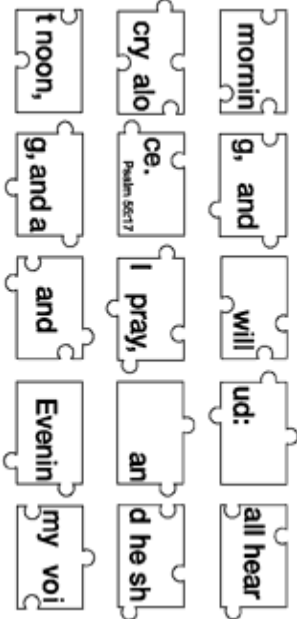
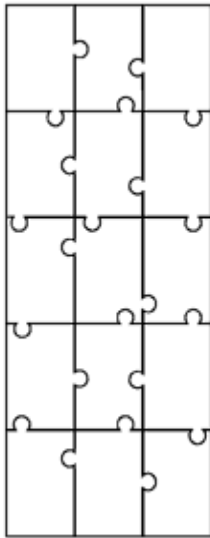




The first Friday in March is World Day of Prayer. God wants us to pray to Him everyday. So start today and never stop!

Write the words from the scrambled jigsaw pieces onto the blank puzzle to discover when Psalm 55:17 (KJV) says we should pray.



Answer: Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

### Make a Prayer Calendar

We should pray everyday. There are so many people and so many things to pray about in our lives. "Make a date" to pray every day and stick to it!

- What you need:**
- 12 pieces of blank paper for calendar pages
  - a pencil, pen or marker
  - a ruler



**What you do:**

1. Write the name of the month on the top of a sheet of paper.
2. With your ruler and pencil, draw vertical (up and down) lines to divide the page into 7 columns.
3. Draw horizontal (left to right) lines to make 5 rows.
4. You should have 35 boxes.
5. Number the boxes to match the dates of the month. (Tip: Use another calendar to look at, so you put the numbers in the correct boxes.)
6. Repeat the steps to make a calendar page for each month of the year.
7. On this month's calendar, fill in the spaces with people, events and things you need to pray for. They can repeat.
8. When each day comes, pray about what's on that day's space.
9. Before the end of the month take time to fill in next month's calendar. You may be able to see God's answering your prayers, so be sure to add "thankfulness" to your list.

"Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth."  
—Psalm 54: 1-2

# Bridge Builders Newsletter

First Baptist Church of Macomb  
136 W. Carroll  
Macomb IL. 61455

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MACOMB, IL.  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First Baptist Church of Macomb  
136 W. Carroll St. - Macomb, IL. 61455  
Phone: 309 833-2479  
Walter Holt, Pastor  
<http://www.fbcmacomb.com/>  
  
March 2006  
Issue 369



Join Us For Worship  
Sunday Morning Service  
9:30 a.m.  
Saturday Worship  
7:00 p.m.

*Vision and Purpose Statement:*

To encourage and empower changes within ourselves,  
to meet the needs of the congregation, community and the world.

Phil. 4:13, James 2:26

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**2006 Daily Bible Reading Guide for March**

