



# ELIZABETH BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER



## *The Season of Advent*

November/December  
2008

### OFFICIAL CHURCH ROSTER

Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve (Dec 24). If Christmas Eve is a Sunday, it is counted as the fourth Sunday of Advent, with Christmas Eve proper beginning at sundown.

Historically, the primary sanctuary color of Advent is **Purple**. This is the color of penitence and fasting as well as the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of the King. Purple is still used in Catholic churches. The purple of Advent is also the color of suffering used during Lent and Holy Week. This points to an important connection between Jesus' birth and death. The nativity, the Incarnation, cannot be separated from the crucifixion. The purpose of Jesus' coming into the world, of the "Word made flesh" and dwelling among us, is to reveal God and His grace to the world through Jesus' life and teaching, but also through his suffering, death, and resurrection. To reflect this emphasis, originally Advent was a time of penitence and fasting, much as the Season of Lent and so shared the color of Lent.

In the four weeks of Advent the third Sunday came to be a time of rejoicing that the fasting was almost over (in some traditions it is called Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word for "rejoice"). The shift from the purple of the Season to pink or rose for the third Sunday Advent candles reflected this lessening emphasis on penitence as attention turned more to celebration of the season.

In recent times, however, Advent has undergone a shift in emphasis, reflected in a change of colors used in many churches. Except in the Eastern churches, the penitential aspect of the Season has been almost totally replaced by an emphasis on hope and anticipation.

In many churches the third Sunday remains the Sunday of Joy marked by pink or rose. However, most Protestant churches now use blue to distinguish the Season of Advent from Lent. **Royal Blue** is sometimes used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use **Bright Blue** to symbolize the night sky, the anticipation of the impending announcement of the King's coming, or to symbolize the waters of Genesis 1, the beginning of a new creation. Some churches, including some Catholic churches, use blue violet to preserve the traditional use of purple while providing a visual distinction between the

Richard Gibson, Senior Pastor  
Joseph Golden, Elder & Associate  
to the Pastor  
Lindy Winston, Pastor Emeritus  
Frank Kidd, Jr., Minister  
Calvin Moore, Minister

David Tyus, Chair of Deacons  
Charles Ellington, Deacon

Herman Ezell, Deacon  
Charles Thompson, Deacon

Michael Winston, Deacon  
Judge Carter, Deacon  
Steve Pinkard, Deacon

Stephanie Tyus, Superintendent  
Sunday School  
Dorian Kidd, Music Director

C. Lynne Phoenix, Secretary  
Carolyn Pollard, Finance Secretary  
Dora Bolden, Accounting

Ruth Neal and Jim Webb,  
Custodial Services

Cont. pg. 8



## MUSIC MATTERS BY TA'JUANNA SIMPSON

### Let's Meet The Band

Psalm 33; 1-4: "Rejoice in the Lord, o ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright. Praise the Lord with the harp: sing unto Him with psaltery and an instrument of ten strings. Sing unto Him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise." The EBC Music Ministry has a diverse and highly gifted and talented musical department. We would like to take time to introduce you to our musicians.



#### Bro Edward Powell

Edward grew up in Elizabeth and received his calling from the Lord as a young man to sing and play guitar with his twin brother and cousins. While in the military Ed was anointed by the Holy Spirit to play the piano. What a wonderful testimony he has to share, so, when you see him around the church ask him to share, it will enlighten your spirit. Over the years we have seen him play the guitar, organ, drums, keyboard and piano, what a gifted musician!!  
Cont. on pg. 7

#### Contributors

- Sandra Anderson
- Nicole Holmes
- Shennea Jones
- Carrie Marion
- Kimi Mills
- Diana Ellington Reid
- Ta'Juanna Simpson
- Carolyn Winston



The YM (Youth Ministry) and the Vessels of Praise combined forces and had a successful event at the Cosmic Bowling party on November 1. It will definitely be repeated.

The YM also collaborated with the Missionary Society to make 50 lap cloths and 10-12 crocheted throws. The crocheted throws were done by youth leader, Faye Walker. These gifts will be taken to nursing homes that the Missionary Society ministers to. Some of the Mission workers attended the Lott Carrie Convention this year and brought this idea for ministry back to EBC. Good job! And this was all done without the church incurring an expense. Yarn and cloths were donated by Sis. Shirley Carter and Sis. Carolyn Lee..

