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# The Baptist Bell

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## *Join Us During Holy Week*

Sunday, April 5

- 9:00 am *Palm Sunday Service (AWANA Children to sing)*  
10:15 am *Sunday School*  
11:15 am *Palm Sunday Express Worship (45 min. service)*



Maundy Thursday, April 9

*7:00 pm Tenebrae Service*

*This is an ancient service of communion,  
drama and special music.*

Sunday, April 12

- 9:00 am *Easter Service*  
10:15 am *Sunday School*  
11:15 am *Easter Express Worship (45 min. service)*  
(a continental breakfast is served all morning in the Narthex)



## Saturday...

This coming week, people of faith will be talking about the two most important days on the Christian calendar, Good Friday and Easter. Good Friday, the day Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world and Easter Sunday which secured the promise of eternal life for all who believe. In March or April of every year, followers of Christ will inevitably focus on those two days; that dark Friday and also the hope-filled Sunday of 2000 years ago.

But when you stop and think about it there was another day that was involved in the passion of the Christ, the in-between day, Saturday. Saturday was the day that Jesus was cold and lifeless in the tomb. Saturday was a day that didn't involve either the pain of death or the hope of resurrected life. In many ways Saturday is the forgotten day of the passion and that's very unfortunate because Saturday is the day that all of us live in. Right now, in between the crucifixion of Christ and a future day of resurrection for all followers of Jesus Christ we must live our lives in a perpetual Saturday of hours, days and life events.

We are all very familiar with the Saturdays of life. These are days that try our patience; they are days of waiting before we make it to the day of joy and hope. Sometimes the Saturdays of life are filled with love and laughter. But they are also filled with hurts, pain and facing death and doubts. Sometimes, like

*John 19:42 (NLT) And so, because it was the day of preparation before the Passover and since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.*

Jesus, our Saturdays can be cold and lifeless.

Philip Yancey said it best with this insight about the Saturdays of our lives:

"The disciples who lived through both days, Friday and Sunday, learned that when God seems most absent he may be closest of all; when God looks most powerless he may be most powerful; when God looks most dead he may be coming back to life. They learned never to count God out.

Good Friday and Easter Sunday, are perhaps the most significant days on the entire church calendar, and yet, in a real sense, we live our lives on Saturday, the day in between. Can we trust that God can make some-

thing holy and beautiful and good out of a world that includes Bosnia and Rwanda and inner-city ghettos in the richest nation on earth? Human history grinds on, between the time of promise and fulfillment. It's Saturday on planet Earth; will Sunday ever come?

Perhaps that is why the authors of the Gospels devoted so much more space to Jesus' last week than to the several weeks when he was making resurrection appearances. They knew that the history to follow would often resemble Saturday, the in-between day, more than Sunday, the day of rejoicing. It is a good thing to remember that in the cosmic drama, we live out our days on Saturday, the day with no name."

**Pastor Jim Harper**

### 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)

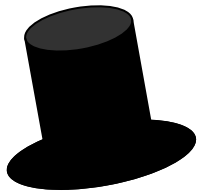
### GREAT RIVERS REGION WEBSITE:

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

### AMERICAN BAPTIST WEBSITE:

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

## Attention, Keenagers!



Mark Tuesday, April 21, 2009  
on your calendar!

Join other FBC seniors (60 years and older—singles as well as couples) at the church for 1:00 pm dessert and fellowship.

Following the social hour, Betty Kay (wife of Rev. John Kay, pastor of the local First Presbyterian Church) will appear in costume as the sister of Mary Todd Lincoln and will tell us about her legendary sister.



Come join us! Call Betty Ford (245-70576) or Jean Shafer (243-1120) by Monday, April 20 (before noon, please) if you expect to be with us for this informative and entertaining program.

## Area Ministries Need Your Help

### MURROW INDIAN CHILDREN'S HOME FOOD DRIVE:

Murrow is in need of non-perishable food and paper products. Missions coordinators will be delivering your food donations to the ABC-GRR Missions Conference on April 24 & 25, 2009. Please bring your contributions to FBC by Sunday, April 21. Items needed: non-perishable food items (no glass jars, please), paper products, cash donations, and/or Wal-Mart gift cards.