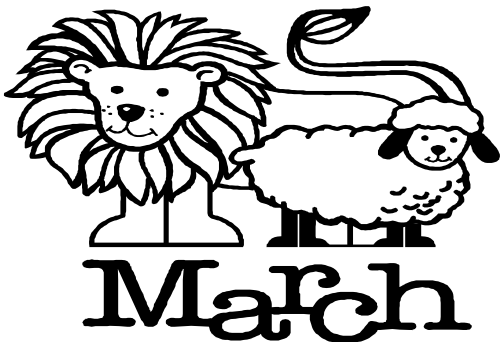
3/1	Deuteronomy 1-2	Mark 15	3/17	Joshua 7-8	Luke 11
3/2	Deuteronomy 3-4	Mark 16	3/18	Joshua 9-12	
3/3	Deuteronomy 5-6	Luke 1	3/19	Joshua 13-16	
3/4	Deuteronomy 7-10		3/20	Joshua 17-18	Luke 12
3/5	Deuteronomy 11-14		3/21	Joshua 19-20	Luke 13
3/6	Deuteronomy 15-16	Luke 2	3/22	Joshua 21-22	Luke 14
3/7	Deuteronomy 17-18	Luke 3	3/23	Joshua 23-24	Luke 15
3/8	Deuteronomy 19-20	Luke 4	3/24	Judges 1-2	Luke 16
3/9	Deuteronomy 21-22	Luke 5	3/25	Judges 3-6	
3/10	Deuteronomy 23-24	Luke 6	3/26	Judges 7-11	
3/11	Deuteronomy 25-28		3/27	Judges 12-13	Luke 17
3/12	Deuteronomy 29-32		3/28	Judges 14-15	Luke 18
3/13	Deuteronomy 33-34	Luke 7	3/29	Judges 16-17	Luke 19
3/14	Joshua 1-2	Luke 8	3/30	Judges 18-19	Luke 20
3/15	Joshua 3-4	Luke 9	3/31	Judges 20-21	Luke 21
3/16	Joshua 5-6	Luke 10			

<b>1</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	Ash Wednesday
<b>3</b>	<b>Friday</b>	World Day of Prayer
<b>4</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b> Town Hall Meeting
<b>5</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b> Town Hall Meeting
<b>7</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b> United in Prayer <b>7:00 p.m.</b> ABW Ministries Meeting Hostess: Sandra Riggins At the Riggins Home
<b>12</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2:00 - 4:00 p.m.</b> Farewell Reception at Raritan Baptist Church for Ralph & Mary Deming
<b>14</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b> Boards Meet
<b>18</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.</b> 2006 Area III ABC/GRR Celebration of Ministry & Mission at Bloomington FBC
<b>1, 8, 15, 22</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	Small Group Studies <b>3:00 p.m.</b> <i>Experiencing God</i> <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Light Supper <b>6:30 p.m.</b> <i>The Gospel of John</i> <i>Experiencing God</i> <i>If You Want to Walk on Water</i> <i>Veggie Connection</i>
<b>2, 9, 16, 23</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b> Sunday Praise Team Practice
<b>4, 11, 18, 25</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>7:30 a.m.</b> Men’s Ministry <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Youth Group <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Saturday Worship



**Theme: *Strengthening Your Hold on God***

- 4 7:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship  
*Guest Speaker*  
Lee Unger
- 5 9:30 a.m. All Music Worship
- 11 7:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship  
*Strengthening Your Hold on God Through Purity*  
I Thessalonians 4:1-15
- 12 9:30 a.m. *Strengthening Your Hold on God Through Purity*  
I Thessalonians 4:1-15
- 18 7:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship  
*Strengthening Your Hold on God Through Discipleship*  
Luke 14:25-33
- 19 9:30 a.m. *Strengthening Your Hold on God Through Discipleship*  
Luke 14:25-33
- 25 7:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship  
*Strengthening Your Hold on God Through Attitudes*  
Philippians 4:8
- 26 9:30 a.m. *Strengthening Your Hold on God Through Attitudes*  
Philippians 4:8



March 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

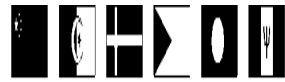
Dear Friends,

Someone once told me that they were in the snapdragon stage of life. I asked, what does the snapdragon state of life mean? They replied: I have lost my snap and the rest of me is draggin. Do you feel that way? Or maybe you just don't understand why things don't go your way? Maybe it is because you don't understand life's greatest privilege. In **Hebrews 2:11**, we read: "So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters." I want you to stop right there, this very moment, and let that great truth sink in. (I didn't say it was ok to keep reading.) Seriously, what a statement! We are part of God's family and because Jesus makes us holy, God is proud of us. The words of Jesus are unmistakable in **Matthew 12:49-50**: "Then he pointed to his disciples and said, "These are my mother and brothers. Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!" Being included in God's family is the highest honor and greatest privilege you will ever receive. Nothing else even comes close to being a part of God's family. Always remember this, whenever you feel unloved, unimportant or insecure, no matter what stage of life you are in, you belong to the greatest family on earth, and in heaven as well. God's family!