On November 7, the youth of the church, and their friends, recently took part in an overnight lock-in at the Boys and Girls club on Broadway Avenue. There were 75 youth and 15 adult volunteers, which included some of our senior members. There was big fun held by all. youth, from ages 5 to 17. There was pizza, fresh fruits, X-Box, basketball, all kinds of games and tons of fun. Plans are already underway for next year's event. I'm sure the volunteers will have recovered by then.

The Youth spoke and we listened. On December 21, the YM will present our annual Christmas program. This year they are planning something new for us. They want to graduate from those cute little speeches and kids dressed as lambs and donkeys. It will be musical, it will be fun. It will be full of surprises. I can't wait! In addition, the youth will assist with the Christmas Give-a-way to be held on the same day.

The YM has a new project for the Christmas season. They are asking everyone to donate old Christmas cards that you haven't used, or if you'd like, you can donate new ones. These cards will be sent to our troops serving in Iraq and some will be sent to the troops so that they can send them to their loved ones.

On Monday, December 22, from 10am to 1pm, the youth will be assisting in feeding the homeless at the City Mission on E. 55th and Carnegie. Hey kids, you can get 'service points' that can be put in your school records. Ask your school if they have a service point system.

Finally, Sis. Barbara and Sis. Faye, we say thank you for a fantastic year! This dynamic duo welcomes your ideas and suggestions for events for the coming year. Their ready for another round! Whew! I'm tired for them.



### Prison Ministry

*"I was in prison and you visited me."*  
Matthew 25:36

Ever wonder what you could do with your old Sunday School books? Well, we have a solution. Sis. Ora Gibson and Sis. Thelma Jones are taking these used books to the prison where they are doing ministry. The date may be old, but the Word is always fresh and new! So before you throw last quarter's books away, think of the Prison Ministry and help them to reach our brothers and sisters who are incarcerated.

### DON'T WORRY

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?  
- MATTHEW 6:26-27 NIV

MISSION MOMENTS



## News From the Stewardship Ministry!

from Dora Bolden

### *One of the Hardest Working Ministries of Our Church...*

Much has been accomplished in 2008. Hats off to our Stewardship Ministry working on the church's behalf to insure that we make sound investments and wise money decisions. After the church's recent break-in, we have upgraded our security system. The window that was broken was bricked in and the doors have been repaired. Extra thanks go out to Brother's Turner, Webb, and Woods for a job well-done. The Stewardship Ministry would also like to give special thanks to Brother Michael Agnew for upgrading the security system by installing an audible alarm siren. Brother Turner has done a great job installing a new floor in the downstairs choir room. The project is now complete and looks great. The parking lots have been black topped, and new sidewalks and aprons installed. Now we have ample parking. The next phase will be to line the lots and that will take place soon. The Stewardship Ministry just recently sponsored an outreach in the Community. A free lunch was served. Many had an opportunity to serve and fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Wow! As you can see the Stewardship Ministry is working in and out. God has entrusted Elizabeth to a great task and he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him. The Stewardship Ministry has asked us to continue our "vow of faith" efforts. A lot of needed and good changes have taken place but we must replenish so that we may continue to effectively serve God's people. So faint not, 2009 will come with its challenges but God has promised not to put on us more than we can bear.

*Dear God, the quest of our souls, the source of love, strength and wisdom; we give thanks to you for loving us.*



### **Rubber Band of Faith**

Next to love faith is the most frequently discussed facet of the Christian life. Faith is like a rubber band. Your experiences and memory will cause faith to stretch. With each problem that comes into your life let your memory run back to the first experience of faith that you had and you know it was faith in God that brought you through! That rubber band of faith will stretch a little more. It will never go back to its original position because of memory. When adversities come into our lives. Hold on to your rubber band of faith. Faith and worry don't mix-it's like water and oil. Faith is as certain as the existence of water. Faith is as sure as the taste of an apple. Faith is sure as the sound of thunder-it is real. Hope is a wish, longing for something not now possessed, but with the expectation of getting it, but faith adds surety to the expectation of hope. Faith is sure. It relies upon the God of our salvation. So when you face giants in your life, use your faith!! *It stretches.*

*Submitted by Carolyn Winston*

### **News Beyond the Pews...**

Hey! Have you checked out our new website? [www.elizabethbaptistchurch.net](http://www.elizabethbaptistchurch.net). You should.

It looks fabulous! Simply fabulous!

