



"The longer we serve Him, the sweeter He grows, and the sweeter our life grows." 5

FRAZER FAMILY NEWS

VOL. 24 No. 5

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JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2012

NEWS & EVENTS

IN HIS STEPS: VOLUNTEER TRAINING AND LEADERSHIP EQUIPPING DAY JAN. 21

If you signed up to serve in 2012, here is your opportunity to learn more! Get the big picture and the practical details on your chosen volunteer areas Saturday, Jan. 21. Equipping sessions will be held between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. that day. A schedule of leadership equipping sessions, as well as options for elective training sessions will be available in the Atrium and information centers around the church or online. Lunch will be provided at no charge at 12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. For more information or questions about your specific volunteer area, please contact the ministry you signed up to serve with in 2012.

FRAZER'S FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM-Sign up for a professional portrait session and be a part of Frazer's first Family Photo Album in over five years! Frazer has partnered with Lifetouch, Inc., to produce a Family Photo Album for our church and we want every family to be involved. Sign up today to come to the East Sanctuary during the month of February for a short, fun photo session. Every family will receive one free 8x10 photo and a copy of the photo album. You will have the opportunity to purchase additional photos but there is no obligation or pressure to buy. Lifetouch has also agreed to donate \$1 for every photo sitting plus 5 percent of sales to our Transform Haiti missions project. Photo sessions are open to everyone who attends Frazer, even if you haven't formally joined the church (although we can help with that, too!). To reserve your photo session, go to frazerumc.org/photo and click the link to reserve through the Lifetouch reservation system. You may also sign up at the registration table on Sunday mornings.

WINTER 2012 CONNECTIONS AVAILABLE

Looking for a Bible study, Sunday School class or other activities? Check out Connections, your guide to Frazer's small group and Bible study opportunities and fellowship activities for all ages. The Winter 2012 issue is now available. Pick up your copy in the Atrium and other locations around the church so you can prayerfully consider where you want to connect and grow in the new year. You can also view it online at frazerumc.org/groups.

MORE EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS PAGE 3

Frazer commits to 'Follow Jesus' in 2012

By Mac McLellan NEWS STAFF WRITER

As members of Frazer, we have a commitment to follow Jesus through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. This commitment is vital to the success of each ministry at Frazer. In October, the church mailed 5,900 commitment cards to its members as part of the annual In His Steps campaign. Several events were held to help members learn more about the variety of ministry areas available to serve with and how God can use each one of us to make a difference in our community and our world by following Him.

As of the beginning of this year, 28 percent of the commitment cards have been returned, with 78 percent of the 2012 budget pledged. It is not too late to turn in your card, however, and get involved with serving within a ministry this year.

A church wide Volunteer Training and Leadership Equipping Day is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 21. Letters have been sent to confirm areas where members have selected to volunteer their time, talent, and gifts. Members are asked to review the areas selected and to contact Teri Brown if the information is incorrect or you would like to make any changes.

Commitment cards are still arriving every day. In order to assist Frazer members who might have misplaced their commitment cards, additional cards have been placed in pews and chair backs, at the Connection Point, and at two collection boxes, one in the Atrium and one outside the Main Sanctuary.



PHOTO BY LEE WERLING

The Frazer congregation made their commitments to serve and give in 2012 by placing their In His Steps commitment cards on the altar on Commitment Sunday in November.

If you have any questions, or need to make additions or changes to the areas where you have selected to volunteer, please contact Teri Brown, In His Steps Coordinator, at teri@frazerumc.org or 495-6331.

To see more images from the 2012 In His Steps events, please see page 4.

Two Frazer families honored with community award



PHOTOS BY MARTHA POOLE SIMMONS

Frazer members Carolyn Bell, left, and Martha John and Bill Allison, along with their families, were recently honored as two of the River Region's 2011 Families of the Year.

By Dr. Martha Poole Simmons NEWS STAFF WRITER

Two Frazer families were among seven families from the River Region honored with the 2011 Families of the Year Award, sponsored by the Family Guidance Center of Alabama. Carolyn Bell and her family and Bill and Martha John Allison and family were recognized for their contributions to the community.

Since 1989, outstanding families have been spotlighted and recognized as a way to bring positive recognition to families in the community. The focus of the program is the importance of family and the effort needed from all members to keep a family strong. These include traditional, step and single-parent families. Criteria for nomination and selection of this award include family involvement in community activities, family teamwork and encouraging individual growth.

Continued page 5



Want to watch a sermon again?
Check TV broadcast times at
wfrz.com or watch online at
frazerumc.org/media

Tune in to WFRZ on Knology
and Charter Channel 13,
Brighthouse Channel 122 and
UHF Channel 34.

SIGN UP FOR FRAZER'S E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

Our e-mail newsletter is your
weekly connection to news,
events, classes and volunteer
opportunities at Frazer.

Click straight from the
newsletter to videos, worship
guides, surveys and
more from frazerumc.org.
Once you sign up, you can
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To pass along information or story ideas, please leave a note in
the editor's mailbox in the church office, call 272-8622, or send
e-mail to ffn@frazerumc.org.

