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Announcements

NEWS + EVENTS

UPCOMING MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES & MISSIONS BLOG

• **Haiti Mission Opportunities:** There are still spaces available for Frazer's mission trips to Haiti in August and October. In November, a photography team will visit the deaf camp and take family portraits. In early December, another team from Frazer will return to distribute the framed pictures as Christmas gifts. The cost of these trips will be no more than \$1,400. If you would be interested in participating, please contact Butch McPherson at butch@frazerumc.org.

• **Africa Mission Opportunity:** Plans are in the works for a mission trip to Kenya Nov. 18-26. This trip will return to the Kitale Growth Church and continue to train church leaders in discipleship and evangelism. The trip will cost between \$2,500 and \$3,000 per person. For more information, please contact Chris McInnish at chrismcinnish@gmail.com.

• **Missions Blog:** Don't forget to check out Frazer's missions blog for the latest updates and prayer requests from our current missions teams at frazerumc.org/missions

ZUMBA CLASSES BEGINNING IN JULY

Please join us for Zumba on Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. beginning on July 7. Zumba is an exhilarating, effective, easy to follow, Latin-inspired, calorie burning, fitness party. Frazer Zumba and aerobics classes are \$1 per class and are open to the community. For more information, call the Activity Center at 495-6459.

NO BOARD OF STEWARDS MEETING IN AUGUST

The Board of Stewards will meet not meet in August, but instead meet Sept. 25 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Jane Bridges at janeb@frazerumc.org for more information.

CHILDREN + STUDENTS

CRAVE EXTREME: JULY 29-30

When you think of summer, where does your mind go? Baseball! Theme parks! Water! Join us for two jam-packed days of summer fun while experiencing Atlanta Braves baseball, Six Flags over Georgia and White Water rafting down the Ocoee River. Cost is \$125 and spots are limited. Sign up in the Crave office or online at frazerumc.org/extreme



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED OPENING YOUR HOME TO A CHILD?

ONEFamily will host a Q & A session on Foster Care July 20 at 6 p.m. in room 7202. Several Frazer families will be available to share their experience as foster parents. Childcare will be provided. Please RSVP to onefamily@frazerumc.org, if you are interested in attending.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT THE HOLY LAND?

Charles Wise will lead a trip to Holy Land in November. Learn more about this trip at a meeting Sunday, July 24, at 4 p.m. in room 3102. Contact Charles at 462-7810 or cwise@frazerumc.org for more information.

FRAZER BOOKSTORE SUMMER HOURS

The Frazer Bookstore is open Sundays from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. during the summer months.

REGISTER NOW FOR SONSHINE SOCCER

Registration for Fall Sonshine Soccer is open! Deadline to register is Aug. 12 and mandatory evaluations will be Aug. 18 or 19 from 4-6 p.m. Leagues are open to boys and girls ages 4-12 (as of Sept. 1, 2011). Games begin Sept. 10 with the season ending Oct.29. All games will be played Saturday mornings. Cost is \$30 per child. If you do not have a jersey from last year, please add \$20. If you need shin guards, please add \$10. Register in the JEMAC Activity Center or call 495-6459 for more information.

Announcements

DISCIPLESHIP + FELLOWSHIP

MEN'S MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

The Men's Ministry will host their monthly fellowship dinner Thursday, July 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$5 and will be available in June in the Frazer Bookstore, from any member of the Lion Chasers, in the Atrium Sunday mornings or at the door.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

All men are invited to a monthly prayer breakfast, Wednesday, Aug. 3 at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Invite a friend and don't miss this time of fellowship with an inspirational message.

SERVING + GIVING

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR FOOD PANTRY AND HOMELESS HYGIENE MINISTRY

The Food Pantry is in need of donations of non-perishable food items and the Homeless Hygiene Ministry needs donations of personal hygiene items. Please bring your donations the first Sunday of each month and place in the Donation Station carts located throughout the church or bring directly to Community Ministries office Monday-Thursday mornings. All donations are greatly appreciated.

COOKS NEEDED!

The 5th annual Taste of Frazer will be held Wednesday, July 27, in Wesley Hall. Tickets will go on sale in July. We need 100 cooks to volunteer to make their best recipe in one of the following categories: Appetizer, Salads, Entrees or Desserts. This event will benefit the Community Ministries United Appeals Fund. If you are interested in cooking, please contact Bobbie Cooper at 277-5722 or bobbieanddan@charter.net or Jean Kocher at 277-5475 or dale.kocher@yahoo.com

CAN YOU SPARE A SMILE?

The Alpha Course, a new outreach ministry coming to Frazer on Monday evenings this fall, is designed to provide a non-threatening, non-judgmental environment where people can ask questions about the Christian faith and explore the meaning of life. Volunteers are needed to prepare food, guide table discussions, and make guests feel welcome and accepted. Stop by the Alpha Course table in the Atrium for more information on volunteering with this ministry in the fall.

