



# The Baptist Bell



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!



**Take a VBS  
adventure to  
the Bayou this  
summer!**

***July 13-17***

***6:00—8:30 PM***

Classes for age 3 up to 6th grade

Volunteers/helpers needed.

Sign up today!

See Joyce Gaus, VBS Director,  
to volunteer to help or to register  
your kids for VBS.

Also, snack supplies are needed.

If you can donate something, see Kim  
Runkle for the list of needed items.



## Hope Reborn After A May Day

School is dismissed for the summer and graduations are in full swing. With school out until the fall, teachers are giddy with joy and parents are wondering what to do with the kids underfoot. At the same time I was also wondering about our young people who are heading out into the world after graduation. And with that idea in mind I came across a very inspirational article that I would like to share with you.

"Earlier this month I spent a weekend in Nashville, Tennessee, at the Mount Zion Baptist Church, which is led by Bishop Joseph Walker, III.

"Bishop Walker had invited me to preach to his congregation on a day devoted to honoring those who were graduating from one level of education to another.

"Early in a two-hour (plus) service, the graduates paraded, single-file, to the front of the sanctuary to be acknowledged by the audience, to receive a gift, and to pose for individual photos with the Bishop. I'm guessing at the number of people in that parade, but I'll bet it was well north of 200.

"First, came beautiful children who were transitioning from kindergarten to first grade. They were followed by handsome teen-agers who graduate this month from high school. After them: a dignified line of college graduates and those who have just received master's and Ph.D. degrees.

"As each—from the smallest to the oldest—was introduced by name, a word was said about what they intended to do with their lives.

"The five and six years olds: 'This is James H. Brown, and he wants to be a police officer . . . this is

Leticia T. Clark, and she wants to be a surgeon.' On and on it went. This child wanted to be a pilot; this one wanted to be a film-maker; this one wanted to be an Olympic track star. There were future basketball players, barbers, astronauts, and firefighters. Some indicated a desire to be actors, teachers, or musicians. There was even a wanna-be preacher or two. *Every child had dreams of doing something.* No small thinking at among them.

"Each high schooler was introduced by name and by the college or university they would attend in the fall. They were all headed somewhere up the educational ladder. One girl was headed for Princeton; others were on their way to University of Tennessee, Spellman, Morehouse, and Georgetown.

"And the college grads? More than a few of them were pointed toward graduate school with the intention of tackling medicine, theology, law, biology, or music. You had the feeling that each of them was going to do something very, very good in the coming years.

"As each child, youth, and young adult stepped to the bishop's side for his or her picture, the audience (extended families, friends, and even me) cheered, and whistled, and applauded. You would have thought that these young people were superstar athletes being celebrated by a sellout crowd at the Tennessee Titan stadium just a few miles away.

"To me the whole affair was like a great church party. And I found myself as enthusiastic as anyone even though I had never met anyone in the parade. Why?

"The answer, I suddenly realized, was that I felt a rush of simple, unadulterated hope. In these young men and women, I saw possibilities for tomorrow. I had visions of them carrying the love of Jesus into airplane cockpits, classrooms, biology labs, and operating theaters. And the visions made me glad.

"You get this kind of a celebration in a church

where older men and women make the development of the younger generation their highest priority, where those of us who have been around the block a few times engage with younger people in order to teach them, tell them our stories, and affirm them as they listen for God's voice.

You get a lot of hope boiling to the surface when the generations connect with each other as they appear to do at Mt. Zion.

"The last six months haven't been that hopeful for a lot of us. We have come to dread the morning news because so little of it has been good. We've watched economies tank, suicide bombers create havoc, leaders crash in scandal, and tornadoes and floods destroy ways of life. It's been like living in the tabloids.

"But the weekend at Mt. Zion altered my mood. It provoked some fresh thinking. Chief among my thoughts was an upgraded commitment to do whatever I can as a spiritual father to encourage younger people to aspire to the greatest heights God has intended for them.

"There once was a man named Zechariah. In his aging years he and his wife birthed a son named John. Of this child, Zechariah sang these words: "And you, my child, will be a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him ... "

"And John did. But only because an old guy, his father, started pouring hope into him when he was still fresh from the womb.

"And that's what they were doing at Mt. Zion last week: pouring hope into young people. Why not the same in every church?"

*Gordon MacDonald is editor at large  
of Leadership Magazine.*

### 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)

# Giving Tree Needs Your Help

Each year at Christmas time, our church helps to make the holidays a little brighter for selected families in need in our community. The families who receive Giving Tree baskets and gifts are working families who just need a little extra boost at Christmastime. Families are nominated by church members and can be members of our own church or from the Jacksonville community at large.

