

the first word

Love God ♦ Love people ♦ Serve others



first baptist **duluth**

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June 2, 2011

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The Boys of Summer

Baseball has been called "America's Pastime." Its players have been referred to as the "boys of summer." In these days of complex computer generated entertainment; it is refreshing to return to the simple joys of a ball and a bat. May of today's adults believe that baseball teaches valuable life lessons. Consider the following such lesson:

Behold a ball team went forth to play a game of ball. Just as the umpire was saying "batter up," the catcher for the home team arrived and took his place. The centerfielder and the second baseman didn't come at all, but later sent regrets saying, "We have to go to a chicken dinner at Aunt Mary's today." The third baseman, likewise, failed to show up. He had been out late the night before and preferred to spend the day in bed. The leftfielder was away visiting another game across town. The shortstop was present, but left his glove at home.

Verily, verily...when the pitcher took the mound, he looked back to see his teammates and his heart was heavy when he saw so many empty places in the line-up. The game had been announced and the spectators were in the stands waiting. So the pitcher tightened his belt and did his level best, but for some reason, he could not put it over the plate. He could not "find the groove." Some of his teammates began to ride him for the wild pitches, and loud "boos" began to come from the stands. At the close of the game, the home team (what was left of them) was mercilessly beaten. After hearing of their team's disgraceful defeat, the absent players decided it must have been due to the poor pitching.

Behold, a preacher went forth to preach...but that's another story.

Many churches suffer from "summeritis" during the fair weather months. Don't you miss out on the many things God is doing at FBC Duluth this summer. We have a "hot" summer in store for us!



Bro. Mark



Goal - \$100,000

\$41,761.53 received
through 5/29

SWAT Makes Big Impact in TN & GA

Our church family was well-represented by SWAT this past weekend, as they made their way to Tennessee for their annual mission trip. Residents at the Alexian Village Retirement center in Signal Mountain, TN, enjoyed our group's presentation of several musical selections, including our new patriotic musical *Free Indeed*. We then traveled to Nashville, where we presented the message of Christ's love in front of several hundred folks outside the Grand Ole Opry house. Following our presentation, the group enjoyed an evening at the Grand Ole Opry, where we saw and heard such country music stars as Little Jimmy Dickens, Vince Gill, Josh Turner, and Riders in the Sky.

On Sunday, we ministered at the Grassland Heights Baptist Church and enjoyed a lunch fellowship with their student group, before hitting the road for Knoxville. On Sunday evening we conducted a neighborhood ice cream social and block party for the residents of the Western Heights area, where we presented our musical and shared the gospel with a crowd of several hundred people. Our joy was made complete by seeing one young lady accept Christ following our program.

On Monday morning, we presented our musical at the entrance of Dollywood, and then enjoyed a day at the theme park riding lots of roller coasters and consuming large quantities of liquid. IT WAS HOT. Our group then enjoyed an evening of fellowship and worship back at our camp, before turning in for the night.

Our stop on Tuesday was at Morningside Assisted Living Center in Gainesville, where we had the privilege of once again sharing a variety of musical selections. One of the residents brought her harmonica to our performance and played along with us on one of the songs. Following our stop at Morningside and a quick lunch, we headed for Duluth.

We want to thank the church family for your prayer support before and during our trip. It was a blessing to be able to share Christ's message in so many different places. Only eternity will reveal the complete results of our efforts. We are also looking forward to presenting our patriotic musical "Free Indeed" at FBC Duluth, on the morning of July 3.

First Baptist Church Duluth
FREE Soccer Clinic
 Boys and Girls Age 4-10
Saturday, June 18th
9-12 noon
FBD Ball Fields
Lessons on fundamentals, shooting, and dribbling!
 More Information at www.duluthbaptist.org
 770-476-3788



Sr. Adult Activities

Tuesday, June 14

Triple L Gathering - Picnic in the Family Life Center - 12 noon - There will be grilled hamburgers with the fixin's, relay races, puzzles and more.

Tuesday, June 21

Roadrunners will be going to Rhodes Hall. They will leave Duluth First United Methodist Church at 10:15 am and return at 2:15 pm. The cost is \$20 per person and includes the tour and lunch. See the Sr. Adult Bulletin Board for more information.

For more information and/or to sign up for these activities, see the Senior Adult Bulletin Boards in the hall by room 210 and in the hall by room 229.



Just Born Dr. Hearn, the staff, and church family extend congratulations to David & Sharon Hickmon in the birth of a granddaughter, Mary Claire Cozart on May 20.



First Baptist Church Duluth gratefully recognizes the following Memorial Gifts:

In memory of Ben Benoit from:

- Bob & Vickie Hamilton
- Jerry & Jenny Purcell

In memory of Sue Litzenberger from Jerry & Jenny Purcell.


Bible Study Attendance			Financial Report	
	5/15	5/22	Received 5/15 and 5/22	
Members present	507	487	Budget receipts	\$61,191.76
New members	1	1	Current Building Debt	
Guests	21	12		\$265,622.38
Nursing Home	12	5		
Total present	541	505		

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Missions Testimony

You may remember back in March and April that we prayed for several of our college students that were giving their spring break time to serve in international missions. Now that they have returned, we wanted to share some of their experiences with you. In this edition, we will share the testimony of Bill Muse, who went to China.

"So, after 37 hours of traveling, we finally make it to our hotel in the city where we would be working. We unpacked, then headed out for our first Chinese dinner. It was awesome. The next day we went to one of the school we would be teaching at that week. There we met the teachers (who speak very little English) and the translators who would be working with us that week. DB, our main worker gave his testimony in our worship time, and that was both heart breaking and amazingly inspiring at the same time. Long story short, he moved to China, 7 days later his year old daughter came down with strep throat and 7 days after that she died in his arms on the way to Hong Kong. He is an incredible man of God.



Throughout the week we taught at schools, sang in parks, put on skits and dance routines for the students and all kinds of things. We were able to teach the Gospel in most of the schools we were at because they were private schools. So both elementary school kids and 25 year old teachers got to hear the good news all week for most of them the first time and more than likely (except for the grace of God) the last, which is very sad. But we were able to see them warm up to the message as the days went on and some of them were very eager to learn more.

But the best part of the trip, by far, was getting to meet the Chinese Christians who worked with us the whole week. It really was like meeting the apostles. Their lives, the whole time, were just living out scripture and giving flesh to the Bible. Each one of their testimonies are amazing, because they are actually persecuted. They're like real Christians. The best part is that they were there to serve us. And not only were they there to serve us, they were doing it at the risk of their own lives and with total love and joy. It was an image of Christ selflessly serving the church. And it was all totally out of love. They poured their lives into ours the whole week. And they were so patient with us. If I were in their place I would have been extremely annoyed by a bunch of American Christians who think they have it all together and are coming to save China. But instead, they loved and served us. Note: they all had two weeks notice and they have lives of their own and other things they could be doing. They drove 6 hours to come to the city we were in and did I mention it's all at the risk of being put in prison. So just meeting them and spending time with them was enough to wreck my life. They made you wonder if you're really even Christian. That was the best part of the trip.

FBCD Weekday Preschool & Kindergarten
 Is currently accepting student applications
 for the 2011-2012 School Year
 Our program is accredited through ACSI
 (The Association of Christian Schools International)

To Register and/or for more information contact the Weekday Office at 770-476-3780
 Ann Mooney: Director

Love Grows Here!



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Thursdays in June (16th, 23rd, and 30th) 9am-4pm
 Saturday in June 25th 9am-4pm

Contact Grace Woodard for more information: 770-614-1944 or gracew2u@juno.com