Jim Webb





## Moving Forward With The Transportation Ministry

**The Transportation Ministry** works hard, their main goal is to garner support through fundraising to keep our church van operating. The van is a viable service to the church. It enables our members an opportunity to have transportation to and from church. Anyone in need of transportation to Sunday worship or Wednesday night Bible study can call the church office at 216-391-0433. The Ministry chair is asking for your continued donations and prayers for this Ministry.

Shennea Jones

### GLORY GIRLS BOOK CLUB

BY KIM MILLS



#### The Taste of Good Fruit By Marita Teague

This was an excellent Christian-fiction read. *The Taste of Good Fruit* focuses

on the lives of three Christian women. Sydney, who is suddenly widowed, knows the Lord. She is still unable to find comfort in knowing that everything happens according to God's plan. Being the daughter of a pastor she is well versed in scripture, but has no clue which way to turn when her well organized life is turned upside down. Her sister, Sherese, is known as the black sheep of the family has no use for the Lord in her life. Although she was raised in church and knows of God, knowing him is the furthest thing from her mind. That all changes when a family secret is revealed and she has no other place to look but up. Last in our trio of friends is Chanel. Chanel had a horrible childhood. She lost her brother to the streets, and has a Mother that feels her only responsibility to her children was to give them life. Chanel has worked hard to leave that life behind; she has the love of a husband and a successful Christian Café. When she begins to lose sight of her blessings it becomes easy for Satan to rear his head and dangle a little temptation in her path. Her husband finds out that she has allowed another man to take up her time. She soon realizes that the "more" she thought she needed, was already at home. These three women form a bond together on a road trip that brings each one to the point of realizing that the Lord has everything they need.

I would recommend this book to any sister *going through* because if you lose focus on who has it all in control and need a little reminder, the Lord can speak to you. I was extremely uplifted, and although it was October's selection still take the time to get your read on. GOD BLESS!

*{Glory Girls Book Club meets every 3rd Sunday morning at 8:45am. This month's selection is Mercy, Mercy Me by Ron Elmore. Grab a copy and join us for discussion.}*

#### Who's Who in Elizabeth?

Meet Denneryll Gray

Denerryl has the most quiet disposition of many males in our church. Quiet, but strong, and strong in his convictions. He serves as a door usher and is one of the first persons you meet when you come to our church. He loves the Lord, his church and his pastor. Denerryl came to us from Cuyahoga Faith Ministries about 3 years ago. He was praying for another church home, when his church moved on the other side of town.

Through John Taylor, his dear friend, he and his wife, Vanessa of 5 years, joined Elizabeth. Denerryl is a father to two sons and is actively involved in their lives. Denerryl

accredits his study of the Islamic faith to his strong commitment to the community. He truly has a servant's heart. He believes that as a Christian, you should "walk like you talk." He appreciates spending time with youth in the community and engages in youth sporting events. He was quite impressed with the youth ministry at EBC and particularly the way the pastor engages them in our Sunday services. When asked what he would say to someone looking for a church home, he made it clear that he wouldn't "try to persuade them that EBC has it all", but he said he would share how he was embraced by EBC's family atmosphere and genuine feeling of love. He further stated, "I would tell them to just come and visit and when you see our ministry here, you can make a decision. The Spirit is here." We certainly are blessed to have Bro. Denerryl in our midst. If you haven't met him yet, you should!



# Health Matters

## The Invisible World of GERMS

### Preventing illness is just a faucet away

**W**ith the approach of cold and flu season, let's take a good look at something we can't see—the millions of potentially dangerous bugs that can exist on near-by surfaces and our own skin. These bugs can cause illnesses such as flu, the common cold, pneumonia, urinary tract infections and meningitis. The good news is that we have the power to reduce our risk of infection by following some very simple steps. Thorough and frequent hand-washing is probably the single most important step we can take to remove harmful germs and prevent illness. Using soap and warm water, scrub every part of each hand, including under the fingernails, for at least 15 seconds. Tip: Time yourself by humming or singing the entire *Happy Birthday* song at a moderate pace as you wash your hands. When using public facilities, use a paper towel to dry your hands and another fresh towel to turn off the faucets and open the door. If soap and water are not available, the use of alcohol-based foams or gels can be an acceptable, occasional substitute. Other helpful hints for keeping germs at bay include:

- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered until healed.
- Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as towels, washcloths and razors.
- Wash soiled sheets, towels and clothes in hot water with bleach and dry thoroughly in a hot dryer.
- Always cover your nose and mouth with a tissue, not your hands, when you sneeze or cough.