Some of the items each family receives vary according to their needs, but all receive a basic basket containing household supplies and food to prepare a holiday meal.

We are making this mid-year appeal because the monthly donations to the Giving Tree are down significantly over last year. The list below is intended to help give you an idea of the type of items that are needed. It's organized by month, but don't let that stop you! We will accept any

of the items on the list at any time.

Also, don't forget as you are "sale-shopping" this summer to pick up an extra gift item or two!

In November we contact the families who have been nominated to find out their specific needs (and sizes!). We display that information on "ornaments" on the "Giving Tree" that will be set up in the Narthex. We ask each church family to take an "ornament" or two, shop for those items, and return them to the church in mid-December. About a week before Christmas, our Giving Tree Coordinator, Barb Baker, will package and deliver the gifts and



food baskets to the recipient families.

As you do your weekly household and grocery shopping, remember that there is ALWAYS someone less fortunate than we are. Let's do what we can to help spread God's love throughout the year.

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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:

Nonperishable food items AND pick a name from the Giving Tree.

DECEMBER 13: Please bring all gifts, food and other donations to the church before this day.

*May God bless your generosity.*

# Join Christian Recording Artist

## Tom Dolan

Sun, June 21st,  
at 9:00 am here at  
First Baptist Church!

*"Tom's music will not only touch the hearts of many, but his songs will also impact the depths of your soul."* **Pastor Tony Isaacs, First Baptist Church of Perrine, Orlando, FL.**



TOM DOLAN

creativesoulrecords nashvillepublicitygroup  
WWW.TOMDOLANMUSIC.COM

A health & nutrition expert and owner of Tom's Fitness, Tom is also a 6th Degree Black Belt Master Instructor, and serves as a police officer on the weekends.

After a call to music ministry, Tom takes his original music to churches and other gatherings around the U.S. and Canada.

With compelling songs like *"Don't Turn Away"* and *"Someday"* receiving airplay from his first CD *Leaving Egypt*, Tom's new songs and stories from his new CD *"Canaan"* will touch your heart and challenge you to a deeper Christian walk!

[tomdolanmusic.com](http://tomdolanmusic.com)

*"The music was excellent; the lyrics had a message that could not be ignored; together, music & lyrics ministered to the hearts and minds..."* **Reverend John Connett, E. Side Church of the Nazarene, Mattoon, IL**

# Where Is Our Treasure? One Great Hour of Sharing 2009

Dear Friends,



We're going on a treasure hunt!

We won't be digging holes around the church searching for buried gold, though. Instead, we're searching for God's treasure.

Scripture provides the map. For God, we are treasure: "You are children of the Lord your God. ... It is you the Lord has chosen ... to be his people, his treasured possession" (Deuteronomy 14:1-2). Although those words were spoken long ago to people in another part of the world, Galatians 3:26 assures us that we are included, too: "For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith."

One of the gifts of being God's children is that sometimes we are called to be "treasure tenders" for God. We tend God's treasure here in our congregation with the love and care we show each other through special meals, visiting the sick and shut-in, teaching Christian discipleship, and praying for each other. We are also invited to tend God's treasures beyond our congregation by participating in One Great Hour of Sharing.

Life can be tough at times. Hurricanes, earthquakes, cyclones, and tsunamis destroy communities. Wars and ethnic conflicts shatter the very foundations of life, shoving people out of their homes and transforming them into frightened refugees. Persistent hunger, drought, poverty, lack of education, and illness shrivel the life and dry the

spirit, leaving individuals to crumble from the inside out.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we care for God's treasures. By sharing some of our earthly treasure—our money, our time, our energy—aid is sent when disaster strikes. Refugees receive help in the long term as they rebuild their lives. People receive education, health care, tools, seeds, and resources to improve their communities.

And the sharing is mutual. When we care for people, we can be transformed by experiencing the presence of God. Seeing what others have lost, we are reminded what matters most in life. Seeing what others live through, we are inspired to live courageously. Seeing that new life is possible, our hope rises. Working with others, we realize that God reaches out to all of us. Relying on God for the outcome, our faith increases.