### LAKE SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CAMP FUNDRAISERS

LSBC Upper Bath House: The condition of the upper bath house has become a significant health and safety concern. This building provides restrooms for the recreations area and showers and bathroom facilities. Items needing repair are: doors, light fixtures, shower fixtures and the roof. \$6000 is need to complete the repairs, and no repairs can be authorized until the money has been raised. With camping season coming up quickly, this is an URGENT need. Please consider making a donation for this project.

Manager's House: We are very happy with the arrival of Doug & Jennifer Brady (and family). We need to raise \$4,500 to complete a new roof, drainage work, upgrade the bathroom and install new carpet.

To donate to either of the LSBC projects, you may do so through the church or directly to ABC-GRR. Please clearly indicate the purpose of your donation on your check.

# Greetings from Florida...

*Note: Recently we received the following letter from Jeff Martin in Florida and with his permission I would like to share it with you here. Pastor Jim*

Pastor Jim and Lucy:

It was so wonderful to see you both and fellowship with you while you were in Florida. God continues to bless us with wonderful times and things each day here. HE truly has HIS hand upon us, guiding us, strengthening us and helping us to become better Christians each day.

Absolutely one of the first things we did upon arriving in Land O'Lakes was to find a church to worship and praise HIM for all HE has given to us. We have not missed a Sunday since!!!

However, God has and continually touches my heart. Even though we worship and regularly attend a church here, I want to maintain my membership with



First Baptist Church simply because I feel there are needs there that I want to assist with more than here. Grace Church here as over 5,000 members and is financially strong. My heart lies with FBC, though, and the needs there. All that I have, Pastor and Lucy, all that God has blessed me with over the years is not really mine any way. It all belongs to God. My heart tells me to return portions of all that I have when I can and that I intend to do!

Enclosed is a portion of my giving back to God. I have put away amounts every day since I arrived here and I will continue to do so, sending it to FBC when I can.

May God continue to bless you and keep you safe!

Jeff

# Health Notes

**Sis Goben, RN,**  
*Parish Nurse*



**Office Hours:**  
Mondays  
10am-3pm

**Blood pressure clinics:**  
2nd & 4th Sundays of each  
month in the Narthex

**Home, nursing home and hos-  
pital visits:** upon request

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

# Parish Nurse Volunteer Program

I am in the beginning planning stage for a volunteer program in conjunction with the Parish Nursing program.

Volunteers would be friendly visitors to homebound and nursing home members. Currently, we have 6 members at Barton Stone Christian Home and one at Jacksonville Convalescent Center, as well as 10 homebound members.

I try to visit the homebound members at least once a month and the nursing home members weekly.

I could use some help and I know all these church members would be thrilled to have more people from our church visit them.

If you are interested, please let me know and I will have a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. I will provide some information and training if you wish.

Thank you for considering helping with this important ministry.

Love & prayers,

Sis Goben, RN

Parish Nurse

Once there were three trees on a hill in a woods.

They were discussing they're hopes and dreams when the first tree said "Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty."

Then the second tree said "Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world. Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull."

Finally the third tree said. "I want to grow to be the tallest and Straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill and look up to my branches, and think of the heavens and God and how close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me."

After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. When one came to the first tree he said, "This looks like a strong tree, I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter," and he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree a woodsman said, "This looks like a strong tree, I should be able to sell it to the shipyard." The second tree was happy because he knew he was on

## Three Trees On A Hill

his way to becoming a mighty ship. When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true. One of the woodsmen said, "I don't need anything special from my tree so I'll take this one" and he cut it down.

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for. The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end. The third tree was cut into large pieces and left alone in the dark.

The years went by, and the trees forgot about their dreams. Then one day, a man and women came to the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this manager would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.



Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and he stood and said "peace" and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the

king of kings in it's boat. Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. When they came to a stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill. When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible, because Jesus

had been crucified on it.

The moral of this story is that when things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, He will give you great gifts. Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined.

~author unknown~

# Stewardship Report

## March 2009

	General	Missions	
Year-to-Date Budget Needs	\$ 44,356.00	\$ 5,005.00	
Year-to-Date Receipts	\$ 45,489.81	\$ 4,354.50	
Difference	\$ 1,133.81	\$ (650.50)	
<b>Offering:</b>			
March 1	\$4,525.50	\$534.00	
March 8	\$2,899.61	\$410.50	
March 15	\$2,696.35	\$227.50	
March 22	\$3,992.47	\$236.00	
March 29	\$2,246.53	\$268.50	
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>11:15 AM</b>
March 1	69	109	34
March 8	67	88	41
March 15	72	113	31
March 22	70	103	53
March 29	64	66	41

## Lay Leaders Schedule ~ April & May 2009

Date	Ushers			
April 5	Kay Kafer	Nita Raye Gondek	Carroll Houston	Jeff Campbell
April 12	Roger McKinney	Bob Neff	Joe Goben	Geof Griffin
April 19	Chris Valentine	Greg Huckabay	Jeremy Walker	Bill Sims
April 26	Jim Hayes	Bud Birdsell	Tom Holliday	Brad Walker
May 3	Kay Kafer	Nita Raye Gondek	Carroll Houston	Jeff Campbell
May 10	Roger McKinney	Bob Neff	Joe Goben	Geof Griffin
May 17	Chris Valentine	Greg Huckabay	Jeremy Walker	Bill Sims
May 24	Jim Hayes	Bud Birdsell	Tom Holliday	Brad Walker
May 31	Bill Nichols	Jeff Jacobs	Jim Hayes	Tim Runkle

Date	Worship Leader	Children's Church	Acolyte
April 5	Bob Nicolet	Jennifer Gaus	Wade Berger
April 12	Mike Hubbs	Melissa Walker	Brock Ripple
April 19	Melanie Floyd	Jennifer Gaus	Chris Barringer
April 26	Barb Baker	Janice Hubbs	Wade Berger
May 3	Bob Nicolet		Brock Ripple
May 10	Mike Hubbs		Chris Barringer
May 17	Melanie Floyd	TBA	Wade Berger
May 24	Barb Baker		Brock Ripple
May 31	Bob Nicolet		Chris Barringer

## APRIL AT FIRST BAPTIST

### Every Week:

Sunday—AWANA 5:30 pm

ABY Sr. High 6:30 pm

Monday—Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm

Tuesday—Bell Choir Practice 5:30 pm

Wednesday—Choir Practice 6:30 pm

### This Month:

- AWANA/ABY Jr. High Easter Egg Hunt - April 5, 5:30 pm
- AWANA OFF April 12
- AWANA ends April 26
- ABY SR. HIGH MOVES TO WED'S 1ST 2 WEEKS OF APRIL

Thursday, April 2, 10:00 am

Lenten Service

Thursday, April 9

Lenten Breakfast, 7 am

Tenebrae Service, 7 pm

Sunday, April 5 & Sunday April 19

ABY Jr. High 3-5pm

Tuesday, April 14- Commissions/Diaconate  
6:30 pm

## Raise the Roof II Update

**Goal:**

**\$100,000.00**

**Given to date:**

**\$17,836.00**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
1701 MOUND ROAD  
JACKSONVILLE, IL 62650

Non-Profit Organization  
AUTO  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



# The Baptist Bell

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Volume 16

April 2009

Happy 100th Birthday,  
Hazel Spotts !



Hazel will be celebrating her 100th birthday this April 21st. Friends and relatives are invited to a birthday celebration on Saturday, April 18th from 2:15-4:00 pm at Gee Whillikers, 1852 S. Main Street in Jacksonville.

Hazel looks forward to seeing you at the celebration and requests no gifts, please, but cards will be enjoyed and appreciated.