S.P.I.R.I.T. OF FRAZER MEETS THIS WEEK

Wear your patriotic colors and fellowship with Frazer's senior adults at S.P.I.R.I.T. this week. Mark Pate will speak on Thursday, July 14, at 6 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. The cost of dinner is \$5. RSVP for dinner by calling Faye Jackson at 279-8727 or Sandy Boswell at 495-6391. S.P.I.R.I.T. will also meet Thursday, Aug. 11, details TBA.

IS YOUR BUSINESS HIRING?

The Frazer Community Christian Job Exchange can help by sending interested applicants your way. By letting us know whenever you have positions to fill, you enable us to carry out this ministry of hope. Call 495-6387 Tuesday-Thursday mornings or leave a message at any time.

COACHES FOR SONSHINE SOCCER

Interested in making a difference in the life of a child through soccer? Men and women coaches are needed for fall Sonshine Soccer, which kicks off in late August. Help impact the lives of these children by sharing Jesus Christ. Training, support and curriculum is provided. If you are interested in serving in this fun and meaningful ministry, please stop by the Activity Center desk or call 495-6459 for more information and to sign up.

NEW STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING CLASS

Stephen Ministers bring distinctively Christian care to people in need. They use words and deeds to express Jesus' love - listening and comforting, calling on the training they have received and employing the tools of faith. If this description fits your desire for ministry, consider becoming a Frazer Stephen Minister. Training will begin in August. The ministry especially needs more women involved. For more information, contact Jan Niel at jan@frazerumc.org or 495-6350.

DONATE A RIDE

Do you have a used vehicle in good operating condition? We have members who need a dependable means of transportation to get work and school. You can receive a tax deduction for your donation to the church. Call Charlie Kendall at 495-6313 for details.

CARING FOR OUR CONGREGATION

BIRTHS

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

A daughter, "Faith" Leigh, born to Kary and Dan Green April 27, 2011.

A daughter, "Madalyne" Leigh, born to Erica and Christopher Dutton May 11, 2011.

A daughter, Isabella "Bella" Elizabeth, born to Lara and Shan McCorkle May 23, 2011.

A daughter, "Emmie" Ellen, born to Courtnie and Marc Johnson May 31, 2011.

A daughter, "Hope" Kaley, born to Jenny and Richard Savage June 9, 2011.

A daughter, "Carson" Marie, born to Andy Coker and Alicia Melvin June 9, 2011.

A daughter, "Vara" Elizabeth, born to Sallye and Christopher York June 13, 2011.

A son, "Stewart" Joseph, born to Toni and Joseph Roy June 13, 2011.

A son, "Cooper" Lee, born to Lindsey and Brooks Boyd June 20, 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.

Mother of Eddie Westbrook

Richard Higginbotham

Father of Marchetta Tucker

Matthew Lowery

Mother of E'Wanna Thompson

Bill Taylor

Orvis Blaalid

Son of Phyllis Donley

Father of Bob Hansen

Mother of Jane Brooks

Daughter of Bill Tarrants

Son of Charlotte Hargrove

Father of Kim Carr

Dot Seay

Mother of Mary Alice Allen

Mother of Richard Griffin

Doris Gramm

Alpha Course

continued from page 1

Attendees of the course will receive a New Testament Bible as well as The Alpha Course Manual.

The manual includes Biblical references that will guide attendees during the course.

Alpha has the support of staff and laity leadership.

Frazer members Jim Worley, Keely Smith and Scot Mims are assisting Rev Quinn and Diane Klaaren with organizing Alpha for the first time ever at Frazer. Others, including George Cox, Jan Niel, Jerry Glaze and Katey Ramsey, are assisting with details involving prayer teams, dinner preparations and more.

Scot, who first attended Alpha at First United Methodist Church in Montgomery, says Alpha will “refuel” those who come, even if they attend church regularly but still suffer from occasional doubts.

“I can promise you one of these weeks you attend is going to kick-start you and put you back on course,” he said.

“It really helped lift me up.”

In His Steps to echo Frazer’s Year of Transformation focus

By Mike Presley NEWS STAFF WRITER

Frazer’s 2012 In His Steps campaign will build upon the church’s year-long emphasis on transformation with the theme “Following Jesus.”

Senior Pastor Tim Thompson announced the theme at the In His Steps Steering Committee orientation meeting in late May.

“In His Steps will piggyback on what God placed on our hearts for this year, and that is leading people to real, life-changing transformation in Christ,” Tim said. “We are excited about the energy level and enthusiasm within Frazer right now.”

In His Steps is Frazer’s yearly fall stewardship campaign in which members commit to serve and give financially to the Lord through Frazer in the coming year. Steering Committee members lead groups of captains who call and encourage members to return their commitment cards.

“The goal of In His Steps is to help each member be a better steward of their time, treasure and talents,” said Mark Kingry, chairman of the 2012 campaign.

