



The Baptist Bell



**Don't miss out
on a rockin'
crocodile good
time!**

July 13-17

6:00—8:30 PM

Classes for age 3 up to 6th grade

**Crew Leaders
are still needed!**

See Joyce Gaus today!

Crocs vs. Gators—who lives where?



Crocodile Dock is set in a bayou—one buzzing with fun and a few friendly crocodiles.

It's true that in most swamps and bayous around the Gulf of Mexico—from Houston to Southern Florida—you'll find just alligators. But in

the southernmost swamplands you'll see the American Alligator and American Crocodile sunning themselves in the same waters.

Our crocodile buddies will roam a bit past their backyards in this VBS—mostly because "Croc Dock" is just so much fun to say!



Hard Times

A little over a year ago, difficult and trying times began to emerge here in American and also in Morgan County. Then in the autumn of last year the hard times hit a fever pitch with the Wall Street meltdowns and the housing crisis. Now in 2009, while we have seen some financial rebound in such things as the stock market, we also continue to suffer in job losses and economic upheaval. This is especially true in the Jacksonville area. Like an unwelcome visitor, hard times have come and they show no sign of leaving anytime soon.

Over the last ten months I have preached sermons, written articles, counseled individuals and tried to provide leadership to help and comfort our church family and greater community as we face this economic crisis. And honestly, some days I feel very up to the challenge and I'm filled with hope. Then on other days I feel like I have few answers and fewer solutions. During these times the word "numbness" comes to mind. I

know many of you can relate to those feelings.

So today, I just want to share with you quotes from famous people under the theme "Hard Times." Hopefully these thoughts will calm your heart and mind.

In Jesus' Peace,
Pastor Jim

IF I PRAY WITH THE INTENT TO LISTEN AS WELL AS TALK, I CAN ENTER INTO A... STAGE, THAT OF MEDITATION AND REFLECTION. OKAY, MY LIFE SAVINGS HAS VIRTUALLY DISAPPEARED. WHAT CAN I LEARN FROM THIS SEEMING CATASTROPHE?

PHILIP YANCEY, IN CHRISTIANITY TODAY

OUR LIVES AND OUR WORLDS ARE FINITE, NEVER FULLY FILLED, NEVER FULLY EMPTY, SO WE ALWAYS HAVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRATITUDE FOR THE HALF FULL OR INGRATITUDE, RESENTMENT, AND BITTERNESS AT THE HALF EMPTY AND ENVY OF THOSE WHOSE GLASS IS FULLER.

PETER KREEFT, *BACK TO VIRTUE*

IF YOU ARE NOT HAPPY WITH YOUR LIFE, YOU CAN CHANGE IT IN TWO WAYS: EITHER IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH YOU LIVE, OR IMPROVE YOUR INNER SPIRITUAL STATE. THE FIRST IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE, BUT THE SECOND IS.

LEO TOLSTOY,

WISE THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS THE STATE AND NO ONE EXISTS ALONE; HUNGER ALLOWS NO CHOICE TO THE CITIZEN OR THE POLICE; WE MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER OR DIE.

W.H. AUDEN, "SEPTEMBER 1, 1939"

WHEN TIMES ARE GOOD, AND JOBS OUTNUMBER WORKERS, IT'S EASY TO FORGET ABOUT OUR INTERDEPENDENCE... WHEN THE SYSTEM CONTRACTS, ON THE OTHER HAND, OUR UTTER DEPENDENCE BECOMES IMMEDIATELY AND PAINFULLY CLEAR.

ZACK EXLEY,

REVOLUTIONINJESUSLAND.COM

THE WELFARE OF THE FEW GAINED AT THE EXPENSE OF THE MANY CANNOT BE ETHICAL... THE PRIMITIVE VISION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT... IS: "THE GIFT THAT IS GIVEN TO ME IS GIVEN TO BE GIVEN." IT'S NOT GIVEN TO BE HOARDED. IT'S GIVEN SO THAT SURVEYING THE ENVIRONMENT I'M IN, I FIND WHERE THAT GIFT IS NEEDED, AND I GIVE IT.

ROWAN WILLIAMS,

"ETHICS, ECONOMICS AND GLOBAL JUSTICE"

EVERY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY MUST KNOW THAT NOT ONLY DO THE WEAK NEED THE STRONG, BUT ALSO THAT THE STRONG CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT THE WEAK. THE ELIMINATION OF THE WEAK IS THE DEATH OF THE COMMUNITY.

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER, *LIFE TOGETHER*

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

1701 MOUND ROAD

JACKSONVILLE, IL 62650

PHONE: (217) 245-6119

E-MAIL: FBC@FBCJAXIL.ORG OR

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

GREAT RIVERS REGION WEBSITE:

WWW.ABCGRR.ORG

AMERICAN BAPTIST WEBSITE:

WWW.ABC-USA.ORG

When Was the Last Time You Saved a Life?