Editor..... Amy Presley

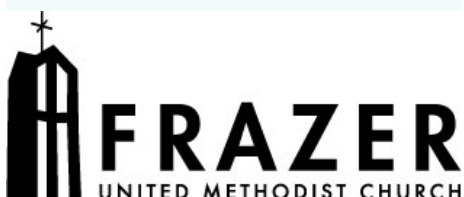
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Frazer's Columbarium completed in North Garden

By Mac McLellan NEWS STAFF WRITER

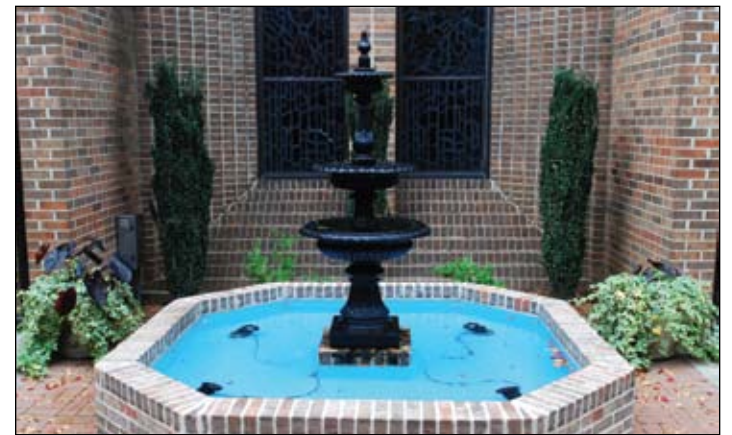
Several months ago Frazer members were reminded that, as Christians, we know where we will spend eternity, but what about our earthly bodies? Wouldn't it be wonderful to know that your final resting place on earth would be at your place of worship?

The Charitable Trust and the Board of Stewards approved the construction of a Columbarium in the North Garden on the Chapel side of the garden, which is now complete. What is a Columbarium? It is a place to inter the remains of cremated individuals. The first phase of the plan has constructed a Columbarium with 260 niches; each holding two urns, so a couple can purchase a niche as their final resting place.

The fountain in the North Garden has been moved from its previous location to the Sanctuary side of the garden, and the garden totally re-landscaped. Two concrete benches have also been added next to the Columbarium.

The Columbarium was constructed by Eickhof Columbaria, Inc. in Crookston, Minn. It was manufactured at the plant, disassembled, shipped to Montgomery, and reassembled in the North Garden by personnel from the plant. The Columbarium is constructed of black granite. Engraving will include names and appropriate dates. The Columbarium is an investment for the Charitable Trust and was built at no expense to the church.

Cost of a niche with two urns is \$1,600. Of the 260 niches, 18 have been purchased and the first inurnment was recently conducted. If you have questions regarding the Columbarium please contact Harold Faulkner, Charitable Trust Development Director, at his office 495-6305, or his cell phone 324-3910.



PHOTOS BY MAC MCLELLAN

Frazer recently had a Columbarium installed in the North Garden, a courtyard located between the Sanctuary and the Chapel. Top: The Columbarium includes 260 niches. Bottom: The original fountain from the North Garden was relocated to the opposite wall, lending to the peaceful environment for a final resting place.

Help Toasty Toes Ministry bring warmth and a smile to the elderly in our community



TOASTY TOES MINISTRY

Donate new socks for the elderly living in
local nursing homes/assisted living facilities

We will distribute them in time for Valentine's Day

Collection boxes will be located in the Atrium
JANUARY 8 - FEBRUARY 5

Contact Donna Burnett for more details (277-9011)

Toasty Toes Ministry is collecting socks through Feb. 5. Drop off boxes are located in the Atrium. Please bring Valentine theme socks and men's socks in traditional colors. Socks will be distributed to area nursing homes and assisted living facilities on Feb. 10, 11, and 12. If you are interested in helping with the delivery of socks, please contact Donna Burnett at 277-9011 or donna.burnett@iberiabankmortgage.com

Announcements

NEWS + EVENTS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE NEEDS YOUR HELP- Congregational Care is here to care for members of the Frazer Family in times of need, such as hospitalizations, surgeries, deaths or critical illnesses. Please notify Congregational Care in the event that a Frazer Family member is facing one of these situations by calling 495-6420 or e-mailing care@frazerumc.org

SWAP MICHAEL W. SMITH ADVANCE TICKETS- If you purchased advance tickets to the March 18 Michael W. Smith concert, you may now exchange them for regular tickets in the Frazer Bookstore. Tickets are still on sale in the Frazer Bookstore for \$30.

BOARD OF STEWARDS- The Board of Stewards will meet Sunday, Jan. 22 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

FREE AARP TAX ASSISTANCE- Frazer will again offer free AARP Tax assistance for anyone seeking assistance in preparing their Federal and State Income Tax Returns. Beginning in February, this service will be available throughout the tax season. Please call the church office at 272-8622 to schedule an appointment.

SPORTSMEN'S MINISTRY BANQUET FEB.2- The 10th Annual Sportsmen's Ministry Banquet (formerly the Wild Game Dinner) will take place Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This catered dinner will feature guest speaker, David Blanton, great music and door prizes. Admission is \$10 per adult and free for kids 8 years old and under. Purchase tickets at the Sportsmen's Ministry table in the Atrium Sunday, Jan. 22 and Jan. 29, or call Frazer's Activity Center, 495-6459, for more information.

DISCIPLESHIP + FELLOWSHIP

MEN'S MINISTRY Our "Man Up" and "Real Men" Wednesday night Bible studies for men will be back Wednesdays at 6 p.m. starting Jan. 11. Both studies are open to all ages but "Man Up" is designed for younger men (20-40) while "Real Men" will be geared for the more experienced.

Monthly third Thursday men's supper will be Jan. 19 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$5. February Monthly Breakfast, Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

MEN: DISCOVER FAITH BASED MENTORING- Frazer is launching a mentoring program that will match experienced men with younger men for professional and spiritual mentoring in 2012. To learn more, visit frazerumc.org/mentor.

SUNDAY LUNCH RESUMES- Make your reservations for Third Sunday Lunch and Fellowship, Jan. 22 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. E-mail lunch@frazerumc.org and let us know you plan to be there.

NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASSES ON SUNDAY MORNINGS- Seven new classes will be forming this month, at all three worship hours, in addition to the many excellent classes already in place. If you have not already plugged into a class where you can study the Bible with others, this is a great opportunity to start. Check out the new Connections magazine in the Atrium or frazerumc.org/groups for details.

ONE FAMILY ICE CREAM SOCIAL- Have you adopted, fostered, or supported a family in the process? Are you interested in any of those? If so, please join us for an ice cream social on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2:30- 4 p.m. in room 8114. It will be a fun afternoon of connecting with other families who share your same passion!

PRAYER CLASS- A four-week course called Developing Your Prayer Life will begin Feb. 1 at 6 p.m. in room 3201. The class will teach the essentials of a believer's prayer life. To register, contact Sandy Boswell at sandy@frazerumc.org or 495-6391.

SERVING + GIVING

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO THE INTERNATIONAL MISSION FIELD IN 2012? Frazer has trips scheduled to Haiti every month in 2012, as well as trips to Guanabacoa Church in Cuba (April) and Stella's House Orphanage in Moldova (June). For more information or to sign up, contact Butch McPherson 495-6325 or visit the Mission Table in the Atrium Sunday mornings.

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE- Be sure to take the time to give blood in the Fellowship Hall on Jan. 29 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This precious gift can save up to three lives!

CARING FOR OUR CONGREGATION

BIRTHS

We rejoice with our members who have recently welcomed a new child into their family since late October.

- A son, "Brycen" Connor, born to Brittany and Blake McArdle Oct. 26, 2011.
- A son, "Frank" Joseph, born to Heather and Frank Chinoski Nov. 15, 2011.
- A son, "John Mills," born to Tracy and T.J. Williford Dec. 1, 2011.
- A son, Thomas "Walker," born to Aimee and Brent Vinson Dec. 2, 2011.
- A son, "Luke" Bentley, born to Larra and Matthew Wallace Dec. 13, 2011.
- A son, "Samuel" Elliott, born to Sarah and Mike Freeman Dec. 30, 2011.

DEATHS

We extend our deepest Christian sympathy and love to those families who have recently experienced the death of a loved one. Remembering these families in your prayers, giving them a call or sending a card provides healing ministry and extends the love of Christ during this time of loss and grief.

- June Farr
- Mother of Kathi Rowe
- Susan Sneed
- Mother of Carolyn Rawl
- Mother of Sherman Williams
- June Robinson
- John Morgan
- Lorie Tueling
- Mother of Jerry Peters
- Mother of Jim Salminen
- Mother of Linda Hickey
- Daughter of Doris and Ross Bell
- James Chavers
- Mother of Patrick Byrd
- Father of April Muschara
- Father of Carole Ezekiel
- Father of Katanga Mants
- Father of Angela Eddy
- Mother of Sylvia Abbott
- Mother of John Fleming
- Son of Linda and Lee Snell
- Maxine Koolman
- Lynda Woodall
- Mother of Ken Brock
- Father of Janie Hodgson
- Son of Sue Barron
- Jim Dexter
- Archie Culberson
- Father of Andy Tolar
- Mother of Lisa Bachant
- Mother of Dana Webster
- Mother of Billy Crumley

In His Steps

continued from page 1



PHOTO BY LEE WERLING

A Ministry Expo in the Atrium offered the opportunity to learn more about each ministry area and how to get involved.



PHOTO BY LEE WERLING

Members brought their commitment cards forward as they pledged to serve, give, pray and participate in God's plan for Frazer in 2012.



PHOTOS BY LEE WERLING

Frazer's prayer ministry set up an interactive prayer experience in the east sanctuary and invited the congregation to take time to pray for the church, community, world and our individual responses to god's calling for our lives in 2012.



PHOTO BY CHRIS THORNTON

Steering Committee members and Captains joined together in Communion as they made their commitments a week early at the In His Steps Rally.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR COMMITMENT CARD, PLEASE CALL THE IN HIS STEPS OFFICE AT 495-6331, OR GO TO FRAZERUMC.ORG/INHISSTEPS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Sportsmen's Ministry Banquet Feb. 2



PHOTO COURTESY OF REALTREE

David Blanton will be the guest speaker at the Sportsmens Ministry Banquet Feb. 2.

Mark your calendars for the 10th Annual Sportsmen's Ministry Banquet (formerly known as the Wild Game Dinner), Thursday, Feb. 2. This year's event will offer a catered dinner (no food or dish is required to attend) in the Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m., followed by our guest speaker David Blanton.

David Blanton is the executive producer of Bill Jordan's Real Tree Outdoors® television show since its premier in 1993, and has been an integral part of Realtree's video efforts since 1991. He is also the executive producer of the Monster Bucks® video series, and has earned a solid reputation in the hunting industry for recording and harvesting trophy bucks, turkeys and other wildlife, from chasing whitetails in Illinois to elk in Colorado-his countless hours in front of the and behind the camera have proven him to be a successful hunter.

"I have the greatest job in the world," he said. "God has

blessed me with a platform that I can share my testimony to other men and women who have a passion for the outdoors. And for that, I am grateful."

Don't miss Blanton's powerful and inspiring message at the 10th Annual Sportsmen's Ministry Banquet, along with great music, a delicious dinner and a chance to win a Benelli shotgun and other door prizes.

Admission is \$10 per adult and free for kids 8 years old and under. Purchase tickets at the Sportsmen's Ministry table in the Atrium Sunday, Jan. 22 and Jan. 29, or call Frazer's Activity Center, 495-6459, for more information.

MICHAEL W. SMITH

**LIVE AT FRAZER
MARCH 18**

Multi-Dove and Grammy award winning Christian artist Michael W. Smith will be in concert at Frazer March 18. Tickets are \$30 and on sale now in the Frazer bookstore.