The basic duties of a Steering Committee member include asking church members to serve as captains, training a team of captains and assisting their captains as needed. Additionally, Steering Committee members are encouraged to perform one of several special duties which include assisting with the In His Steps prayer vigil, writing or editing devotions, distributing the devotional guides and helping set up the Commitment Rally, among other duties.

The Steering Committee is comprised of 115 family units, Mark said. The Committee members will lead a total of about 917 captains.

One emphasis of In His Steps this fall will be encouraging young people to become more involved in the life of the church by making commitments to serve in areas they feel led to serve. To help with this, more young people were included as first-time members of the Steering Committee.

“This gives an opportunity for new leaders in the church to step up and connect with those who have been attending church but not making commitments through In His Steps,” Steering Committee member John Howe said. John helped lead a focus group to find out why younger people haven’t been filling out commitment cards as they once have.

“We want to be energetic, positive and emphasize that the more you put into God and the church, the more you get out of it,” John said.

Important Dates for In His Steps

Oct. 2 & 9 – Devotional books are distributed to Frazer members

Oct. 16-Nov. 13 – In His Steps sermon series

Nov. 2-6 – In His Steps expo held in the Atrium

Nov. 6 – Commitment Rally, captains and Steering Committee members turn in commitment cards

Nov. 13 – Commitment Sunday, Frazer members turn in cards during morning worship services

Nov. 27 – Celebration Sunday



Sign up your child today!
Registration forms are available in the
Activity Center or go to [frazerumc.org/](http://frazerumc.org/sonshine_soccer)
[sonshine_soccer](http://frazerumc.org/sonshine_soccer) for more details



Frazer welcomes Dr. Neil Epler as new Minister of Congregational Care

By Mac McLellan NEWS STAFF WRITER

In June, Frazer welcomed Dr. Neil Epler on board as the new minister of Congregational Care. Neil takes over the responsibility from Rev. Suzie Beeson, who left Frazer in July to become the pastor of Cain's Chapel Church in Elmore County.

Originally from Tipton, Penn., Neil grew up in the heart of Amish country in a town so small there was no hospital, until he moved away at age 15. "I thought all grocery stores and hardware stores had hitching posts in front of them," he said.

Our new Congregational Care Pastor, Dr. Neil Epler, is on board and settling in. Neil was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania, because his home town of Tipton, in the heart of Amish country, was too small to have a hospital. Until he left there, at age fifteen, Neil said "I thought all grocery stores and hardware stores had hitching posts in front of them."

From Pennsylvania, Neil and his family moved to Selma when he was 15 years old. He graduated from Selma High School in 1975. Neil remembers "We came to Montgomery often to shop back then. At that time Montgomery Mall was new and everything was located on South Boulevard. They were just completing making Highway 80 into a four-lane highway."

Neil attended the University of Alabama, and started out as a Music major. He even played in the Million Dollar Band during two of the National Championship seasons, 1978 and 1979, he said.

"Bear Bryant was there, and those were some good times. I played at the Sugar Bowl for the Penn State game," he said.

Neil eventually changed his major and graduated in 1982 with a B.S. in Social Work.

Neil's home church is Church Street United Methodist Church in Selma, and is where he met his wife Ashley, a Selma native. The couple married in 1982, and had their first son Charles in 1985, and their younger son Joel in 1989. Charles currently lives in Mobile with his wife and three year old son. Joel recently graduated from Southern Mississippi, and is attends graduate school at the University of Florida.

After graduating from Alabama, Neil and Ashley went on to Seminary at Emory University Candler School of Theology. "What a blessing it was, as a student appointment to begin preaching at Tuskegee United Methodist Church in 1983, my middle year of Seminary," Neil said. "I was 22 at the time, about to turn 23, and my wife was 21. The average age of the congregation was 70. We were not only young enough to be their children, but their grandchildren. They were excited about having some young people there, and we had a great time together for two years until I finished Seminary."



PHOTO BY MAC MCLELLAN

Dr. Neil Epler joined the Frazer staff as Minister of Congregational Care in June.

After Neil graduated from seminary in 1985, his first appointment was to Myrtle Grove United Methodist Church, in Pensacola, Fla. Since that time he has pastored churches in the Mobile and Pensacola areas. He started a church in Pea Ridge, Fla., and before coming to Montgomery, he served in Enterprise. That church was hit by a devastating tornado about four years ago, and they had actually been back in their sanctuary about a year when Neil arrived. He also served as the Alabama-West Florida Conference Secretary for eight years, from 1996- 2004, and received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Covenant Theological Seminary in 2009.

Neil served with Tim Thompson, from 2006 to 2008, at Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church in Florida, across the bay from Pensacola. Neil was the Executive Pastor, and Tim was the Senior Pastor. Neil stayed in Gulf Breeze when Tim moved to Opelika.

"I was very pleased when Tim gave me a call, and asked me to join him at Frazer," Neil said.

