



The Way

July 2010

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF
HOMESTEAD, FL

"From Sea to Shining Sea"

**A patriotic musical about
God and country by the
FBCH Sanctuary Choir.**

Barbeque following.



July 4

11:00 am

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As the fourth of July approaches, we are reminded of our precious heritage that has been handed down to us as Americans. While people debate whether or not we are a "Christian nation," no one can know history and deny that we were founded upon Christian ideals. Most of history has been rewritten on this subject with youth graduating from high school almost completely ignorant of the values which motivated our founding fathers.

Much of the debate centers around the man named Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson himself was not a Christian. He denied the existence of the supernatural, including all miracles. He even went so far as to publish his own version of the Bible in which he rewrote the gospels, removing Jesus' miraculous deeds and supernatural claims. He literally ended it with Jesus' lifeless body being placed in the tomb; Easter was completely jettisoned.

Do not allow Jefferson's refusal to accept Jesus as Savior and the Bible as God's Word, however, to lead you to conclude that he was not influenced or motivated by Christian principles. History makes clear that Thomas Jefferson was distinctly influenced by the Baptists of his day. William Parkinson was a founding member of the First Baptist Church of Washington DC. He served as the congressional chaplain for three consecutive sessions during which he preached the gospel at the Capitol weekly. He spoke of Jefferson's attendance in a letter saying, "I have moreover the pleasure of stating the president has missed but one of my meetings at the Capitol." That's right... Thomas Jefferson only missed one weekly service in which the Baptist preacher, Rev. Parkinson, was preaching!

One particular church, Albemarle Baptist Church in Virginia (I'm told it continues to exist) held particular sway in Jefferson's life. Monthly business meetings were held after Sunday morning services

and Jefferson, who attended church simply because he believed in Christianity's moral code, would remain and observe. Jefferson was intrigued by the form of church government he saw. In several letters written by Jefferson, he commented on the democratic form of church government and how it could be a suitable form for federal government. Obviously, he did not imitate what he saw at Albemarle, but sitting through a few Baptist business meetings, he learned some principles which he brought to the table of the experiment of American government. (By the way, let this serve as a warning...you never know when the next Thomas Jefferson is watching and listening in on your church's business meeting!)

Some will object. "What about the separation of church and state? Didn't that come from Jefferson?" Jefferson did use the phrase in a letter to the Danbury Baptist Association. They had written complaining that the laws of Connecticut were restricting them. They said that their religious privileges were viewed "as favors granted, and not as inalienable rights." They lamented that the constitution was not more specific in guaranteeing that government cannot punish anyone on the basis of their religious opinions. Jefferson responded by arguing that the First Amendment does, in fact, forbid such government interference in the affairs of the church. Thus, "wall of separation" was never meant to suggest that there is to be a separation of God from government or that government cannot acknowledge a single, Supreme Creator. It meant that government was to see a wall between itself and the affairs of the church.

Perhaps Jefferson's most articulate words on America's relationship to God are found in this quote: "God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep for-

ever." Jefferson's greatest fear for America was that she might one day be judged by God. I believe that 234 years later, that part has not changed.

I have chosen to use one example, Thomas Jefferson, as an example of how the founding fathers viewed God and Christianity, in particular. It tells us a lot that even a non-Christian like Thomas Jefferson welcomed the preaching of the gospel by a Baptist preacher in the Capitol, learned from sitting in on Baptist business meetings and defended the rights of Baptists in Connecticut. If this was how the founding fathers who *rejected* Christ saw it, what does that tell us about the majority who acknowledged him?

In short, July fourth is not just the celebration of America's independence, it is the celebration of the triumph of ideals that are very much rooted in Christian thought. It is also the acknowledgment that while we are *independent* of Britain, we are *dependent* upon God to sustain us as a nation.

I will talk more about our responsibility as a people to God, as well as our godly heritage, this Sunday, July 4th. We are treating this service as an outreach event. The choir will be presenting a beautiful patriotic musical with a church-wide barbeque following. Don't forget to bring several sides and drop them off in the fellowship hall before 11:00 am worship. **And most of all, invite your friends, neighbors and families. I can't think of a better way to celebrate our nation's birthday than by being reminded in word and song why she was given birth to begin with.**

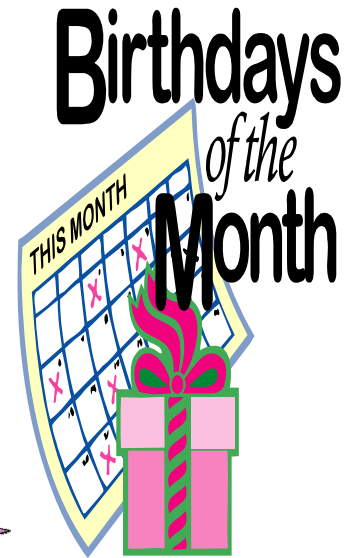
I'll see you and the guests you bring this Sunday!