Families honored

continued from page 1

Bell Family

Eleven years ago, Carolyn Bell became a widow when her husband passed away at the age of 33, leaving her with five children ranging in age from one to nine years. Because Carolyn worked as an elementary teacher, her salary made her unqualified for any governmental assistance. She learned to totally rely on the Lord for everything that is needed. The Lord spoke to Carolyn and told her not to be fearful, she said. He reassured her by saying, "You can do this because I am with you."

The immediate problem of providing daycare for her then one-year-old baby and two-year-old twins was solved when a Prattville church offered to care for all three children for only the price of one child. Now Carolyn teaches sixth grade at Pine Level in Autauga County, teaches summer school, and tutors in the evening at her school.

"As an elementary teacher, I have the best job in the world. Every day that I am in the classroom, I realize the impact that I have on children. The things that I say can make or break them at such an impressionable age," she said. "After my husband's death, I realized how precious life is and how much that we need each other. I always try to find the good in each of my students and show them how the world is much a better place because of them. When a person walks with God, nothing is impossible."

The Bell children include Eyanna and Joseph, who attend Prattville Junior High School; Jayla, who attends Floyd Middle School; Essence, who attends Prattville High School and Eboni who attends Spelman College. The entire family participates in daily family Bible study and prayer together. The children are involved in local mission work through Frazer, and Essence and Eboni have gone on two international mission trips. Four of the five Bell children participated in the Youth Worship Arts mission trip last summer, performing and hosting "block parties" in New York City housing projects.

Carolyn has been a Frazer member for more than eight years, and she serves as a substitute Sunday School teacher in the Women in Christ class, and volunteers with the Youth Missions BBQ and Youth Worship Arts.

The Bell family has made sacrifices, but the members of the family feel blessed to have each other and that it is important for them to glorify the Lord for all that he has done for them. The children have learned that priorities are important, and they cannot always have or do what many of their friends do.

"As a parent and teacher, I no longer try to live up to the world's standard of who I should be, what I should wear, or what I should have accomplished by now. I live each day knowing that it is only what the Father thinks of me that matters," Carolyn said. "I have clung to the promises of God for a long time, but now I cling to God, the promiser."



PHOTO BY ELIJAH PUGH

The Carolyn Bell family: Carolyn Bell and her five children- Joseph, Eyanna, Essence, Jayla and Eboni. The family was chosen as one of the 2011 Families of the Year for their contributions to the community.

Allison Family

Retired U. S. Army Colonel Bill Allison and Frazer's Older Adult Director, Martha John Allison, along with their daughters, Alisa and Yancey, continue to accomplish much on behalf of others. Bill serves on the Salvation Army Advisory Board and as the coordinator for Frazer's Salvation Army bell-ringers. Ralph Frith of the Roy Cox Sunday School Class originally proposed the idea to serve as Salvation Army Bell Ringers for one day at Wal-Mart, when the store was located across from Frazer. This year more than 600 Frazer members manned 75 Kettle days at Sam's Club and the Chantilly Wal-Mart. For more than 20 years, Bill has recruited Frazer volunteers who have collected up to \$54,000 annually. The money raised brings the spirit of Christmas to the less fortunate in the community. Bill's volunteer work has spilled over to Frazer in the Older Adult Ministry by assisting with games, presenting devotionals, transporting shut-ins to activities, constructing displays, serving on the Congregational Care staff by visiting shut-ins, making hospital visits, assisting grieving people with making funeral arrangements, writing obituaries and eulogies and officiating at funerals.

Martha John's experience serving older adults began as a child when her mother and grandmother took her with them on weekly visits to assist older adults. At the many Army posts where the Allisons were stationed over 27 years, she served and provided leadership for military distaffs' functions. Martha John has guided scores of volunteers at Frazer in her 25 years as the Director of Frazer's Older Adults Ministry. She is an active member of the Board of Trustees for the Methodist Homes Corporation of Alabama and Northwest Florida. Her dedicated interest and devotion to the spiritual life of the residents of Wesley Gardens is evident by her organizing and conducting Sunday morning worship service weekly for 23 years. She recruits song leaders, pianists, local ministers and



PHOTO BY RANDY ALLEN

Bill and Martha John Allison, and their daughters Alisa and Yancey, were recognized as one of the 2011 Families of the Year by the Family Guidance Center of Alabama.

others for each service. Having served as the President and Ways and Means Chairman of the Wesley Gardens Auxiliary, she chaired the capital campaign raising \$427,000 for the Wesley Gardens Life Enrichment Center, which is almost completed. Martha John comforts people at hospital emergency, patient and waiting rooms, and she provides meals, clothing and household items for people returning home from hospitals. Whenever someone needs help in making the transition from living at home to assisted living facilities or to nursing home, she provides assistance and comfort.

"What I am doing at Frazer gives purpose to my life," Martha John said. "Through prayer and persistence, everything that has been done in Older Adult Ministry has been done on the Lord's timing which has been perfect timing. The longer we serve Him, the sweeter He grows, and the sweeter our life grows."

The Allisons' daughters have each exhibited the strong work and moral ethics of their parents. Yancey, a graduate of Millsaps College, is a freelance photographer in the Memphis area. Alisa, a graduate of Auburn University, received her master's degree in Theatre Management through the University of Alabama and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival; she is currently employed in the theatre arts program at Auburn University.

The Allisons have been married for more than 50 years, and the couple said, "Where there is a need, we want to be there."

"When I get ready to look at the annual two months involvement with the bell-ringers' program, I feel that I have the opportunity to provide the vehicle for service to those who want to serve," Bill said. "I think that what both of us do is to provide the framework for others to serve."