When not serving the members of Frazer's congregation, Neil enjoys running, biking, playing tennis, and golf. He is also very involved in missions, and has been on mission trips to Mexico, Estonia, Jamaica, and Russia.

Levi Gardner will join Frazer and head up New Member and Evangelism Ministry

By Mac McLellan NEWS STAFF WRITER

In August, Frazer will welcome another new face to its staff. Levi Gardner will serve with the New Member and Evangelism ministries at Frazer, before he begins seminary training at Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

Levi will come to Frazer straight from working in the rain forest in Costa Rica, where he has served on a two-month mission team with the Auburn Wesley Foundation.

Originally from Gulf Shores, Levi graduated from Auburn University in December 2010 with a B.A. in Psychology and he will go into seminary after

completing his service at Frazer. Levi plans to pursue his Master's of Divinity at Candler, and upon completion of his theological education, Levi's goal is to become an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church.

Levi is a sports fan and loves to play golf, run, cycle and swim, as well as watching college football.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to join the Frazer family in August," he said. "I look forward to being a part of God's continued transformation of the Montgomery community, and the world, through Frazer and its many servants in Christ."



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY LEVI GARDNER

Levi Gardner will join the Frazer staff in August and head up the New Member and Evangelism ministry. Levi spent two months in Costa Rica on a mission trip with the Auburn Wesley Foundation and shared the above photos from his trip with the Frazer News.

Children's Camp offers fun in the sun, fellowship with friends

Frazer's Children's Ministry spent the week of June 6-11 at Camp Chandler for the annual summer camp. Children in grades 1-3 attended Camp Sunshine, while grades 4-6 enjoyed an extended stay at Camp Challenge. Favorite activities included swimming, sail boating, archery, horseback riding, canoeing, arts and crafts and mastering the ropes course. Bible study and prayer time were important parts of the week, as well as making new friends and enjoying fellowship together.

Photos by Lori Mercer



Vacation Bible School 2011 brings the Big Apple to Frazer



PHOTO BY LORI MERCER



PHOTO BY LEE WERLING

Hundreds of children came to Frazer the week of July 11-15 in search of a "Big Apple Adventure." Vacation Bible School 2011 encouraged children to explore how God desires to connect with each of us through Jesus Christ, despite all the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives. The children embarked on a journey including music, fellowship, crafts, games and Bible lessons all designed to teach them God's love for us all. Many thanks to the dozens of adult and student volunteers who worked behind the scenes, in the classrooms and coordinated the activities to make this year's Vacation Bible School a huge success!



PHOTO BY LORI MERCER



PHOTO BY LEE WERLING



PHOTO BY LORI MERCER



PHOTO BY LEE WERLING



PHOTO BY LEE WERLING



PHOTO BY LORI MERCER



PHOTO BY LEE WERLING



PHOTO BY LORI MERCER



PHOTO BY LEE WERLING

Frazer musician honored for achievements in music, service, academics

By Mac McLellan NEWS STAFF WRITER

Each year, Alabama State University recognizes their top students with an Honors Banquet. This year, Shaun Mitchell, who plays trumpet with Frazer's orchestra on Sunday mornings, was awarded the 2011 Presser Music Award, including a cash award of \$4,800.

Theodore Presser, whom the award is named for, was a college music teacher who became publisher of *Etude*, a music magazine. He also founded the Theodore Presser Company of Music Publishers, and was a philanthropist dedicated to music education. Since his death in 1925, the Presser Foundation has funded awards to outstanding undergraduate students in music education. The requirements to be eligible for the award include being a rising senior who has made musical contributions to the university and community, while maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Shaun is originally from Birmingham, where he graduated from Minor High School. Dr. Carly Johnson, Shaun's trumpet teacher for the past five years, described Shaun as a "very special person."

"He is very motivated and dedicated. He loves music and has been a joy to teach and a joy to know," Dr. Johnson said. "Playing in the orchestra at Frazer has been a great experience for him because he wants to be a professional trumpet player."

In addition to the 2011 Presser Award, Shaun has also received Alabama State Department of Music and Alabama State Marching Band Scholarships, and the 2007 City Stages Memorial Music Scholarship. He was also selected for a four-day workshop with the Pittsburgh Symphony in January 2011. He is listed in *Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges*, and is also an Eagle Scout.

Shaun is a member of Frazer's Harmony-N-Christ Sunday School class. Teacher Lori Shelton-Puckett said "Shaun is very quiet but when he does speak it is very meaningful. He is very giving of his time and talent."

