



FRAZER FAMILY NEWS

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JUNE 2011

NEWS & EVENTS

BE TRANSFORMED AT FRAZER Stay up to date on the latest news and information about Frazer's 2011 Year of Transformation at transform.frazerumc.org. Find blogs and info on our Transform Haiti and Transform Montgomery projects, as well as downloads of the weekly "Heart and Home" devotion guide and more.

SAVE THE DATE: BRUCE WILKINSON CONFERENCE OCT.23-26 AT FRAZER

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?" Learn the 7 Keys to a life of predictable miracles in this in-depth, practical series by renowned Bible teacher Bruce Wilkinson, the #1 bestselling author of "The Prayer of Jabez." For more details on costs and registration, including early registration discounts, go to www.frazerumc.org/bornforthis

GET CONNECTED AT FRAZER



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. Pick up a copy of the Summer 2011

issue in the Atrium or other information centers located throughout the church, and prayerfully consider where you want to connect and grow this summer. You can also view Connections online at frazerumc.org/groups.

MORE EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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He is Risen! Holy Week and Easter at Frazer

This Easter, the Frazer Family experienced the transforming power of the Cross and the Resurrection through a variety of Holy Week activities, including a community-wide Easter Eggstravaganza April 16 at Frazer and a Palm Sunday presentation of "Changed: The Power of the Cross" Easter musical, which featured real-life testimonies from Frazer members, as well as drama and narration that focused on the transforming power of Christ's death and resurrection in our lives, along with moving musical selections performed by Frazer's choir, orchestra and praise band.

Holy Week events included the Stations of the Cross Prayer Experience, where participants could walk through a series of stations designed to help them experience and reflect on Jesus' last days on His journey to the cross. A new event added this year was a special Prayer Garden for children, designed to help children learn about Jesus' crucifixion and the events leading up to it presented on a level they could understand. The Good Friday Tenebrae Service of Darkness provided participants with a solemn and powerful reflection on the darkness that overcame the world at Christ's death, and the anticipation of His resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Finally, Frazer celebrated our Risen Lord on Easter Sunday, with a sunrise service at Blount Cultural Park and powerful worship during all services that morning.

To see photos of Holy Week and Easter activities at Frazer, please see pages 6-7.



PHOTO BY CHRIS THORNTON

Frazer celebrated our Risen Lord through a variety of Easter and Holy Week activities and worship services.

Frazer helps victims of deadly April tornado outbreak in Alabama

Staff Reports



PHOTO BY AMY PRESLEY

Frazer members bring items to donate to tornado victims while volunteers sort and pack them during a collection drive May 1. Frazer members donated 58 full pallets of much needed supplies and gave nearly \$87,500 to help those affected by the deadly April 27 tornado outbreak that swept through the state.

When a deadly tornado outbreak swept through the state of Alabama April 27, members of the Frazer Family did not hesitate to spring to action to help the victims. A team of about 50 volunteers headed to Elmore County in the days immediately following the storm to help with disaster relief, and another group of more than 200 people helped clean up the most devastated areas in Elmore County that Saturday. That Sunday, May 1, Frazer held a collection drive from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., and the donations piled in steadily throughout the day. Late that evening, Frazer volunteers were packing up 58 full pallets of water, batteries, dog food, diapers, personal hygiene items, socks and underwear and cleaning supplies and loading up an 18-wheeler to send these much needed supplies to Elmore County, and another two truckloads to Walker County. In addition, numerous individuals took supplies to Tuscaloosa or volunteered to help with recovery efforts there. A special offering for tornado victims was collected May 1 and donations have continued to come in over the past few weeks. As of the last week of May, a total of \$87, 438.34 had been collected to donate to Alabama tornado relief efforts.

See Tornado Relief page 4 »



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 manage your subscription at any time.

SIGN UP TODAY AT FRAZERUMC.ORG.

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Announcements

NEWS + EVENTS

UPCOMING MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES & MISSIONS BLOG

• **Haiti Mission Trip:** Frazer will send its first teams to work with the deaf in Haiti this summer. Trips are scheduled for June 25-July 2 and August 13-20. Both teams will be working at a general medical site and building relationships with the deaf. Team members both with and without medical training are needed. Approximate cost is \$1,800 per person. If you are interested in serving with one of these teams, contact Butch McPherson at 495-6325 or butch@frazerumc.org.

• **Richmond Mission Trip:** Individuals and families can join our team serving in Richmond, Va., July 16-23, as we help a struggling United Methodist Church with vacation Bible school, English as a Second Language, and painting needs on the church property. If you are interested in being part of this fun and rewarding mission opportunity, contact Jimmy Wilson at 799-2978 or jimmywilson@unidial.com.