PHOTO BY LEE WERLING

Cherub and Pre-K Choirs



PHOTO BY LORI MERCER



PHOTO BY LORI MERCER



PHOTO BY AMY PRESLEY

Women's Christmas Tea



PHOTO BY CHRISTHURTON

Pancake Breakfast for Missions



PHOTO BY DIANA BUNCH



PHOTO BY DIANA BUNCH



PHOTO BY DIANA BUNCH



PHOTO BY LYDIA CULP

Cherub Church

Hanging of the Greens at Frazer



PHOTO BY LEE WERLING



PHOTO BY MARCUS DORSEY

Crave Christmas Outreach at Village Green Apartments



PHOTO BY LEE WERLING

Youth Worship Arts



PHOTO BY LEE WERLING



PHOTO BY LORI MERCER



PHOTO BY MAC MCLELLAN



PHOTO BY CHRIS THORNTON



PHOTO BY CHRIS THORNTON



PHOTO BY LORI MERCER



PHOTO BY LORI MERCER



PHOTO BY MAC MCLELLAN



PHOTO BY JUDI MALLORY

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship



PHOTO BY MAC MCLELLAN



PHOTO BY MAC MCLELLAN



PHOTO BY MAC MCLELLAN



PHOTO BY MAC MCLELLAN



PHOTO BY MAC MCLELLAN



PHOTO BY MAC MCLELLAN

Girls reframe how they see God and His plans for their lives at Fall retreat

By AnnaBeth Crittenden NEWS STAFF WRITER

More than 50 sixth-12th grade girls came into the CRAVE room Oct. 7 for a Girl's Retreat and they were prepared to have a great time and learn about God's plan for their lives. The retreat's theme, "Frame of Mind," was designed to teach girls to be in the right mindset about God.

For the first part of the retreat, the middle school girls and high school girls were separated. *The middle school girls arrived at 6 p.m. Seventh grader McAuley Parker said the girls "had discussions about 'all the helmets' that girls hide behind, Zumba, dancing, and good food! It was great! I am so glad that I went."

The older girls arrived at 10 p.m. and all of the girls were greeted with frames decorating the room and Bible verses showing God's love, such as Romans 12:2 and 1 Corinthians 2:16. The night was kicked off with Zumba, which was a favorite for many of the girls at the retreat.

"The best part of the girls retreat was probably zumba! If you were in one frame of mind, you were focusing on exercising and burning calories, going to a healthier you," McAuley said. "But in another frame, you were doing a bunch of hilarious dance moves that made you look like an idiot! It was definitely an example that you had to pick a frame of mind."

After the dancing, the girls returned to the CRAVE room to listen to the speaker, Cierra Cook and worship with music leader Leah Faith.

"The speaker this year was amazing. She captured my attention and made me want to know more and dig deeper," said 10th grader Cayla Hamilton.

During the time of worship, the girls were able to experience God's love and learn how vast His love is for them. Eleventh grader Mary Beth Garcia said, "I saw God in the people around me, including the other girls there, the amazing leaders, the people who ran the retreat, and the guests such as the singer and speaker. Each lesson put old things into a new perspective."

The retreat lasted two days with all the girls camped out in the CRAVE room overnight. On the last day, the



PHOTOS BY MARY OGDEN

Top: Sixth through 12th grade girls worship during the "Frame of Mind" Girls Retreat in October. Bottom: One of the activities included decorating photo matts for Haiti with Bible verses the girls discussed over the weekend.



PHOTOS BY MARY OGDEN

Top: Girls have fun with Zumba! Bottom: The "Frame of Mind" theme was carried through every aspect of the retreat, as girls learned to reframe their way of thinking to align with God's plan for their lives.

girls had another worship session and were able to place a frame on the cross, representing their "frame of mind." The girls also participated in an arts and crafts activity where they painted and wrote Bible verses and phrases on picture frames. The girls were even able to help Toni Doss's organization (For the Least of These) by purchasing T-shirts or bracelets to help raise money for orphans. A drawing for one of "For the Least of These" T-shirts also ensued. By the end of the retreat, the girls had a Frame of Mind for God. When asked what the phrase "frame of mind" meant to her, Cayla said, "The phrase means that your thoughts become your actions and words. Positive thoughts mean positive actions and words. Negative thoughts mean negative actions and words. The way you look at something in life, may it be a tragedy or a happy time, can change the way you deal with those things. Others are always

watching and we have to be a good representation of Jesus. I also pay more attention to the things that I say, think, and do. I have more faith in God, and I know that He is going to handle everything. I don't worry so much anymore."

Mary Beth Garcia said the retreat showed her "how precious all of God's children are to him, and what it means to give thanks and follow him in return. It's all about keeping him in mind with whatever we do and bringing everything to him." Overall, every girl that went to the Girl's Retreats came home with a "frame of mind" that was focused more on God.

ROGUE

DISCIPLINOW 2012

STUDENTS GRADES 6-12
FEB. 18-20 • DEADLINE FEB. 5

Students: Don't miss DNOW Retreat

Staff Reports

We've bought into the lie that more is better; life is about me; live the American dream. But this doesn't feel right. Something inside us is calling us to be different. Over the course of the weekend students will be going ROGUE. From our four amazing worship sessions, games, challenges, and small groups we will learn that following Jesus means your willing to have less; live for Him; and pursue His dream no matter the cost. You will be different.

All 6-12th graders are invited to join us Feb.-18-20 at Shocco Sprints in Talladega. Cost is \$125 (\$50 non-refundable deposit), and deadline to register and pay deposit is Feb. 5. For more details about DNOW, go to frazerumc.org/dnow. You can register online or come by the CRAVE office. A parent meeting will be held Feb.12 at 5 p.m. Call the CRAVE office at 495-6409 with any questions.