At just 22 years old, Shaun's accomplishments reflect his dedication to music. This summer, while he was not taking classes at ASU, he still made the commute from Birmingham every Sunday morning to play in the orchestra for the 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sanctuary services. As for his future plans and ambitions, Shaun said "My



PHOTO BY MAC MCLELLAN

Alabama State University student and Frazer musician Shaun Mitchell was recently awarded the 2011 Presser Music Award for his outstanding musical, community and academic accomplishments. Shaun plays trumpet in Frazer's orchestra during the 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sanctuary worship services.

ultimate goal is to teach Applied Trumpet, Music Theory and Jazz Studies at a major university. The first step toward that goal is to get a Master's degree in Music Performance. I am planning to audition at eight different schools, but my top three choices are Northwestern University, DePaul University, and Penn State University."

Trans4mation Run will support Frazer's work with deaf community in Haiti

Staff Reports

Frazer will host its first Trans4mation Run to benefit the church's ongoing efforts to establish transformational work with the deaf community in Haiti.

This four-mile road race is set for Saturday, Sept. 17 at Dean Fain Park, behind EastChase, and will wind through the scenic Wynlakes subdivision. Chip-timing will be provided by River Region Runners for instant race-time results. Overall prizes and male/female prizes will be awarded by age division (details TBA). A one mile fun run / walk is also available for those who don't wish to race.

Inflatables for children and live music entertainment will make this a fun time of fellowship for the whole family.

The Trans4mation Run is a great way to join in Frazer's Year of Transformation by transforming our bodies with physical fitness while at the same time supporting missions. For information on training classes to help you prepare for the run contact Frazer's Activities Ministry at 495-6459.

Register online at frazerumc.org/trans4mation_run or pick up a form in the Activity Center. The registration deadline to guarantee a race t-shirt is Sept. 8.

SCHEDULE:

Early packet pick up: 8 a.m.-7 p.m. at Frazer Activity Center
6:30 a.m. Race check-in & t-shirt pickup open
7:30 a.m. 4-Mile Run Starts.
8:30 a.m. 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk starts.
9:30 a.m. Course closes

ENTRY FEES:

Individual \$20 (Late Registration \$25)
Family* \$50 (Late Registration \$55)
Fun Run/Walk \$15 (Late Registration \$20)
Military Registration** \$18

*includes spouse and immediate dependents

**includes military dependents, ID required

Course maps are available at frazerumc.org/trans4mation_run

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

Reinhardt Toyota is leading the way as the first confirmed sponsor of the Trans4mation Run. For more information about your business or organization becoming a sponsor, e-mail Jan Niel at jan@frazerumc.org.



God-given Imaginations



GINGER'S CORNER

Ginger Koerner

When television was becoming popular and affordable for most Americans, there was an afternoon show host named Art Linkletter. He enjoyed interviewing young children and wrote a book, "Kids Say the Darndest Things." It was a best seller. He asked one child, "Does your new puppy have a pedigree?" and the answer was, "No, he's a Presbyterian!"

We recently visited with Mom in Maryland, and her sister and family also came to visit. It was a delightful afternoon, and we got around to exchanging grandchildren stories with our cousins. Their grandson stays with them after school. One day the principal called to tell them that Bo had cut his hair while the teacher was busy with a child who became ill. The principal wanted to warn them before they saw Bo.

When Joe picked up six-year-old Bo, he asked, "Son, what happened to your hair?" Bo looked Joe in the face and said, "Granddaddy, you're not going to believe this, but I was on the playground, swinging. All of a sudden I fell off the swing! And my hair fell off my head!"

This reminded me of our Caleb. Once, his mom came into the room suddenly, and asked, "Caleb what are you doing?" Caleb frowned and thought for a moment and then said, "Mommy could you close your eyes?"

Children do say funny things. There are times when grandparents have to leave the room to keep from laughing and making the situation worse for the parents. Children have God-given imaginations. I'm glad they do, for many of them have grown up to invent things that make our lives so much better.

I can relate to Caleb. Sometimes I say or do something I wish I hadn't, and I want to say to God, "Could you close your eyes?" I doubt if He closes his eyes, but like any good parent, the love and forgiveness is still there. Do you suppose God tells stories about His children, and enjoys telling them as much as we do telling about our children?

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.

Handling disagreements in the family



THE FAMILY COUNSELOR

Dr. Don Hill,
Ph.D., LPC

In an episode of the comic strip "Wizard of Id," the wizard's wife was angry and said to the wizard, "All I do is provide you with room and board." The wizard replied, "Yes, especially the bored."

This is how many people regard their marriage experience, and is especially applicable to the marriage relationship which is passive-congenial. In this relationship, the couple gives little evidence that their marriage should be different from the way it is. They are willing to settle for a second-rate marriage, causing them to settle into the status quo.

The passive-congenial relationship is one where there is very little conflict. It is often a "keep-peace-at-any-cost" idea that usually results in allowing the couple plenty of personal freedom and independence, since neither wants to "rock the boat." This can cause pent-up feelings that are not expressed but will later erupt into something more serious. The problem with this approach is that by avoiding a conflict problems are seldom resolved but the behaviors are expressed in non-verbal ways that are some times worse than if they were addressed.