I do look forward to working and worshipping with you this month.

-- Pastor Wally





# MISSIONS



Musing on Missions  
by Meryl Cook

Before there was a Baptist Mission Society in the United States, there was a foreign missionary. The first Baptist found on record to leave American soil and journey as a missionary to another land was a black Baptist named George Lisle.

George was born a slave about 1750 in Virginia and became the possession of a Baptist deacon, Henry Sharp. He was not converted through Sharp's influence, but felt the call to preach. He was licensed and given permission to preach in Georgia and South Carolina. Sharp arranged that upon his death, Lisle would be freed so he could devote full time to preaching. He was ordained May 20, 1775, probably the first ordained Black in the New World.

In 1779, Lisle went to Kingston, Jamaica and organized the first Baptist Church. By 1792, there were 500 converts, and he began a missionary movement of Jamaican Baptists which was sending out workers - forty in 50 years.

Records state that an African Mission was formed by Black congregations in 1816. White Baptists organized in 1814, which was later known as The American Baptist Foreign Mission society.

One of those influential in the formation of the African Mission was Lott Carey. He was born in slavery in 1780. He worked in a tobacco warehouse in Richmond, VA and convinced a fellow worker to teach him to read the Bible. (It was strictly against the law to teach a Black to read.) Carey saved up \$850 to purchase his freedom in 1813. In five years he joined two other enthusiastic volunteers, Rev. Collen Teague and Colston Waring, and appeared before the General Convention Board of Foreign Missions. The three men along with their wives were appointed for service to Africa in 1820. They went to the present country of Liberia. Carey, in addition to being an evangelist, was health officer and later governor of the province. He died from a powder keg explosion in 1828.

Collin Teague moved to Sierra Leone and died in 1823. Colston Waring became the pastor of FBC of Monrovia, Liberia, and died of cholera in 1834. The opening of a church and a school in Liberia by Baptists was the first joint effort of two races to carry on a missionary enterprise together.

In 1886, Miss Lulu Ceilia Fleming was the first Black woman appointed by the Women's Baptist Foreign Mission society for service in the Congo. She was the daughter of a slave. After her first term, she stayed in the US to take up medicinal studies.



Dear Friends,

Every day I receive appeals for charitable gifts. Some of these letters get tossed. But while my heart goes out to so many crying needs, my checkbook has difficulty keeping pace. As Christians our giving flows from our deep gratitude for God's great goodness toward us. But what criteria do we use to decide how much and to whom we give? If only needs draw us, then our resources will be exhausted quickly, since neediness is inexhaustible. However, by pinpointing effective ministry that addresses people's needs, our dona-

tions will bear fruit in people's lives and the crying needs will actually decrease.

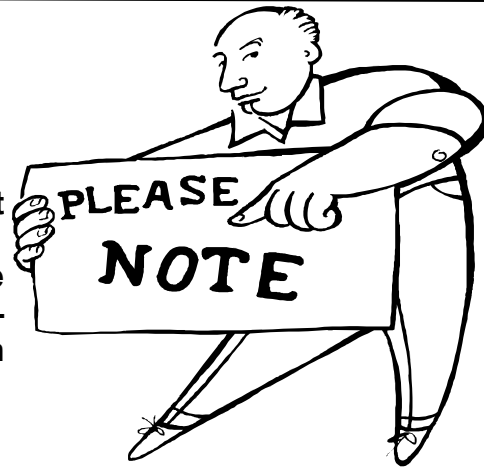
American for Christ gifts provide critical financial support for the myriad of programs, people and resources that respond to the physical and spiritual needs of the searching, lonely and forgotten in our country. Our gifts are vital to the existence and growth of leadership development of home missionaries, youth leaders, church school educators, lay ministers and pastors. Our America for Christ gifts support American Baptist mission throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, including our own region.

