Ann Camp. This is a week that will change lives forever, and I know that our youth group and church as a whole will be changed for the better as a result of what God does

in the lives of our teens that week.

August 9th-13th – Vacation Bible School

We are very excited to partner with the rest of FBC in this amazing outreach. This is going to be a great way to end our busy summer as we engage the entire body of Christ in the mission of reaching our community with the gospel.

As always, we covet your prayers as we participate in all of these events. We consider it a privilege to have the opportunity to be a part of this church, and serve God here, as well as in other parts of the country. This is going to be an amazing summer!



Tim Pyne
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ATTENTION SHUTTERBUGS!

We are building an archive of digital photographs of events, programs and other First Baptist happenings. If you have photos we'd love for you to share! Both print and digital photos are welcome. Please contact Michele in the office (mbond@fbcburg.org) to discuss how you can share your FBC memories!