Cuba mission team: 'They have nothing, so Christ is everything'

By Gary Cochran SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Frazer sent a team of 10 missionaries to Cuba Sept. 14-24. The team included Gary Cochran, Truman and Linda Hornsby, Charles Jones, Bob Scruggs, Sandra Wood, Charles and Sharon Woernle, Kevin Shubird and Brent Smith, and six of these were first timers. The trip was a huge success as God was in all of the details and the team felt the presence of the Holy Spirit throughout the journey.

Upon arrival in Havana, the team unloaded gear and then visited Frazer's new "Sister" Church, Iglesia Metodista in Guanabacoa. The Guanabacoa Church is a vibrant, enthusiastic, growing Methodist congregation 30 kilometers from Havana. Guanabacoa is a barrio of 145,000 people and is the center of the Santeria (voodoo) religion in Cuba. In spite of this, the Guanabacoa Methodist Church has added 200 members over the past year and are in the process of building a sanctuary on the third floor to accommodate this growth. Several former practitioners of witchcraft have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and are now leaders in the church. Like many Methodist churches in Cuba, Guanabacoa has birthed several Mission churches and has 22 active house churches led by church lay leaders.

Team member Bob Scruggs said he was inspired by the ways they witnessed the Cuban Christians live out their faith, despite limited resources.

"Their enthusiasm for Jesus was contagious and lifted us to greater heights in our own faith. We felt embraced by their great generosity and love. Our hearts were moved by so many individual personal examples of Cuban Christians in being bold in their faith in spite of living in a society that places many barriers in their path and promotes only atheism," Bob said. "Their charismatic services are bold also in their praise of the Lord and in their witness to bring others to Christ. Church is fun in Cuba!"

On the second day, the team traveled to Camp Canaan, a Methodist retreat center in the center of Cuba. It was constructed over a five year period by United Methodist Volunteers in Missions teams from the United States. The team spent several days working on a new dormitory for the camp. During the stay, the team was blessed with the opportunity to worship at four different Methodist churches. Three team members gave the message during these worship services.

Charles Jones noted that his first impression of Cuba was the poverty he witnessed as they arrived, with the buildings and roads in need of repair. But once the team started to meet the people they came to minister to, Charles said his impression began to change.

"Cuba is a nation undergoing a spiritual revival. The Methodist church is on fire for Jesus Christ. The gospel is being spread from house to house with the many house churches. Although the building may be substandard by our standards, the worship in these services was spirit filled and lively," Charles said. "The Cuban Methodist did for less complaining on what



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY CUBA MISSION TEAM

Clockwise from top left: Worship in Cuba; the team takes a break at the worksite where they were helping to build walls for a new dormitory; team member pray; the women from Frazer's mission team spend time with the cooks at Camp Canaan learning how to cook Cuban dishes.

they didn't have and focused more on what they did have—Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. My only regret in going was I wish I could have packed my last impression of Cuba in my suitcase and brought it back to Frazer."

Sharon and Charles Woernle had their first experience in public evangelizing when they went to the market. The vendors asked what brought them to Cuba and Charles said they had the opportunity to explain that they were on a mission trip with the Methodist church.

"This led to genuine interest on the part of several vendors. One said he was a Christian also, and ran off and came back with two other Christian vendors. One had studied in the U.S. and so knew English well and served as our translator when we bartered for a painting," Charles said. "Sharon pulled out our song sheet to write down the artist's name, and having those songs in hand led the vendors and us to sing several of the Spanish praise songs right there in the market.

During the last day at Camp Canaan, the ladies in the team spent the morning with the Cuban cooks. Even though the ladies could not speak Spanish and the Cubans couldn't speak English, everyone had a great time. The ladies sorted rice and learned how to cook many different Cuban dishes. The team also was tasked with helped move several hundred cement blocks at the camp, by loading them onto a trailer pulled by a tractor that needed to be pushed off to start each time, and then unloading the blocks where they were going to be used to build walls for a new dormitory, said team member Truman Hornsby.

"Many of the Cuban people are in such difficult straits yet they are happy and show Jesus in their everyday lives. At camp Canaan the bunk beds are three high with no air conditioning and limited bathroom facilities yet they call this a resort. I don't think that is how we would have described the area when we first arrived but by the time we left he was right it was indeed a special place that has been blessed by God and used mightily for His Kingdom in Cuba," Truman said.

Bob added, "I would say that the Cubans have an advantage over us that is paradoxical. They have nothing, so Christ is everything. We have everything, and so we have distractions and things that often cause us to lose the focus that they are able to achieve. We went to bless them and we returned greatly blessed by them. Our individual perspectives of faith and worship have been greatly enhanced. Our prayer is that the Cuban revival among the people will endure for many generations."

In 2012, Frazer plans to send a team to the Guanabacoa Church April 19- 28. Part of the team will be involved in developing a woman's ministry with the church and part of the team will be working on construction of the sanctuary. Please call Gary Cochran at 669-9623 if you feel God calling you on this short term mission trip.

Learning new things

My daughter Jeanelle kept telling me how wonderful her electronic book was to read. She even shared it with me on vacation, and showed me all the benefits of owning one. You could put 3,500 books on it, and the books were only a “click” away. I was still skeptical, but everyone I talked to about it said “Get one, you won’t regret it.”

So I was the new owner of another electronic device I had to learn to use. Unfortunately for my pocketbook, they are very easy to use. Too easy. I love to read series, and some of the books of the authors I enjoy reading are free, or charge 99 cents for the number one book in the series. Great! But, after that the next four or five are the regular price. Yes, I’ve succumbed to the power of the “one click.” I can begin reading in 60 seconds. I’m happy to say I have selected good books, not trash.