Please join me in giving generously to the America for Christ Offering this year. Our goal this year is \$3300.00. Christ modeled love and kindness in every respect. As we give may we remember that our gifts will show love and kindness to those in need. May God bless each of us as we give to the America for Christ Offering.

-- Pastor Wally

America for Christ gifts support mission in this country—one of the most challenging mission fields in the world—and extend the witness of American Baptist congregations for Jesus Christ in the United States and Puerto Rico. [www.abc-afc.org](http://www.abc-afc.org)

All Wednesday night chefs should note that the church will be reimbursing you for expenses by check. You will receive this check on Wednesday night; you must submit receipts for reimbursement to be made. The change from receiving the cash paid for the meals has been made because of IRS regulations regarding church finances.



Farewell Reception for  
 Rev. Ralph and Mary Deming  
 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
 Raritan Baptist Church

Sunday, March 12

**America for Christ Offering**

**Love  
 Kindness!  
 MICAH 6:8**

Love Kindness! *Share Christ with America* is the theme for the 2006 *America for Christ Offering* to be held during March. The U.S. is the third largest mission field following China and India in numbers of unchurched people in the world with 76 million unchurched. All money received stays in the U.S. and the 30 ministries supported by the America

for Christ Offering. Our goal is \$3300. Last year we received \$2, 973.18. The national goal is 3 million dollars.

Thank you for your support.

-- Missions Committee

She returned to the Congo in 1892, but before the end of her second term, she died of sleeping sickness.

In the late 1960s, the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society consolidated with the Women's American Baptist foreign Mission Society and brought into being the Board of International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches. This board still serves.

"Mission made American Baptists into a denomination. Overseas Missions was a magnet that brought American Baptists together and held them together ever since" writes historian Mild.

At present 104 missionaries are serving overseas. Eight are Black.

Habitat for Humanity has completed the 9th home in McDonough County since they started a few years ago. At an ecumenical celebration the new owner is presented a Bible, an American flag, and house keys, along with the good wishes of the community.

John and Janine Gravely and daughter have resigned from International Ministries as of January 31, 2006. They served nearly nine years in Hong Kong and were the only ABC Missionaries part of that time. They have moved to Olathe, Kansas.

Annie Dieselberg, IM, in Bangkok, Thailand writes that they were able to give out "shoebboxes" donated by Samaritan Purse to children of the bar area. Her ministry is called NightLight and includes bar girls, streetwalkers, escorts, and children from many different countries.

One of the alternative projects for support of these women is making jewelry. She asks for prayer and financial support for them. She also asks that we pray for the foundation paperwork to move quickly that their placement under the appropriate ministry to allow them to do evangelism in Bangkok.

World Day of Prayer will be celebrated in Macomb on Friday, March 3, at the Wesley United Methodist Church at 7PM. The program has been prepared by women from Africa. Everyone is welcome.

**Birthdays**

- March 2 Annie Dieselberg, IM, Thailand
- March 18 LaMon Brown, IM, Thailand
- March 19 Kristi Engle, IM, Dominican Republic (Our Special)

Bible Book for March: Daniel



## March

- 1 - Kathy Brooks
- 3 - Bill Brooks
- 6 - Doris McClure
- 10 - Angie Green
- 11 - Melanie Gregory
- 17 - Moises Molina
- 18 - Don Garlick  
Wilbert Hoff  
Sandra Riggins
- 19 - **Richard & Judy Hurt (a)**
- 23 - **Bob & Majorie Alexander (a)**
- 24 - John Ceder
- 25 - Marvin Cook  
**Bill & JoAnn Sanders (a)**
- 26 - Betty Adair
- 27 - Mary Ida Conn
- 28 - John Shaver



Thank you FBC for the alter flowers of January 29, 2006. We appreciate your prayers, cards, and concern for us through the passing of Cavitt's father.

--Cavitt & Ruth Hollis

Thank you to Betty Ingledue for bringing me the flowers from the church. Thank you to every who sent cards, called me, and came to visit me.