The Central Illinois Community Blood Center is the not-for-profit Blood Center that supplies ALL the life-saving blood and blood products to Passavant Area Hospital, St. John's Hospital, and Memorial Medical Center, as well as 16 other area hospitals and we need your support. Other organizations may collect blood in your area; however, they do not supply blood for patients treated in your hospitals.

Contact Mindy toll free at 1-866-give-bld ext 38 to sign up for a convenient time to donate or register online at www.CICBC.org. Walk-ins are welcome; however an appointment may reduce any wait.

Don't forget to credit your school in the Springfield Clinic High School Challenge! By donating blood, you can credit an area high school and help them win a \$1000 scholarship to be awarded to an area high school student who is furthering their education. Double points awarded for summer donations. For more info about giving blood call CICBC toll free at 1-866-give-bld.

Community Blood Drives

- 7/9 AGI-Jacksonville 11:30 am-6:00 pm
- 7/9 Illini Comm. Hospital 2:00-6:00 pm
- 7/14 Passavant Hospital 11:00 am-6:00 pm
- 7/16 Jacksonville Fire Dept 9:00 am-1:00 pm
- 7/18 Jacksonville Moose Lodge
10:00 am-2:00 pm
- 7/30 Waverly First Baptist 4:00-7:00 pm

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:

Camping Opportunities Still Available

Lake Springfield Baptist Camp is having a great year. They have 470 campers registered and are close to making their camper goal of 500 for the first time in over five years.

There is still time to register your children for the remaining camps. In particular, there are two day camps on August 6 or August 7 that have openings. The day camps are for grades Kindergarten through 5th grade and run from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. The cost is only \$25 and includes a camp tee-shirt and camp photo. It makes a great outing for churches to take their children to.

They will have Bible stories, crafts, games, swimming and more. For those who live in the Springfield area it is a good opportunity for your children to have an extra day of fun before they head off to school.

Call Sharon Downs at the Regional Office, 217-726-7366 to register for the day camps.

United States
Census 2010
It's In Our Hands

Apply now!

2010 Census Managers Needed in Springfield, IL

Great Opportunities for Mid and Upper Level Managers in:

Technology
Field Operations
Quality Assurance
Administration
Recruiting

Census Jobs Offer:

Pay Range - \$17.25 to \$25.00/hr

- ✓ Full-Time Hours
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- ✓ Mileage Reimbursement
- ✓ Overnight Travel Required

Must Pass a Written Test
Must Complete the Evaluation Criteria

For details on testing, the application process and completion of the Evaluation Criteria, visit our website at:

<http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/>

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U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

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

Spiritual Needs of Maturing Adults: Celebrate the Events of our Life as Spiritual Guideposts

When we think of the events of our life we generally think of the obvious events: marriages, births, deaths, school graduations, retirement, sickness, accidents, purchasing a new house, car, sacraments, vacations, and the like. There are also other events that may not seem so obvious. Is the aging (maturation) process an event, a kind of ongoing event? What about personal and spiritual growth; are these events? Certainly these are all memorable events that marked changes, starts and finishes, beginnings and ends of what was into what is and what will be. Some events are more distinct than others. Yet isn't each and every day an "event" in itself, indeed isn't each moment an "event" as well?

Perhaps the more powerful question than what constitutes an event is how we "see" or experience the events in our lives. Our fast-paced lifestyle tends to cram lots of "events" into small time slots. One after the other these events march into and out of our life in quick succession. Are these events simply time fillers or does each event carry the potential for inherent meaning? We know that God is omnipresent, that the Holy Spirit is everywhere, innervating all that is at every moment. Each event then is part of a matrix of God presence; God is there, yet how often do we "see" that presence?

Fr. Richard Rohr says, "*All religious teachers have recognized that we humans do not naturally see; we have to be taught to see.*" Many times we see better looking backward, "Hindsight is 20-20" we say. At the time of the event we don't see God, we're too involved in the details of the event to notice the overriding reality ... the presence of God. I guess we could even call spiritual maturation "better sight training." We gradually learn to see the events of our life as "more real," i.e., more in the presence of God. We might actually learn to see God right behind (or perhaps right in) the physical "props" in

our purview.

As we mature, as our spiritual pace quickens, our spiritual vision improves as well (at least its supposed to). As we mature the time necessary to achieve hindsight narrows, we develop a new sensitivity picking-up God's presence easier, better, and quicker. Gradually we might even arrive at a "spiritual place" in our lives where we experience God in "real time." We learn to see God immediately, right as the events in our lives are literally unfolding. We could call this living in the eternal **NOW** of time.