First Timothy 6:18-19a exhorts us "to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up ... the treasure of a good foundation for the future." Our treasure is doing God's will, loving God, and loving God's treasured people, so we all "may take hold of the life that really is life" (1 Timothy 6:19b). Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). May you find your treasure, and your heart, by sharing resources and changing lives with a generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Sincerely,

Mission and Service Commission

<b>2009 Great Rivers Region Camps</b>			
<b>Camps Pertain to Grade Completed in 2009</b>			
<i>T-shirt and Picture included in Fees for Children and Youth Camps only</i>			
<b>Lake Springfield Baptist Camp</b>	<b>Start Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>End Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Grades Kindergarten, 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	June 13 at 9:30 AM	4:00 PM	\$25
Grades 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup>	June 21 at 4:00 PM	to June 26 at 10:00 AM	\$210
Grades 1 <sup>st</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup>	June 28 at 4:00 PM	to July 1 at 4:00 PM	\$130
Grades Kg - 5 <sup>th</sup> Slumber Party	July 2 at 4:00 PM	to July 3 at 10:00 AM	\$25
Grades 4 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup>	July 5 at 4:00 PM	to July 10 at 10:00 AM	\$210
Grades Kindergarten, 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	July 11 at 9:30 AM	to 4:00 PM	\$25
Grades 6 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup>	July 12 at 4:00 PM	to July 18 at 10:00 AM	\$240
Grades 9 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	July 19 at 4:00 PM	to July 25 at 10:00 AM	\$240
Grades 6 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	July 26 at 4:00 PM	to August 1 at 10:00 AM	\$240
Grades 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup>	August 2 at 4:00 PM	to August 5 at 10:00 AM	\$126
Day Camp Grades Kg - 5 <sup>th</sup>	August 6 at 9:30 AM	to 4:00 PM	\$25
Day Camp Grades Kg - 5 <sup>th</sup>	August 7 at 9:30 AM	to 4:00 PM	\$25
Father&Son Retreat each additional son \$20	August 7 at 7:00 PM	to August 8 at 4:00 PM	\$45

**Don't miss out on the fun—register for church camp today!**

**Scholarships are available.**

Call the church office to speak with Pastor Jim about obtaining scholarship funding for your kids to attend camps this summer. Camps fill quickly, so get your registrations in as soon as possible.

**Camp Counselors are needed**

for the 2nd-4th grade camp at Lake Springfield,

June 21-26. Pastor Jim will be the Camp Pastor for this camp! If you have a heart for children's ministry and are free during that week, Pastor Jim would love for you to join him!

## 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 New Retirement in Today's Economy

Retirement, like any life transition, is as much (or more) a new beginning as it is ending: it's a new beginning, the start of a new life journey of vastly expanded proportion.

An entirely new definition of retirement has surfaced that has never before been seen so clearly by so many. This new definition encourages us to sparkle with a new freedom of action and a deepened human spirit. This "new" retirement is different in every way from the "old" retirement. The old retirement often generated personal fragmentation, desolation, purposelessness, and personality fixation. The "new" retirement offers the opposite; it generates personal reconstitution, consolation, purposefulness, and creative change.

We are in the midst of the grandest social experiment ever witnessed by humankind; in the last 100 years longevity in western culture has increased 30 years! This is nothing short of a social phenomenon... nothing of this magnitude has ever been seen in the history of the world! The ranks of retirees are surging like a juggernaut. Retirees can expect to live this new lifestyle for 30 or 40 years.

Yet what does retirement mean? Actually retirement means different things to

different people. For some, the old retirement, with its emphasis on rest and fun, will suffice. Others will want to continue working in their field, still others will want to venture into a new entrepreneurial enterprise they had wanted all along. Some will opt for travel, some for further education, others for volunteering. But all will search for, and need, to fulfill the fundamental human need of personal meaning.

Each retiree must look into him or herself with a keen introspection. This life inventory is essential if a new retirement lifestyle is to emerge; failure to undergo such an inventory leaves one at great risk for descending into a grip of a regressive "old" retirement. For retirement to satisfy us deeply, we must retire to something, not simply retire from something.

New purpose can be anything that stimulates your soul and brings joy to your heart. Don retired from his company at age 59 and followed his dream of learning computers. He now handles the information services for the local Catholic Charities elder housing complex. Skip always wanted to be a waiter; in addition to the upscale restaurant where he waits tables on weekends, he donates a day a week at a homeless shelter in the city. Beth has

started a childcare center. Ben has a lawn care business. Harold has become a Eucharistic minister, Marsha an adult teacher in her church, and Alan a volunteer accountant for non-profits.

The specific job is not the important thing; what's important to these retirees is the new attitude they have about themselves and the new service perspective they've taken toward others.

I like the way Bernard Starr put it in his article "Aging as a Spiritual Emergency,"

"With the later years rapidly shaping up as the longest period of life, greater than childhood, adolescence, early adulthood, or middle age—a true developmental psychology of that period is emerging, and spiritually may be the key component of developmental evolution for the most effective functioning during the later adult years."