--Doris McClure

Thank you for all of your prayers during my recent illness. I have been given a healthy report, and we feel that you have all been so much a part of the recovery. Thank you all for your loving support.

--Debra Rudis and Laura Pollock

Thank you for all of your prayers, cards, uplifting phone calls, alter flowers and for being the most caring church family ever.

--Love and Hugs, Dee Haley and Lavon Smart

Thank you to all of my church friends who have shown many acts of kindness - like visiting, calling, flowers that were delivered, the cards & letters, and all the "goodies", especially the bean supper.

-- Dorothy Riney & Verjine Hay



To Debbie Derry for helping fold the newsletters and bulletins. Thank you to Veta Harper as well for helping to fold the bulletins.

With Gratitude

# Souper Bowl Sunday

913 Cans of Soup were collected



Thank You to everyone who donated and helped deliver the soup. Samaritan Well only needed 150 cans so Loaves and Fishes received 763 cans of soup.



According to John's gospel, after the Resurrection, Jesus asked one of his followers if he loved him. In fact, three times Jesus asked the man the same question. The man was hurt because he felt Jesus did not trust him or could not count on him. Who was that man?

- A. James
- B. (Simon) Peter
- C. Philip
- D. John

The answer is in John 21:17.

Answer: B

## Repent – a worthy word for Lent

What pops into your mind when you hear the word “repent”? Is it a dark and somber word for you, perhaps reminding you of John the Baptist’s shouting for people to repent and be baptized?

What does the word “repent” mean anyway? Literally, it means to stop the way one is going, turn around, and then walk in the opposite direction. It refers to turning away from sin and shallow living and to begin walking through life following God’s direction.

Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 1, 2006), is an opportunity to check our spiritual condition, to repent (if needed) and to walk more faithfully with our Lord.

If we take Lent seriously, we can begin to discover a new vision for life – a more joyous way to live. Lent can enable us to discover the immeasurable benefits of living the Christian life passionately.

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Friday, March 3, 2006



### What is prayer?

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,  
The falling of a tear,  
The upward glancing of an eye  
When none but God is near.

—James Montgomery



## Ham and Bean Dinner

Total Receipts = \$ 1333.50  
Expenses = 178.50

We still have advertising expenses to pay so the profit should be about \$1000.00. This will be used for supporting the Live Nativity.

Thank you to everyone who donated their time & cooking to make this year's Ham and Bean Dinner a great success!

## The gift of water

Water is a wonderful sign for baptism. It is a gift of God from creation. It cleanses us from that which has soiled us. It refreshes us when we are hot and tired. Without it we could not live. Whatever use we make of water it can become for us a reminder of God's gift of love and grace in accepting us into the household of faith.

## Belief about or belief in?

An aerialist, who specialized in riding a bicycle on a tightrope across waterfalls, set up his equipment across Niagara Falls. A great crowd gathered to watch him ride across the roaring waters. Not only did he complete the trip over, but he returned riding backwards! The crowd was in awe of his ability. He asked the crowd, "Do you believe I could do it again with a person sitting on my shoulders?"

"Yes," they all shouted as one.

"Which one of you will ride with me then?" he asked.

No one spoke up. That's the difference between believing about Jesus and believing in Jesus. When we believe in him, we trust our whole life to him.

## Childlike faith

To observe what it means to have childlike faith, simply observe a scared child grow quiet in the arms of a comforting parent.

For a more dramatic lesson, visit the CN (Canadian National) Tower in Toronto, Ontario. Up at the 1,122 foot level you'll find a glass floor. You can walk out onto that floor and look down between your feet to the ground many stories below. You'll notice that many adults hesitate at the edge of the floor and refuse to venture out onto it. Some poke at the floor with the toe of a shoe as if testing the water before committing themselves. Meanwhile, youngsters of all ages scamper across the floor without a care. The children sense the presence of the floor holding them up and trust it completely. Many adults see only the vast emptiness below. They don't trust that the floor exists and that it will hold them.

As children of God, we can trust the Presence who always upholds us any time we have doubts or face adversity.