Elizabeth Baptist Church  
Health Ministry  
Sister Theresa Gibson and  
Sis. Carrie Marion

*Superbugs Resist Antibiotics* - Preventing rather than treating illness is more important now than ever before. Across America, antibiotic resistant infections are becoming more and more common and "superbugs" are evolving. MRSA (methicillin-resistant *staphylococcus aureus*) is a naturally occurring bacteria found in the nose, mouth and genital area of approximately 25 percent of the population. If it finds its way into the body's system via openings in the skin, it can cause serious illness and even death, particularly in older adults or people who have weakened immune systems. MRSA was one of the first germs to outwit all but the most powerful drugs and is still very difficult to medically manage.

Staph infections, including MRSA, generally start as small red bumps that resemble pimples, boils or spider bites. These can quickly turn into deep, painful abscesses that require surgical draining. Sometimes the bacteria remain confined to the skin, but they can also burrow deep into the body, causing potentially life-threatening infections in bones, joints, surgical wounds, the bloodstream, heart valves and lungs.

So, the bottom line is PREVENTION. To avoid colds, the flu, pneumonia and dangerous staph infections such as MRSA, the power is in your hands! Wash them often, wash them well and enjoy good health in all the seasons of your life. \*\*

\* Helpful hint-use disinfectant spray, disinfecting wipes, etc. to clean door knobs, remote controls, keyboards etc., to keep from spreading your germs.

**CHURCH MINISTRIES MEETING TIMES**

<b>Mondays</b>	<b>6:30</b>	<b>Missionary Society</b>
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>All-church Bible Study</b>
	<b>7:30</b>	<b>Choir rehearsal</b>
	<b>7:30</b>	<b>Youth Choir rehearsal*</b>
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>New Freedom ministry</b>
	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Praise Dance rehearsal*</b>
<b>Saturdays</b>	<b>9:00</b>	<b>Monthly Bible Study*</b>
	<b>12:00</b>	<b>Praise Team rehearsal</b>
<b>Sundays</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Sunday worship (1st Sun.)</b>
	<b>8:15</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:30</b>	<b>Sunday Worship</b>

*There is a ministry waiting for you. We need your help in kingdom building. Why not get started today?*



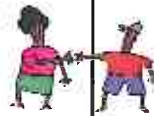
**EBC Ministries & Leaders**

<i>Deacon's Ministry</i>	<i>David Tyus</i>
<i>Stewardship Ministry</i>	<i>Dora Bolden, John Woods</i>
<i>Sunday School Superintendent</i>	<i>Stephanie Tyus</i>
<i>Transportation Ministry</i>	<i>Carolyn Lee</i>
<i>Missionary Society</i>	<i>Thelma Jones</i>
<i>Youth Choir</i>	<i>Dwayne Dixon/Tenisha Pollard</i>
<i>New Freedom Ministry</i>	<i>Elder Joe Golden</i>
<i>Praise Dancers</i>	<i>Tenisha Pollard, Denise Moore Walker, Cori Wallace</i>
<i>Praise Team Ministry</i>	<i>Elder Joseph Golden, Diana Reid</i>
<i>Circle of Prayer Ministry</i>	<i>Terri Hilliard, Thelma Jones</i>
<i>Ushers Ministry</i>	<i>Henry Person</i>
<i>Health Ministry</i>	<i>Theresa Gibson, Carrie Marion</i>
<i>Hospitality</i>	<i>Georgia Thompson</i>
<i>Prison Ministry</i>	<i>Retha Hemhill</i>
<i>Senior's Ministry</i>	<i>Cheryl Goode Killings</i>
<i>Culinary</i>	<i>Ora Gibson</i>
<i>Youth Ministry</i>	<i>Barbara Cowans, Richard Howell, Faye Walker</i>
<i>Audio/ Visual</i>	<i>Sandra Anderson, Charles Ellington III, Theresa Gibson</i>
<i>Women's Ministry</i>	<i>Carolyn Pollard</i>
<i>Domestic Violence Ministry</i>	<i>Diana Reid, Kim Robinson</i>
<i>Drama Ministry</i>	<i>Steve Pinkard, Diana Reid, André Sneed, Victoria Taylor</i>

**Welcome new members to our Elizabeth family.**

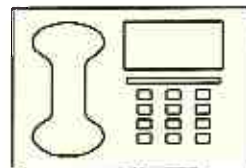
**God is so pleased that you joined this body of believers and we are ecstatic!**

**Welcome once. Welcome twice. Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ!**



Please remember our brothers and sisters overseas fighting for our country in your daily prayers. And don't forget our out-of-town college students. Addresses are available in the church office.