As we see God clearer in events, we take the next step, that of discerning the meaning of the event carries for our ongoing spiritual development.

We've all had the experience of tragedy in our lives. Something tragic happens, maybe even something terrible, and yet days, weeks, months, or even years later we come to regard this "tragedy" as a blessing because we now recognize all the good that came from it. We see anew how God was in the tragedy blessing us all the while. No, God didn't perpetrate the tragedy on us, but we see that God walked with us through the tragedy. The tragedy was the event that opened our eyes to God's presence.

We come to realize that God is always finding new ways to bless us, to bring us closer to God ... to help us find transformation. The "tragic" event has now become a spiritual life guidepost pointing the way to change, to growth, to find our Real Self that we otherwise would have missed.

Spiritual maturation is the process of coming to recognize that all of life is a succession of events that are actually guideposts, each one pointing the way to deeper personal transformation.

I found this in my recent readings (www.SeniorAdultMinistry.com) and I hope it will be helpful to you in your walk with God.

In His Service,
Sis Goben, RN

Stewardship Report

June 2009

	General	Missions
Year-to-Date Budget Needs	\$ 88,712.00	\$ 10,010.00
Year-to-Date Receipts	\$ 87,632.21	\$ 8,499.50
Difference	\$ (1,079.79)	\$ (1,510.50)

Offering:

June 7	\$ 4,285.85	\$ 361.50
June 14	\$ 3,033.25	\$ 383.50
June 21	\$ 2,199.75	\$ 191.50
June 28	\$ 2,792.20	\$ 344.50

Attendance:	Sunday School	9:00 AM	11:15 AM
June 7	63	93	43
June 14	64	120	37
June 21	n/a	99	n/a
June 28	46	91	18

Lay Leaders Schedule ~ June & July 2009

Date	Ushers			
July 5	Kay Kafer	Nita Raye Gondek	Carroll Houston	Jeff Campbell
July 12	Roger McKinney	Bob Neff	Joe Goben	Geof Griffin
July 19	Chris Valentine	Greg Huckabay	Jeremy Walker	Bill Sims
July 26	Jim Hayes	Bud Birdsell	Tom Holliday	Brad Walker

Date	Ushers			
Aug 2	Kay Kafer	Nita Raye Gondek	Carroll Houston	Jeff Campbell
Aug 9	Roger McKinney	Bob Neff	Joe Goben	Geof Griffin
Aug 16	Chris Valentine	Greg Huckabay	Jeremy Walker	Bill Sims
Aug 23	Jim Hayes	Bud Birdsell	Tom Holliday	Brad Walker
Aug 30	Bill Nichols	Jeff Jacobs	Jim Hayes	Tim Runkle

Date	Worship Leader	Children's Church	Acolyte
July 5	Mike Hubbs	Melissa Walker	Wade Berger
July 12	Melanie Floyd	Jennifer Gaus	Brock Ripple
July 19	Barb Baker	Janice Hubbs	Chris Barringer
July 26	Bob Nicolet	Melissa Walker	Wade Berger
Aug 2	Mike Hubbs	Jennifer Gaus	Brock Ripple
Aug 9	Melanie Floyd	Janice Hubbs	Chris Barringer
Aug 16	Barb Baker	Melissa Walker	Wade Berger
Aug 23	Bob Nicolet	Jennifer Gaus	Brock Ripple
Aug 30	Mike Hubbs	Janice Hubbs	Chris Barringer

JULY AT FIRST BAPTIST

Every Week:

Sunday— ABY Sr. High 6:30 pm

Monday—Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm

Friday - MomTime at Nichols Park-lunch hr

This Month:

July 13—17

Crocodile Dock Vacation Bible School

6:00 pm—8:30 pm

July 19, 9:00 am

Crocodile Dock Vacation Bible School

Closing Program (only one service today)

July 26

Special Speaker—Rev. Dr. Malcolm Shotwell

Special Offerings Received in June

Communion:

\$ 147.00

One Great Hour of Sharing:

\$ 749.00

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1701 MOUND ROAD
JACKSONVILLE, IL 62650

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Baptist Bell

Volume 16

July 2009

Crocodile Dock

VBS Closing Program

Sunday, July 19 @ 9:00 am

*There will not be an
11:15 am service this day.*

Prayer Requests from Kids Hope United

(formerly Huddleson Children's Home)

1. That our state legislators will find the wisdom and courage to assure that vulnerable children and families receive needed services in the upcoming fiscal year.
2. For the family members of are staff who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.
3. For our families who are experiencing financial stress, that they can feel God's love and support.
4. That our staff retain their faith through this difficult financial situation.