I decided I would buy a Bible to download into the device, and thought I’d be so smart to take it to Bible Study. I could just click on whatever scripture we were reading that day. I was so pleased and could hardly wait to use it! Yep! I was so smart that when it became my turn to read a verse, it was found in a different book of the Bible! We had been reading in Matthew, and now I had to find another book! Since I wasn’t acquainted moving



GINGER’S CORNER

Ginger Koerner

around on the device, I had to go back to a real-printed-on-paper Bible. My Bible Study buddies were very patient with me, for which I was truly thankful.

One benefit was that I read several books of the Bible over Christmas break. I discovered I could read the Bible wherever I went. One afternoon I was reading Psalms, one of my favorite books. As I read Psalm I that day, I discovered I couldn’t remember it exactly how I memorized it as a child. This was a different edition, the words were different. I realized that day that I had memorized it in The King James translation. As I thought about the differences in our contemporary translations and paraphrases, I decided I love the poetic writings of The King James version. Yet it’s wonderful we can read and understand our Bible on paper or in electronic devices. We are blessed.

GINGER KOERNER volunteers in the Frazer kitchen and serves as a substitute Sunday School teacher. She has sung in the choir, directed children’s choirs and drama. She is married to Paul and her hobbies are quilting and reading.

Settling old credit card debt

DEAR DAVE: I have old credit card debt that goes back a few years. The account has been sold and re-sold to several collection companies. The limit on the card was \$300, but with late charges and fees I now owe \$1,500. Am I liable for the extra \$1,200? —Monica

DEAR MONICA, You agreed to their terms, which included the right to charge fees and penalties. Legally, they can do this. The honorable thing would be to send the company you contracted with a check for the full amount. However, that company no longer owns the debt, and they won’t get the money. They sold the debt. The present holder is just hoping to get something out of it. They buy debt in volume, dirt cheap, and whatever they can collect from any creditor is profit. The current collection company would probably be thrilled to settle for a lot less than face value. Make them an offer, but start really low. You can probably meet them somewhere in the middle and settle this for around \$500. Do not give them any money until you have in your hand – on



DAVE SAYS

Dave Ramsey

paper, in writing – a statement showing the amount for which they will settle, and do not give them electronic access to your bank account, either. Once you have this in hand, send them a cashier’s check or money order, and keep a copy of that payment and the letter for the rest of your natural life! —Dave

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION. For more great financial advice from Dave Ramsey, visit www.davesays.org.

Need help? Overcoming and eliminating debt can be overwhelming and even seem impossible. If you would like to get started on Dave’s Financial Peace program with his seven Baby Steps to Financial Freedom, or would like to learn how to create a budget, call Gary Sanderson at 462-0839 or sandersong@knology.net.

Avoiding soothsayers



THE FAMILY COUNSELOR

Dr. Don Hill,
Ph.D., LPC

While driving down one of the streets here in Montgomery I noticed a sign in front of the establishment of a palm reader/advisor which read: “Problems solved in love, marriage and bissness.” Now tell me, who would put their business future into the hands (palms) of one who could not spell the word? P.T. Barnum said, “There is a sucker born every minute.” And there are many people just waiting for the advantage of one’s naiveté in such situations.

It is amazing to me to learn of the large numbers of who are devoted to reading the daily horoscope readings. Studies have shown that over 185 newspapers in the U.S. feature astrological columns. People who seek direction from palm readers, fortune tellers, horoscopes or any other such type of chicanery are grasping at any straw and unfortunately, the wrong straw. Dependence on these methods produces backward, weakened people who do not want to take responsibility for their own behavior, so they let others make decisions for them. Inner upset come to those with no inner anchorage in God.

Relationships with others grow when they diligently learn more about each other through good communication, observation, and common interests and courtesies. But reliance on

telling only produces relationships without a solid foundation. The antithesis of these reliance’s on generalized, undependable sources is found in the first Psalm: “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked.” (Psalm1:1, NAS) Rather, we should seek the counsel of one who finds delight in the Lord’s way.

If you or someone you know have been consulting the wrong sources for help in relationships or other areas of your life, try talking with your pastor, read sound books on decision making, or talk with friends or those you know who are good role models to receive proper instruction and foundations in making life better for you. This is far more logical than what the world teaches us. Trusting you mind is much better than trusting your feelings. I would personally trust logic much better than trusting my feelings.

DR. DON Hill, founder of Frazer’s counseling ministry, has been a staff member for 21 years. He has a Ph.D in psychology and is a former college professor and dean. He is married with a son and daughter-in-law who are also Frazer members.

STAY CONNECTED WITH FRAZER ONLINE

Stay in contact through Frazer’s weekly e-mail newsletter. To sign up, go to the Frazer Home Page at www.frazerumc.org and click on the E-mail Newsletter icon.

Keep up with the latest news and information on Frazer’s Word-Centered World-Changing Year, including updates on our Haiti and Montgomery transformation projects, and download our daily devotion guide at frazerumc.org/devotions

Also, don’t forget to “Like” the Frazer UMC page if you are on Facebook.





ONEFamily Ministry: Hannah and Daniel Istvan



Imagine celebrating your birthday twice a year – that is the norm in the Istvan family as they celebrate both the birth date and adoption date for all family members, including dad Mark, who was adopted through Catholic Charities in the 1950s and then subsequently their son Daniel, and daughter, Hannah.

“God has a plan for all of us. I know without doubt that he placed my son, Daniel, and my daughter, Hannah, in my life. He has granted me the blessing and responsibility to take care of them and teach them to become a Godly man and Godly woman,” said Kellie Istvan.