Please don't misunderstand me and think I am advocating having conflicts just to have a good marriage. What I am saying is that avoiding conflicts really does not cause them to go away. We often respond in a passive way, or file the

offensive behavior away in our minds, making sure it is always available to remember when we are unhappy about something. It is much better to address the situation creating the problem than to bury it pretending it did not happen. In doing so a solution is not resolved but the memory of the conflict will be carried over into another disagreement. It is always better to confront the disagreement and seek a solution without adding other problems to it. No two people agree on everything every time, but some consideration of where the other person is coming from would help greatly to find a better way of dealing with problems. The Apostle Peter said, "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing." 1 Peter 3:9

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.

Breaking old spending habits hard but necessary for future financial success

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 sanderson@knology.net. Financial coaches are available to help you.

Dear Dave,
My husband and I are both spenders. We want to get on a plan and handle our money better, but is there anything that will help us learn to give up stuff now so that we'll have more in the future?

—Beth

Dear Beth,
I know what you're talking about. Old habits are really hard to break, especially when they're fun old habits. Even when you wake up and feel the pain and realize you shouldn't have done something, it's easy to slip right back into the same old stuff, isn't it?

The only way I've ever been able to achieve anything like that is to find something specific I want bad enough

out there in the future to give up something in the present. You may have heard me say, "Live like no one else, so that later you can live like no one else." Well, this is more a case of you have to want to live like no one else later, so that today you'll live like no one else.

I saw a bumper sticker once that read "Nothing tastes as good as thin feels." I've got to agree with the idea behind that. No discipline is pleasant, but it's the pain of changing something in your life that eventually leads to a positive result.

Think about it this way. A great definition of maturity is learning to delay pleasure. Ouch!

—Dave



DAVE SAYS

Dave Ramsey

Reprinted with Permission. For more great financial advice from Dave Ramsey, visit www.davesays.org.

WFRZ will re-air "The Heart of Jesus" sermon series in July, August

Tune in the WFRZ in July and August to catch the re-broadcast of the recent sermon series on The Beatitudes, "The Heart of Jesus." The sermons will air Mondays at 7 p.m., Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Fridays at 10 p.m. and Saturdays at 7 p.m. Check the schedule below for dates on which each sermon will air:

The Heart of Jesus: A Study of the Beatitudes

Week of July 4:
So You Want to Be Happy?

Week of July 11:
The Way Up is Down

Week of July 18:
The Grief Blessing

Week of July 25:
The Might of the Meek

Week of Aug. 1:
The "Right Us"

Week of Aug. 8:
Mercy-Full

Week of Aug. 15:
Live Above the Snake Line

Week of Aug. 22:
The Fine Art of Peacemaking

Week of Aug. 29:
Persecution: Blessing or Burden

Financial Peace University course available this fall *13-week course aims to provide individuals, families with solid biblical principles for managing their finances*

Staff Reports

This fall, Frazer will once again offer Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University to help individuals and families develop a biblical perspective on living debt-free and managing all other aspects of their financial lives

Pre-registration for the 13-week course will be from Aug. 14-28 at a cost of \$99 per individual or family, which covers all course materials including the workbook, a complete set of CDs of the series, a copy of "Financial Peace Revisited" by Dave Ramsey, the Envelope System and Financial Calculator and other software to aid in financial decisions.

Classes will begin Sept. 7 and will meet Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. in room 7202.

Each week, the class will include an entertaining, educational video presentation by Dave Ramsey, followed by discussion of the week's topic, led by class facilitator Tom Oliphint. Participants will learn the financial management principles necessary to handle the money God will entrust them over their lifetimes, and these principles are applicable to everyone, whether, regardless of their marital, family or economic status. Participants will learn to manage their money by telling it where to go, instead of wondering where it went. By developing a plan for spending money wisely, participants will also realize a real sense of accomplishment through debt reduction and increased savings as they work towards "financial peace."

The Financial Peace program also has a strong track record of success for those who apply the principles learned, with the average participants paying off \$5,300 of debt and saving \$2,300, while also gaining the ability to establish an emergency fund.

The Financial Peace courses can also benefit married couples and families by strengthening relationships as families learn to reduce stress caused by lack of money management

and work together to meet financial goals, all while emphasizing a biblical perspective.

Frazer members Nancy and Lloyd Koontz participated in Financial Peace University classes in the past and Nancy said they enjoyed learning about managing their finances together, and learned a lot from the Dave Ramsey videos, as well as the class discussions facilitated by Tom Oliphint.

"Tom is an excellent instructor and he certainly makes you want to dig into God's truth and our efforts to live a biblically, financially stable life," she said.

Of the variety of topics covered in the class, Nancy said she and her husband benefited the most from the general budget and long term investment information, but each person will discover different principles taught in the course will apply to their individual situations.

"It was so helpful to learn the order in which we should eliminate debt and what items should be a priority," Nancy said. "Most of all, we appreciated the reminder that biblical principles are the basis for the over all class."

