

# The Baptist Bell



## AWANA—Because Kids Matter To God

The purpose of the AWANA ministry is to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him. Our AWANA ministry works in unison with the other ministries at First Baptist Church to help your child learn about Jesus Christ and to grow in Him. Your child, along with over a million kids across the planet, will meet each week for an exciting time of learning, fellowship and fun. There are 12,000 AWANA churches in the US representing nearly 100 different denominations in all 50 states. There are over 5100 AWANA churches in 109 countries around the world.

AWANA meets at First Baptist Church each Sunday during the school year (unless noted otherwise) from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. AWANA currently serves four age groups:



**Puggles**—2 year olds



**Cubbies**—Preschoolers age 3-4 (must be potty trained)



**Sparks**—Kindergarten through Second grade

**Truth & Training**—Third through Sixth grade



Each AWANA meeting begins with an opening ceremony. Then each group has Handbook Time, Large Group Bible Teaching, Game Time and Awards Time.

Our AWANA club is self supporting. We charge only 50 cents per week per child. If you wish, you may pay \$15.00 in advance for the entire year. If there is financial difficulty in your family, don't let that stop you from bringing your child—see the AWANA Director to inquire about scholarships.

Volunteers are always needed and welcome.

Our AWANA Director, Mrs. Paitra Gibson, is always willing to talk with you about AWANA opportunities for you and your child. Contact her at 217-243-9729.

**A..W..A..N..A.... I'm going to live my life God's Way!**

# From My Heart to Yours.....

Pastor  
Jim Harper



A few years ago one of my pastor friends took an early retirement and left his church. I was very surprised by this because he had the energy of a 30 year old, was an excellent preacher and his church was fairly healthy and strong. Later I found out the reason for his early retirement. His church had a bad problem with a few families and after several years of dealing with the pain and the nonsense of these people he had simply had enough.

Does this sound familiar? The church of Jesus Christ has people who can drive you nuts, agreed? Therefore a lot of people (sometimes even pastors) simply call it quits and head for a Sunday morning brunch instead of the local church service.

Even with the problems that churches face, America is still a very religious nation (about 40% of people attend church). But a lot of people still have trouble with the modern church experience. The two most popular reasons for 'churchless Christianity' are usually complaints about people stuff (hypocrites in the church, etc.) or folks say, "I can be a believer without going to church." And of course those are two very valid points – people in the church can be very un-Christ like and you can certainly be a believer outside of a Sunday morning worship experience.

So, why do I and about 200 people attend

a church called First Baptist on Sunday mornings?

There are actually dozens of great reasons, but let me just mention two. First, if we are honest, Christianity is a communal faith, not a private spirituality. As difficult and flawed as the church is, it's still a group founded by God (Acts, Chapter 2, New Testament) and is designed for fellowship and community. John Donne once said that "no man is an island." And a full Christian life cannot be experienced by anyone in isolation.

Every Sunday I see this when a group of us pray for someone's healing and miracles begin to happen – I see it when people come up to me after the morning message (sermon) and tell me that it was a timely word from God for their lives – I see it in the groups of children at First Baptist who are being taught to love like Christ loved – and I see it and experience it when we all take the Lord's Supper together and encounter the Living Christ in His sanctuary. It's absolutely fascinating how Christ moves when we come together.

Oh, I almost forget the second reason why a follower of the historical Jesus Christ might want to attend Sunday services – please read Luke Chapter 4, verse 16, in the New Testament.

Your friend, Pastor Jim

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## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

1701 MOUND ROAD  
JACKSONVILLE, IL 62650  
PHONE: (217) 245-6119  
E-MAIL: [FBC@FBCJAXIL.ORG](mailto:FBC@FBCJAXIL.ORG) OR  
[PASTORJIM@FBCJAXIL.ORG](mailto:PASTORJIM@FBCJAXIL.ORG)

## WEEKLY SERVICES:

SUNDAY 9:00 AM AND 11:15 AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15 AM

## FOR INFORMATION ON

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS, CHOIR, BELL  
CHOIR, AMERICAN BAPTIST YOUTH  
OR OTHER MINISTRIES, PLEASE  
CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

## OUR WEBSITE

[WWW.FBCJAXIL.ORG](http://WWW.FBCJAXIL.ORG)

## GREAT RIVERS REGION WEBSITE:

[WWW.ABCGRR.ORG](http://WWW.ABCGRR.ORG)

## AMERICAN BAPTIST WEBSITE:

[WWW.ABC-USA.ORG](http://WWW.ABC-USA.ORG)



# New Men's Ministry Kick-Off BBQ

***Men, your time has finally arrived!***

**Our new men's ministry has scheduled its kickoff event and you are invited.**

**What:** A great barbecue with a big bold taste that men will appreciate. We'll eat, fellowship and hear about the vision and goals of our new men's ministry.

**Where:** First Baptist Church—outdoors if good weather, indoors if not

**When:** Sunday, August 30, 5:00 pm

**Why:** Because men love to eat zesty barbecue food (especially when it's free!)

**Who:** Any man in our church. We encourage you to bring a friend or two if you like. RSVP's are encouraged. Sign up through the church website, [www.fbcjaxil.org](http://www.fbcjaxil.org), or call 245-6119.

## The Giving Tree: Suggested Donations



APRIL: Shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste

MAY: Towels and washcloths

JUNE: Soap and body lotion

JULY: Paper products—paper towels, bathroom tissue, facial tissue, etc

AUGUST: Kitchen dish cloths, towels, hot pads, oven mitts, etc.

SEPTEMBER: Gift cards—gas stations, Wal-Mart, grocery stores, etc.