The Istvans have gone through both a domestic and international adoption so they offer unique insight to both processes.

Their journey started in the year 2000 while the family was living in Virginia. One of Kellie’s colleagues had just returned from Kazakhstan with her adopted son, and so Mark and Kellie decided to meet with the same agency as they had. It was love at first sight when they saw video of Daniel. “The video was all of 30 seconds long, but I watched it over and over. I carried a wallet sized copy of the referral photo - sharing it with as many friends, family and strangers that would be willing to gush over this adorable chosen child,” said Kellie.

Within weeks they were on a plane to Astana, Kazakhstan. They arrived at the children’s home which was filled with many little faces all calling out “Mama, Mama”. This was the moment they had been waiting for, meeting Daniel for the first time in person.

Following a few more days of visitation and paperwork, they were on their way back to the United States and were met by a homecoming fanfare complete with smiles, hugs, posters and balloons at the airport. “That is the day we truly felt he was ours,” said Kellie.

By fall of 2003, Kellie felt the tug at her heart once again to adopt. “This time it was a domestic adoption and we were living in Alabama,” said Kellie. Her father, who was a registered American Choctaw Indian, discovered that his status made Kellie eligible for adopting through the Choctaw

Nation. After following the proper application process through the tribal council and yet another home study, the family waited patiently for the opportunity to bring home a sister or brother for Daniel.

Their prayers were answered in 2004 when they got a call from the Department of Human Resources at the Choctaw Nation. The Istvans were told that a newborn baby girl in Delaware was available for adoption and if they wanted her, they had to get there as soon as possible. They drove all night to pick up Hannah via “emergency placement”. After much paperwork and procedures, they were allowed to set up a temporary home at a local hotel while they completed the adoption through the Indian Child Welfare and Interstate Compact.

Sixteen days later, on the three year anniversary of Daniel’s arrival, they were told they could leave with her. “Due to circumstances of the ‘emergency placement’ and termination of the biological parental rights, Hannah’s adoption became final nine months after we had her home with us. Though I may not have carried her in my body, I carried her in my heart and I felt the labor of love at the end of those nine months,” said Kellie.

According to Kellie, “Having adopted both internationally and domestically, the end result is the same. The processes were different, but I have a son and daughter and they are brother and sister. We respect heritage in our home and celebrate each other’s uniqueness.”

She emphasizes that you must have trust in God during the adoption process. “Be prepared to put it in God’s hands. There will be trials along the way. You may have no information about your child’s birth family, or you may have an open adoption and know more about your child history than you do your own,” said Kellie.

She also said that when adopting internationally, you will need to re-adopt once in the United States by applying for U.S. Citizenship thereby obtaining documentary proof of your child’s status.

Both of their children have Biblical names so that they will always have a reference when faced with the trials of life. Daniel will be forever known as the one in the lion’s den. The Hannah of the Bible had such great faith and through the power of prayer was blessed with Samuel. Hannah demonstrated strength and devotion to God to give her promised gift back to Him. “That’s how I think of my children’s birth mothers. To give back to God what he had given them,” said Kellie.

Look for more Frazer ONEFamily stories in coming editions of Frazer Family News. To share your story, contact frazernews@frazerumc.org.



Photo contributed by ONEFamily Ministry

ONEFamily Ministry recently graduated its first Foster Care class in November. These families are now licensed to provide foster or respite care to children in Montgomery County.

ONEFAMILY MINISTRY CELEBRATES FIRST FOSTER CARE CLASS GRADUATES

STAFF REPORT

The OneFamily Ministry wrapped up its first Foster Care training class in November, and several families completed the training and are now certified to provide a caring, loving home for foster children in Montgomery County.

A special thanks to all of the Sunday School classes, small groups and individuals who provided dinner for the class each week.

Frazer will be hosting DHR Foster Care GPS classes starting on Feb.28. This is an opportunity to be licensed to be a foster parent or respite care parent. Please contact onefamily@frazerumc.org for more information or if you would like to sign up! Space is limited!

Be sure to check out our blog at frazeronefamily.blogspot.com

Foster Care class graduates:

Tabitha and Jason Hall	Leslie and Brian Word
Patrick and Rachael Quinn	Susan and Nick Moss
Lauren and John Matson	Lucinda and John Howe
Earlene Knight	Brad and Rachel Goode
Debra Johnson	Pam and Ren Cofield
DaLee Chambers	Dawn and D.C. Cole
Janice Howell	Becky and Jeff VanGilder
Jon and Dianne Klaaren	



FRAZER FAMILY NEWS

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CHECK OUT DAILY BIBLE STUDY GUIDES AND DEVOTIONS AS WE FOCUS ON BECOMING A WORD-CENTERED WORLD-CHANGING CHURCH IN 2012

As we focus on being a Word-Centered, World-Changing church in 2012, our teaching pastors will be providing a daily Bible study guide which will lead you through the section of the Bible they will preach on each week. Pastor Tim uses a "devotional thought" format, while Patrick will provide a "self-directed" study format. Pick up your copy inside your bulletin on Sunday or download the guide from frazerumc.org/devotions



FRAZER FAMILY NEWS

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

IN HIS STEPS	1
FRAZER FAMILIES HONORED	1
COLUMBARIUM UPDATE	2
CHRISTMAS 2011 AT FRAZER PHOTOS.....	6-7
GIRLS RETREAT.....	8
SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE IN CUBA	9
ONEFAMILY STORIES: HANNAH AND DANIEL	11
AND MORE!	

SAVE THE DATE:



IN HIS STEPS 2012
CHURCHWIDE DAY OF
VOLUNTEER TRAINING &
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21



spiritual parenting
igniting faith in your family
WEDNESDAYS 6:15PM STARTS JAN. 11

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