Please remember our sick and shut-ins with your calls and prayers!



*Please give us names of sisters and brothers in the service that we can either pray for and/or write to.*

Bro Aaron Redding

Aaron is no stranger to Elizabeth. He is a dynamic musician with a strong spirit and passion for his music. Aaron grew up in Elizabeth and previously played the piano for the former Elizabeth Senior choir when he was a young man. Aaron can be found playing the keyboard or the organ on any given Sunday. We are blessed to have him and his family here at Elizabeth.



Bro Dwayne Dixon

A musician, music teacher, music director, and much more...Dwayne works with our youth choir, The Young Voices of Praise, where he plays the keyboard. He teaches them new music every rehearsal. Dwayne is a pro when it comes to the drums, and he can make a key board sound like a 50 piece orchestra is coming out of it. Dwayne has advanced his sound of praise by learning to read keyboard music.



Bro Michael Agnew

A.K.A. "The saxophone man," Michael is one of the newest additions to the music ministry, but not to Elizabeth. Michael grew up in Elizabeth as well. He was blessed with the gift to play saxophone in high school, and has been blowing ever since. Just when you think the song is over; here comes Michael delivering a sound that we can only describe as a sound of music from heaven above. No words needed just saxophone. Michael plays other types of horns, as well. Maybe one day we will be blessed to hear him



play them all.

Bro Titus Golden

Titus is a theater actor/ song writer / musician / vocalist/ mime....on and on.....Titus can do it all! This blessed and highly favored young man has many gifts we just can't name them all in one article. Titus is known for his jazzy gospel voice in Elizabeth which ushers in the holy spirit with worship and praise. Titus plays the bongos and keyboard, drums, guitar, and more. Praise is truly what he does, may God continue to bless you real good.



Bro Julius Davis

Julius is also one of our newer members and addition to the band. He plays the clarinet, and he plays it with all his might and soul. It is such a blessing to see this young man offering up his praise to the Lord. Julius is a student of Hawken school and in between school and work, he practices very hard on perfecting his sound in the band. We are so proud to have him with us at Elizabeth and we know his grandmother, mother Bostick is happy to have him here in the choir with her.



*Prayers and thanks to all of the musicians, for all you do with the EBC choir, Young Voices of Praise, the Praise Team, and the Elizabeth Baptist church. We are so happy to have you.*

**Scrapbooking at EBC**

**What is Scrapbooking?**

Scrapbooking is a creative way to preserve memories. Other forms of scrapbooking are; creating greeting cards and decorating personal items that can be kept for a lifetime.

Come out and have fun scrapbooking by making Christmas Cards for that special someone.



**Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

**12-2pm**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



*Please RSVP on the list outside the office so that supplies can be ready for you to use.*



*So, Men, you think you can sing? ...ever try singing in the shower, to your girl, or maybe karaoke? The Mass Choir is in need of your wonderful gifts and talents. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7:00 pm, See any member of the choir for more info. Won't you join today?*

### Domestic Violence Ministry

The Domestic Violence Ministry is beginning its campaign for toiletries and socks for victims of domestic violence. You can help! Donations of lotions, soaps, shampoos, hygienic items and socks will be collected from December 1—December 21, 2008



Monetary donations will be accepted as well. Make your check payable to the *Domestic Violence Center*, earmarked "Elizabeth Baptist Church donation". If you are in need of information concerning this ministry, please contact either Kim Robinson or Diana Reid.

### New Years Eve Watch Night Service

To be held at Evening Star Baptist Church, 9902 St. Clair Avenue at 6:00 pm. \*  
*Join us as we thank God for 2008 and together welcome in 2009 in prayer and praise!!*



*\*Time subject to change*



**Ministry Meeting**— final ministry meeting of the year. Don't miss it. Saturday, December 6, at 10:00 am.



**Annual Food Drive**— will take place on Saturday, December 13 at 9:00 am. "All hands on deck" for packing and distribution are needed.