Pastor Howard



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 07/01 - Ameen Khan | 07/12 - Christina Rodriguez | 07/23 - Judith Milton |
| 07/03 - Lucille Lee | 07/12 - John Tompkins | 07/23 - Ivey Rodriguez |
| 07/04 - Erica Sanchez | 07/12 - Kenneth Tompkins | 07/25 - Megan Wells |
| 07/05 - Jessie Garica | 07/13 - Kevin Rose | 07/26 - Michael Biichle |
| 07/06 - Dorothy Franklin | 07/14 - Everett Allen | 07/28 - Miriam Pardo |
| 07/06 - Robert Jones | 07/14 - Betty Karsyz | 07/29 - Zachael Eldridge |
| 07/06 - Marilyn Maldonado | 07/14 - Dominique Williams | 07/29 - Alberto Guzman |
| 07/08 - Brittany Davidson | 07/15 - Melinda De La Cruz | 07/29 - Pat Place |
| 07/09 - David Catlin | 07/16 - Debra Morris | 07/30 - Marlene Jackson |
| 07/09 - Jacob DeVary | 07/18 - Cynthia Castro | 07/31 - Werner Bliumfeldas |
| 07/10 - Gary Johnson | 07/20 - Larry Dolbee | 07/31 - Rob Bosserman |
| 07/10 - Patti Sourber | 07/20 - Victoria Duenas | 07/31 - Sharlene Kossuth |
| 07/11 - Betsey Dolbee | 07/20 - Jenna Friman | 07/31 - Theodore Quammie |
| 07/11 - Patty Durfey | 07/22 - Amber Love | |
| 07/11 - Louise Stinnet | 07/23 - Dedrick Bailey | |
| 07/12 - Tracy Keith | 07/23 - Jeanne Garcia | |



Music Ministry



What a fabulous Vacation Bible School! If you were not a part of this great week, you missed out! Next year, we are traveling to New York for "The Big Apple Adventure!" I'm sure we will make this a trip of a lifetime. Nineteen decisions were made this year following through the ABC's making Jesus Christ the Lord and Savior of

their lives. Praise the Lord!

Sunday night, August 29th, we have invited Jim Hendricks to be at FBC in concert. No, it is not what you are thinking.....a piano concert. You may visit his web site at www.jimhendricksmusic.com. He enjoyed playing the piano as a child and God has blessed him throughout the

years. The Lord has greatly blessed his decision to bring glory to Christ through music and testimony.

Singing for HIM,
Pam

PS—Hi Peggy



**Stewardship
June 2010**

Contributions for June 2010:	\$	39,634.17
Monthly budget requirements:	\$	44,258.00
Contributions Year to date:	\$	426,013.05
Year to date budget requirement: (Through 38 Sundays)	\$	431,515.50

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



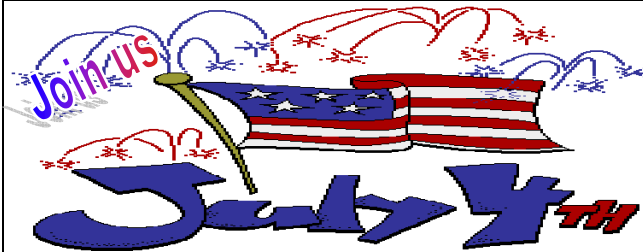
GOT AN OLD BICYCLE?

A visiting summer mission team will be repairing and donating bicycles as part of an evangelistic effort. Let us know if you have an old bike to donate.

First Things First.



Men's Prayer Breakfast
 July 3rd at 8:00 a.m. In the fellowship hall.



Don't forget to bring 2 side dishes to the barbeque luncheon July 4th



July 30th
 Pot-luck luncheon at 12:00 noon

Dates to remember

- ... 07/07 - Church directory meeting 5:00 p.m.
- ... 07/11 - Stewardship meeting at 5:00 p.m.
- ... 01/14 - Business meeting 6:30 p.m.
- ... 07/18 - Sunday school meeting 5:30 p.m.
- ... 07/25 - WOM meeting 5:00 p.m.
- ... 07/30 - Saints Alive 12:00 p.m.
- ... 07/30 - FNL 6:30 p.m.

F.A.I.T.H. EVANGELISM BANQUET
 AUGUST 7, 2010 AT 6:30 PM



Special guest,
 Jeff Hessinger

Dept of Evangelism,
 Florida Bapt. Convention

Church Directory
 Team Meeting

Wednesday, July 7th
 at 5:00 p.m.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD."
 Psalm 33:12

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NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF
HOMESTEAD, FL



Pray for our students as they
continue to minister in
Baldwin county, Alabama
through July 3!