For anyone who is interested in learning more about taking charge of their financial situation but may be hesitant to sign up for a course like Financial Peace University, Nancy recommends taking the plunge.

"There are so many areas in your life where you do not even realize they are affected by your finances," she said. "This course brings them to light in a solid, positive manner."

For more information about Financial Peace University, e-mail Tom Oliphint at toliphint@knology.net. Registration forms are available in the church office or at the Connection Point desk in the Atrium.

Dave Ramsey's
Financial Peace
UNIVERSITY

Sign up between Aug. 14-28 • 13-week course runs Wednesday evenings Sept. 17-Nov. 30

Cost: \$99 per individual/family and includes all materials

Registration forms available in the church office or Connection Point desk in the Atrium

Frazer member's faith carries her through the long journey home

By Dr. Martha Poole Simmons NEWS STAFF WRITER

As a member of Frazer's choir, Caroline Todd sings "Only Trust Him." After more than two years of detainment in a federal immigration detention center, Caroline can definitely say that her faith and trust in God have deepened, as she learned to rely solely on Him.

In 1990, an 18-year-old Caroline came to the United States from Kenya with a student visa. She studied religious studies at Beulah Heights Bible College in Atlanta, pre-medicine at Auburn University at Montgomery and medical assistance and transcription at South University. She met her husband Thomas Todd in 1996, and the couple now has two children, John, 11, and Brandon, 14, both active participants in Frazer's children's and youth ministries.

In October 2007, Caroline was involved in an automobile accident in which her car was totaled. She maintains that God finally got her attention then. She asked God to save her, and He did. She was able to stop the car before it hit a telephone pole. Although she was reared in a Christian home, Caroline had not fully given her life to Christ until four months later on Feb. 28, 2008. Caroline states that her spiritual journey since that time has been trying, but also wonderful, peaceful and hopeful.

Caroline's ordeal with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) began when she was arrested and charged with making fraudulent statements in a 2007 application for registration for permanent residence and on an employment form and with perjury and mail fraud. The errors that Caroline made on the documents were unintentional. The family was unable to obtain an attorney during the long and complex application process. Although U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson dismissed two charges for lack of evidence and acquitted her of mail fraud, she was convicted of perjury and fraud and given three years of probation. Judge Thompson said in his ruling that any child would be honored to

have such a mother as Caroline, and he admonished the prosecution saying that in his 30 years on the bench, he had never experienced such an injustice and overcharging of a case. In January 2009, Caroline was sent to the federal immigration detention center at Jena, La., where she faced possible deportation to Kenya.

While at the detention center, hopes for being released and being reunited with her family were dashed time after time when 13 hearings were postponed. Daily, Caroline experienced the excruciating mental suffering and distress of facing uncertainty for her future, and the pain of being separated from her husband and her two sons. Visits between detainees and families do not provide a place or a time for close communication. Instead, whenever families visit at the detention center, there is a sheet of glass that separates the detained person from their family.

Throughout this painful time for Caroline, members of the Frazer choir, her Bible study class, some Sunday School classes and others in the community donated thousands of dollars to finance the 426-mile, eight-hour trips from Montgomery to Jena made by her family and the attorney support. Frazer members also contributed to send Brandon and John to summer church camps for the two summers that she was gone.

By helping and ministering to others at Jena, Caroline grew spiritually. During the time that Caroline was confined at Jena, she led Bible studies and prayer meetings at night with the women there. Although most of the detainees were Hispanic, translations were made for them. Her time was filled by reading, watching television, sleeping and working for \$1 a day. When new arrivals came in, she made it her mission to welcome them after remembering how difficult it was when she first arrived. Caroline would pray for the women, and they would be released.

"I knew that God was answering these prayers," she said.



PHOTO BY MARTHA POOLE SIMMONS

Frazer member Caroline Todd learned to rely on her faith in God and the support of her family and church family at Frazer during her two-year detainment and possible deportation ordeal.

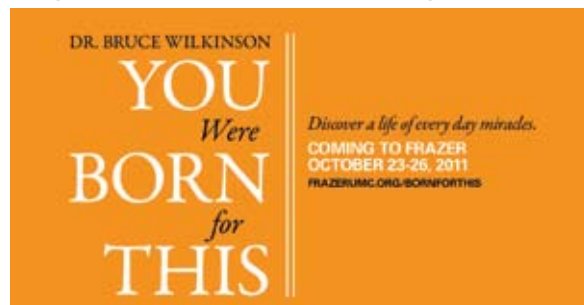
Caroline was God's instrument as she served women at the detention center. While being detained, Caroline prayed to God saying, "If you are going to release me, please release me back to Montgomery where my family is."

Her desire was to say thank you to those who prayed for her. Finally after two years, Caroline's prayer was answered with her release on Feb. 1, when she was able to return to Montgomery and be reunited with her family and Frazer.