**Christmas Program and Christmas Give-a-Way**— both occur on Sunday, December 21.

Bring your donations for our give-a-way and invite friends to join us for an awesome celebration and display of Christ's love.



### What do you want for Christmas? What will you give?

A new car? House? Job? Are you content with what you have already been blessed with? Give that question some thought because I'm sure that many of us, as Sis Ruby sings, are "better than blessed." This has been a tumultuous year and things certainly are headed for worse, but look to the hills from whence cometh your help. Our help cometh from the Lord. This year as you begin to reflect on His goodness please consider being good to someone else. There are various ministries of our church; Prison, Mission, Domestic Violence, Christmas Give-a-way, to name a few that you can easily donate to. There are so many hurting people. So many ways that you can help; pick someone up and take them shopping, bring them to church, write them a letter or invite them over for dinner during the holiday season. God, through His Son, gave us the best gift, but He expects us to give reasonably to others. Ephesians 6:7 tells us to give our service to each other as unto God and he will bless us. And be thankful for the opportunity to serve. So many others wish they could offer to someone as you are able to do. So I challenge you today to not only thank God for the ways in which He has blessed you, but be a blessing to others. Have a blessed Christmas!

**What is Regular HEAP?**

The Home Energy Assistance Program ( **HEAP** ) is a federally funded program administered by the Ohio Department of Development, Office of Community Service ( **OCS** ). It is designed to help eligible low-income Ohioans meet the high costs of home heating. If you are eligible for assistance, the amount of your one-time HEAP benefit will depend on federal funding levels, how many people live with you, total household income and the primary fuel you use to heat your home. In most cases, the one-time benefit will be a credit applied to your energy bill by your utility company (or fuel vendor).

**Eligibility Requirements:**

Applications for the 2008-2009 Regular HEAP program will be accepted August 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009. The total household income of an applicant must be at or below 175 percent of the Federal Fiscal Year 2008 federal poverty guidelines listed below:

Size of Household	Total Household Income Twelve Months
1	up to \$18,200
2	\$24,500
3	\$30,800
4	\$37,100
5	\$43,400
6	\$49,700
7	\$56,000
8	\$62,300

For households with more than 8 members, add \$6,300 per member

A household applying for HEAP must report total gross household income for the past 12 months for all members, except wage or salary income earned by dependent minors under 18 years old. Both homeowners and renters are eligible for assistance.

**Exceptions to the Guidelines:**

Families who live in federally-subsidized housing where the heat is included in the rent are not eligible for HEAP.

**Household Income:**

Household income is defined as the total annual gross income before taxes (minus exclusions) of all household members, except earned income of dependent minors under 18 years of age. Head of household and spouse may never be considered minors. Gross household income includes wages, interest, dividends, annuities and pensions. Additional sources that HEAP defines as income include, but are not limited to the following:

- Social Security
- Supplemental Security income (SSI)
- Retirement and/or Company Pensions
- Veterans Pensions (not for service related disability)
- Company Disability and Black Lung
- OWF/TANF/DA
- Alimony
- Unemployment Benefits
- Workers Compensation
- Unearned income paid to or on the behalf of minors
- Cash Gifts
- Lump Sum Distribution (prorated when payment is designated for a set period of time)
- Estate and Trust Settlements (excluding attorney fees)
- Capital Gains (Example: Proceeds from sale of property, home and stock)
- Utility Allowances (as discretionary income)
- Adoption Assistance
- Child Support Received
- Garnished Wages
- Active Military Pay
- Social Security Disability (SSDI)
- Veteran's Disability (VA Disability)

# Missionary Society

On Sunday, November 30, 2008 at 2:30 p.m., the Missionary Ministry will be presenting "The Spiritual Cake". We are inviting the entire congregation to remain with us for this spiritually enlightening event. Refreshments will be provided.

We will be fellowshipping with the Cedarwood Plaza residents on Saturday, December 13th at 2:00 p.m. We thank God for continuing to bless us so we can be a blessing to others.



We will be preparing our annual food baskets for distribution to needy families on Tuesday, December 16th.

For the Christmas holidays, we will be providing lap throws to the Nursing Home patients at Cedarwood Plaza, Fairfax Nursing Home and Cityview Nursing Home. Special thanks to Sisters Shirley Carter and Carolyn Lee for the fabrics and our Youth Department Directors, Sisters Barbara Cowans and Faye Walker for making these beautiful gifts.

## Life Lessons

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way. Then a pheasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the pheasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the pheasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The pheasant learned what many of us never understand!

*Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.*



## The New Laborers Ministry

by *Ta'juanna Leigh Simpson* 


The New Laborers Ministry has been working with the ministries in Elizabeth to meet and greet our new members and introduce them to the ministries of our church. Every three months we have a fellowship hour, in the lower auditorium coupled with light refreshments, after worship service. Elizabeth has welcomed over thirty new members this year. We feel that it is essential that people know that someone cares about them and we want to display that love of Jesus Christ to those who are hurting or may feel alone. We accomplish this with this hour of fellowship. We also find that our new members come with a lot of gifts and talents. Our ministry leaders have become acquainted with these new members while encouraging them to continue the good work God has already started in them.

The New Laborers Ministry enjoys keeping communication open with our new members and teaching them how they can minister, and be ministered to, by the church. The New Laborers Ministry in collaboration with the Co-Laborers Ministry work directly with the pastor and his vision. The Co-Laborers Ministry assists new members as well as present members. This ministry opens a door to explore and renew our faith. The pastor has introduced a *foundations class which is offered each Sunday during Sunday school.*

The pastor has provided personalized folders to the congregation so that we may begin adding printed scriptures / study guides over the course of the year. You can collect them as you attend the foundation class. Some of the topics to be discussed are: reviewing the gifts of salvation, the renewing of our minds through Christ Jesus, sharing with one another and the importance of being a follower of Christ. The topics and teachers change quite often, which makes this class so unique.

Through ministry we want to speak life to encourage ourselves and others, while chasing away discouragement from the enemy, by recalling and reiterating the promises of God's love, is our prayer.

*The New Laborers Fellowship/Co-Laborers Ministry began January 2008 and we are looking forward to a wonderfully blessed year in 2009.*



**First Baptist Church**  
 8005 Holton Avenue  
 Cleveland, OH 44104  
 (216) 391-0433

*A Warm, Welcoming  
 and Loving Body of  
 Believers*

**Worship Schedule**  
 Sundays 10:15 am  
 First Sundays  
 8:00 am & 10:15 am  
 Church School  
 8:45am  
 Wednesday Bible Study  
 6:00 pm  
 New Freedom  
 Thursdays 7:00 pm

The In-Touch Ministry has collaborated with the Usher Ministry to provide an effective tool to communicate with first-time visitors to the church. Each visitor is given a copy of our church's brochure which doubles as an informational piece for the visitor, as well as for us. Each brochure highlights what salvation is, features "words from our pastor" and not only an invitation to return, but an opportunity to inform our diaconate of any concerns or questions a visitor might have. In addition, it lists the ministries of our church so that a visitor who may be thinking about joining our church can already begin to think about how he/she would like to serve. Feel free to look on the Usher table in the back of the church and pick up one to read, but please save them for our visitors.

And as always, we still need a few good men to serve on our Usher team.



**A SPECIAL "SHOUT-OUT" TO BRO. ORLANDO TURNER FROM THE YOUTH MINISTRY!**

Thank you, Bro. Orlando for helping the youth ministry with their recycling program. Bro. Orlando was the keeper of the cans. He took them to be recycled and the youth ministry gained \$40.05 for their efforts. Too bad more of us didn't participate, but don't fret! We're going to do it all over again in the spring.



*Advent Season, cont. from pg. 1*

purple or red violet of Lent. This does not eliminate any sense of penitence from the Season. With the focus on the Advent or Coming of Jesus, especially in anticipating His Second Advent, there remains a need for preparation for that coming. With the shift to blue for, there is also a tendency to move pink to the Fourth Sunday of Advent. It still remains associated with Joy, but is increasingly used as the climax of the Advent Season on the last Sunday before Christmas. Red and Green are more secular colors of Christmas. Although they derive from older European practices of using evergreens and holly to symbolize ongoing life and hope that Christ's birth brings into a cold world, they are never used as liturgical colors during Advent since they have other uses in other parts of the church year. Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world, first expressed by Israelite slaves in Egypt as they cried out from their bitter oppression. It is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin, and yet who have hope of deliverance by a God who has heard the cries of oppressed slaves and brought deliverance!

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**Come to Sunday School  
 8:15-8:45 am  
 Continental breakfast is served  
 Classes for all ages**

**ARE YOU MISSING CHURCH BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE A RIDE?**  
 Call our church office at  
 391-0433  
 at 216-391-0433