OCTOBER: Gift cards and canned food.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER:

## Volunteer Training Sessions Announced

**Memorial Home Service—Hospice**, an affiliate of Memorial Health System, will be offering free training sessions for anyone interested in becoming a hospice volunteer. Hospice volunteers are integral members of the interdisciplinary team, and they provide supportive and compassionate care to the terminally ill patient and the family. Hospice support continues after the death of a loved one, when bereavement care is extended to family and friends.

The next training will be held at the Memorial Home Services office located at 720 N. Bond Street, Springfield, IL, on the Memorial Medical Center campus. The sessions will take place on Monday evenings beginning September 21 and concluding on October 26. To register for the sessions, contact Sue Ellen Billington, RN, BS, Hospice Director at 217-788-4663.

**The Morgan County Health Department** is preparing a volunteer roster of individuals who would be willing and able to help during a disaster. Our citizens depend on a strong public health system capable of meeting any emergency, be it manmade, weather-related or an emerging infections illness. Major emergencies can overwhelm the capabilities of first responders, particularly during the first 12-72 hours. Volunteers are an important resource in our public health system.

If you would be interested in becoming a volunteer, please call or stop by the Morgan County Health Department and fill out an application. You can also access the form by logging on to our website at [www.morganhd.com](http://www.morganhd.com) and mail it to the Morgan County Health Department at 345 W. State St., Jacksonville, IL 62650.

For more information about being a public health volunteer, contact the Morgan County Health Department at 217-245-5111 or email questions to [morganhd@morganhd.com](mailto:morganhd@morganhd.com).

# Health Notes

Sis Goben, RN, Parish Nurse



Office Hours: Mon 10am-3pm

Blood pressure clinics:  
2nd & 4th Sunday each month

Home, nursing home and hospital  
visits: upon request

Contact: First Baptist 245-6119 or  
Sis Goben, RN 245-6204

## The Hugging Meditation

It is very simple—all you do is hug someone three times.

The first time, you both think about how at some time, who knows when, you will no longer be here.

The second time you think about the other person and who knows when they will no longer be here.

The third time, you truly take in that you are both here now, together in this precious moment!

Let us all be huggers and spread the joy of life in the here and now. Don't waste a moment!

## Child of Light

*"Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning." Psalm 30:5*

When I am sad, I may think there is nothing I can do to help myself get back up from a downward spiral. Remembering a loss or grief from the past, I may find many reasons to continue being sad.

But God created me for joy, and I know in my heart that if I quit dwelling on what is making me sad, the feelings of sadness will eventually go away. Why? Because I have the spirit of God within me, and it is in my nature to express the joy of Spirit.

So even in the midst of sadness, I can find relief. Just as the light of day surely follows the night, morning will dawn in my life. My faith is in a life that is eternal and in the wonder and joy of the life which God has created for me.

*My light breaks forth as the morning.*

## Stewardship & Attendance Report

	General Fund Offering	Missions Fund Offering	Special Offerings	9:00 AM Attendance	11:15 AM Attendance	Sunday School Attendance
5-Jul	\$ 3,564.70	\$ 394.50	\$52 - Communion	98	31	49
12-Jul	\$ 3,627.10	\$ 1,039.50		84	27	56
19-Jul	\$ 2,286.30	\$ 195.50		144	n/a	data not available
26-Jul	\$ 1,674.20	\$ 172.50		86	26	35
YTD Rcpts	\$ 102,360.00	\$ 11,550.00				
YTD Need	\$ 99,009.01	\$ 10,301.50				
Difference	\$ (3,350.99)	\$ (1,248.50)				

## Lay Leaders Schedule

	Worship Leader	Children's Church	Ushers			
2-Aug	Barb Baker	Jennifer Gaus	Kay Kafer	Nita Raye Gondek	Carroll Houston	Jeff Campbell
9-Aug	Mike Hubbs	Janice Hubbs	Roger McKinney	Bob Neff	Joe Goben	Geof Griffin
16-Aug	Barb Baker	Melissa Walker	Chris Valentine	Greg Huckabay	Jeremy Walker	Bill Sims
23-Aug	Bob Nicolet	Jennifer Gaus	Jim Hayes	Bud Birdsell	Tom Holliday	Brad Walker
30-Aug	Mike Hubbs	Janice Hubbs	Bill Nichols	Jeff Jacobs	Jim Hayes	Tim Runkle
6-Sep	Melanie Floyd	TBA	Kay Kafer	Nita Raye Gondek	Carroll Houston	Jeff Campbell
13-Sep	Barb Baker	TBA	Roger McKinney	Bob Neff	Joe Goben	Geof Griffin
20-Sep	Bob Nicolet	TBA	Chris Valentine	Greg Huckabay	Jeremy Walker	Bill Sims
27-Sep	Mike Hubbs	TBA	Jim Hayes	Bud Birdsell	Tom Holliday	Brad Walker

## AUGUST EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 ABY Sr. High	3 Ladies' Bible Study	4	5	6	7 MomTime/Godfrey Pk	8
9 ABY Sr. High Kid's Baptism Cls	10 Ladies' Bible Study	11 Commissions/Diac	12	13 Worship Arts Team	14 MomTime/Godfrey Pk	15
16 ABY Sr. High	17 Ladies' Bible Study	18	19 Men's Leadership Team	20	21 MomTime/Godfrey Pk	22
23 ABY Sr. High	24 Ladies' Bible Study	25	26	27 Choir Kick-Off Party	28 MomTime/Godfrey Pk	29
30 ABY Sr. High Mens' Kick-Off BBQ	31 Ladies' Bible Study	<b>For more information on any of these events, check your weekly bulletin or contact the church office at 217-245-6119.</b>				

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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AWANA  
Begins September 13

See story on Page 1  
for details.