Through her struggle, Caroline relied on her faith in God. Even when the situation seemed uncertain or downright hopeless, she never gave up trusting in her Lord.

"Don't give up. Have a great support system. Anything is possible if you have God on your side," she said. "If you trust Him, he'll take care of the rest."

Register now: Best-selling author and Bible teacher Bruce Wilkinson coming to Frazer for October conference



What happens when ordinary people start living a life of everyday miracles?

Most of us have experienced at least one "divine coincidence," a miracle moment that may not have defied the laws of nature, but it clearly demonstrated the love and power of God in an otherwise unexplainable way. But what if God desires to show His power through you on a regular basis? What if you were born to be God's "miracle delivery agent?"

Renowned Bible teacher and best-selling author of "The Prayer of Jabez," Dr. Bruce Wilkinson, will lead a four day conference at Frazer Oct. 23-26. Learn the seven keys to a life of predictable miracles in this in-depth and practical series, "You Were Born for This."

Dr. Wilkinson will speak during all Frazer morning worship services Sunday, Oct. 23, and the conference will begin that evening in Wesley Hall.

Schedule:

Conference begins Sunday 6-9 p.m. (breaks provided)

Monday, Oct. 24 and Tuesday, Oct. 25 from 6:30-9 p.m.

Conference concludes Wednesday, Oct. 26 from 6-8 p.m.

Don't wait—register today! Significant early-bird discounts and group rates available now.

Register by Aug. 31, 2011

- Save up to 50 percent with Early-Bird rates!
- \$20 Individual \$35 Married Couple
- \$15 Group Rate (10+)

Register by Sept. 30, 2011

- \$30 Individual \$55 Married Couple
- \$25 Group Rate (10+)

Register up to Oct. 23, 2011

- \$40 Individual \$75 Married Couple
- \$35 Group Rate* (10+)
- Group deadline Oct. 21, 2011

Online registration forms and information are available at frazerumc.org/bornforthis or contact Sandy Boswell at 495-6391 or sandy@frazerumc.org for more details on registering for this event.



SERMON SERIES BEGINS AUG. 7 IN THE SANCTUARY AND WESLEY HALL



FRAZER FAMILY NEWS

Frazer Memorial
United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 241347
Montgomery, AL 36124-1347

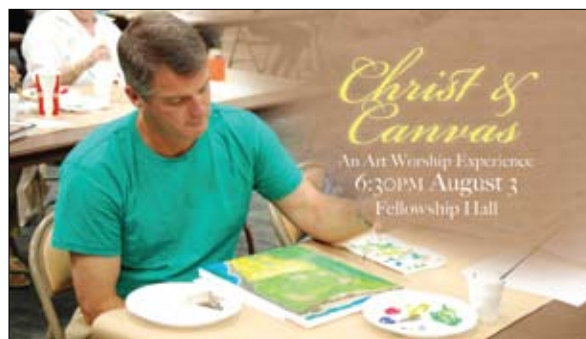
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TASTE OF FRAZER JULY 27

Save the date for the Fifth Annual Taste of Frazer, Wednesday, July 27 at 6 p.m. in Wesley Hall. We need 100 volunteers to create their best recipe in one of the following categories: Appetizers, Salads, Entrees or Desserts. This event is a fundraiser for the Community Ministries United Appeal Fund. To enter your dish, please contact Bobbie Cooper at 277-5722 or Jean Kocher at 277-5475. If you'd rather just come and enjoy tasting a variety of wonderful dishes, tickets are \$10 and will be available in July in the Frazer Bookstore.

FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND
EVENTS, GO TO FRAZERUMC.ORG



CHRIST AND CANVAS PAINTING CLASS AUG. 3

Explore an evening of worshiping God through creating art at our "Christ and Canvas" class Wednesday, Aug. 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Invite your friends and join us for a fun evening as we worship and fellowship together in a unique, creative way. Local artist Nedra McMullin will lead the class, designed for ages 18 and older. No skill or prior art experience required. Please bring an 8x10 or 9x12 canvas and brushes (available at local arts and craft supply stores). You will need to be seated by 6:30 p.m. Paint will be provided. Childcare will be available by reservation. Sign up online at frazerumc.org/christ_canvas to attend the class and for childcare. Deadline to register is Friday July 29 at noon.



DAY AWAY WITH GOD AUG. 20

Don't miss the Day Away with God Prayer Retreat, Aug. 20 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This day of prayer is designed to help you develop a greater intimacy with the Lord by spending a significant amount of time alone with Him. Beginners, as well as seasoned intercessors, are encouraged to attend, and we will provide the tools to help you complete this extended prayer adventure. Cost is \$5 per person for materials. Children in 1st-5th grade will be led on their own guided time with God from 8 a.m.-noon, and childcare will be available for infants through 5th grade from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information and to register online, go to frazerumc.org/dawg or contact Jan Niel at 495-6350 or jan@frazerumc.org.