I am a perfect example of this kind of retirement. I wanted to be a Parish Nurse for 10 years. I had to wait until retirement to take the training and now am enjoying so much being your Parish Nurse.

In His Service,  
Sis Goben, RN

## Church - Through the Eyes of a Child

Six-year old Angie and her four-year old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

One Sunday a young child was "acting up" during the morning worship hour. The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but were losing the battle. Finally, the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out. Just before reaching the safety of the foyer, the little one called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

A little boy was in a relative's wedding. As he was coming down the aisle, he would take two steps, stop, and turn to the crowd. While facing the crowd, he would put his hands up like claws and roar. So it went, step, step, ROAR, step, step, ROAR, all the way down the aisle. As you can imagine, the crowd was near tears from laughing so hard by the time he reached the pulpit. When asked what he was doing, the child sniffed and said, "I was being the Ring Bear."

# Stewardship Report

## May 2009

	General	Missions
Year-to-Date Budget Needs	\$ 75,064.00	\$ 8470.00
Year-to-Date Receipts	\$ 75,321.16	\$ 7218.50
Difference	\$ 257.16	\$ (1,251.50)

### Offering:

May 3	\$ 3,489.97	\$ 439.50
May 10	\$ 3,098.00	\$ 213.00
May 17	\$ 3,021.60	\$ 280.50
May 24	\$ 2,298.50	\$ 145.50
May 31	\$ 3,661.30	\$ 403.50

Attendance:	Sunday School	9:00 AM	11:15 AM
May 3	55	92	30
May 10	68	125	27
May 17	60	111	34
May 24	53	93	29
May 31	71	93	41

## Lay Leaders Schedule ~ June & July 2009

Date	Ushers			
June 7	Kay Kafer	Nita Raye Gondek	Carroll Houston	Jeff Campbell
June 14	Roger McKinney	Bob Neff	Joe Goben	Geof Griffin
June 21	Chris Valentine	Greg Huckabay	Jeremy Walker	Bill Sims
June 28	Jim Hayes	Bud Birdsell	Tom Holliday	Brad Walker

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	Worship Leader	Children's Church	Acolyte
June 7	Mike Hubbs	Janice Hubbs	Wade Berger
June 14	Melanie Floyd	Melissa Walker	Brock Ripple
June 21	Barb Baker	Jennifer Gaus	Chris Barringer
June 28	Bob Nicolet	Janice Hubbs	Wade Berger
July 5	Mike Hubbs	Melissa Walker	Brock Ripple
July 12	Melanie Floyd	Jennifer Gaus	Chris Barringer
July 19	Barb Baker	Janice Hubbs	Wade Berger
July 26	Bob Nicolet	Melissa Walker	Brock Ripple

## JUNE AT FIRST BAPTIST

### Every Week:

Sunday— ABY Sr. High 6:30 pm

Monday—Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm

### This Month:

Sunday, June 7

- Steak Fry and Potluck

Sunday, June 14

- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- Children's Baptismal Class 5pm

June 15-19

Doorbell Dinners

Sunday, June 21

- Happy Father's Day!
- Tom Dolan Concert 9am
- 11:15 am Worship Cancelled Today
- 10:15 am during Sunday School hr Tom Dolan will talk about Christian health, nutrition and exercise

June 21-26

- Pastor Jim will be Camp Pastor at Lake Springfield

Sunday, June 28

- Children's Baptismal Class 5pm

## Special Offerings Received in May

Communion:

\$ 173.00

Camp Care-A-Lot:

\$ 218.00

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
1701 MOUND ROAD  
JACKSONVILLE, IL 62650

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# The Baptist Bell

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**Volume 16**

**June 2009**

## Community Education Seminars at Passavant Hospital

### Senior Education Series

(all seminars meet at 12 noon;  
box lunch included)

Mon, June 15 - Prevention:  
The Best Treatment

Mon, July 20 - Balance and Falls Prevention

Mon, Aug 17 - Wound Ostomy Continence  
Program and Services

### Summer Education Series

Thurs, June 11, 12 noon (lunch provided)  
Skin Cancer: Prevention and Awareness

Tues, July 7, 12:10 pm - FREE Pilates Class  
(meets at YMCA)

Wed, Aug 5, 12:30 pm—Lifeline Program:  
An Overview (meets at Jacksonville Area  
Senior Center)

Registration required  
for all seminars.

Call 245-9541,  
extension 3296,  
to register.