• **Missions Blog:** Don't forget to check out Frazer's missions blog for the latest updates and prayer requests from our team currently serving in Brazil- frazerumc.org/missions

TRANS4MATION TRAINING

Frazer's Activity Ministry will hold an organizational meeting June 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the Crave room led by fitness expert Michael Gross. Learn how to use running and/or walking to get in shape so we can transform our bodies as well as our hearts during Frazer's year of Transformation. Topics will include proper shoes, how to train, nutrition, hydration and developing run/walk support teams. These classes will work toward the goal of preparing for the Trans4mation Run/Walk on Sept. 17.

For more information on how to get involved in the Trans4mation Run, which will support Frazer's transformation work with the deaf community in Haiti, go to frazerumc.org/trans4mation_run



CHILDREN + STUDENTS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 11-15



Frazer's 2011 Vacation Bible School is heading to the Big Apple. Imagine the many sights, sounds and experiences of such a busy city. Amid all the hustle and bustle, God's greatest desire is to connect each person with his son Jesus Christ, and Frazer wants to take children on this journey during VBS. We will roll out the red

carpet at 9 a.m. each day, and your taxi cab will need to pick you your child by noon. Sign up online at frazerumc.org/vbs by July 6, or in the Atrium July 10. Adult volunteers may also sign up online. Student volunteers must register through Crave Student Ministry. For more information, call Gina Williams at 261-6161, or go to frazerumc.org/vbs for online registration forms and complete details.

CRAVE GIRLS NIGHT: RENEWED JUNE 14

God calls us to change our ways of thinking, acting and even how we dress by renewing our minds. All girls are invited to join us for Renewed, as Melinda Smith of the Freedom Sound band shares what God has taught her about keeping a unique style without compromising God's Truth. You'll also see a fun take on the show "What Not To Wear" with a fashion runway of do's and don'ts. Renewed is June 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Crave Room. Cost is \$3 at the door. Sign up in the Crave office by June 9.

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

Announcements

DISCIPLESHIP + FELLOWSHIP

S.P.I.R.I.T. OF FRAZER

Join us for S.P.I.R.I.T. Thursday, June 9 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, as we welcome back the Kempter family. Cost of dinner is \$5. Please make your dinner reservations by calling Faye Jackson at 279-8727.

ADOPTION Q&A

Frazer's OneFamily Initiative will host a question and answer session on Adoption with families who have experienced both domestic and international adoption on Wednesday, June 15 at 6 p.m. For more information contact onefamily@frazerumc.org.

MEN'S MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

The Men's Ministry will host their monthly fellowship dinner Thursday, June 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Frazer's Pavilion. 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. Watch the bulletin for more details.

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 Sunday, June 5 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.

HOST HOMES NEEDED FOR DARAJA CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Daraja Children's Choir of Africa will again visit Frazer Sunday, June 19, performing during Sunday morning worship and a concert at Frazer that evening. The Daraja Choir is a ministry of 410 Bridge, Frazer's partner in the Transformation Haiti project. Eight host homes are still needed to provide lodging for the children's choir for three nights. If you are interested in opening your home for this event, please contact Butch McPherson at 495-6325 or e-mail butch@frazerumc.org for more information.

HAVE A PASSION FOR RUNNING?

Help Frazer plan our first church-wide race, the Trans4mation Run, planned for Sept. 17. To get involved, e-mail Lee Fuerst at lee.a.fuerst@us.army.mil.

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. Whether you are a skilled artist, a great doodler or prolific in stick figure illustrations, this art worship experience will open your eyes to finding the limitless avenues that exist to glorify Him. 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 wear an old shirt to protect your clothes and bring an 8x10 or 9x12 canvas and brushes (available at local arts and craft supply stores). Arrive at 6:15; you will need to be seated by 6:30 p.m. Paint will be provided. Childcare will be available by reservation. Please sign up online at frazerumc.org/christ_canvas to attend the class and for childcare. Deadline to register is Friday July 29 at noon.

DO YOU LOVE WORKING WITH CHILDREN?

Teachers and assistants are needed during all three worship hours to help with children's Sunday School for several age groups. The greatest need is for volunteers to help with four and five-year-olds at the 9:30 and 11 a.m. hours. Contact Rachel Beers at 495-6335 or rbeers@frazerumc.org for more information about this rewarding opportunity to impact future generations.

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.

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

CARING FOR OUR CONGREGATION

BIRTHS

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

A son, "Ben" Benjamin Ford William, born to Jennifer and Josh Brewer April 5, 2011.

A daughter, "Karli" Brooke, born to Lori and Josh Henderson April 7, 2011.

A daughter, "Sienna" Jade, born to Maria and Wes Carter April 9, 2011.

A daughter, "McRae" Alexandra, born to Kristen and Brian Hurst April 12, 2011.

A daughter, "Mary Rutledge," born to Cameron and Justin Morgan April 13, 2011.

A son, "Granger" Maxwell, born to Mandie and Brian Barrett April 14, 2011.

A son, "Gavin" David, born to Autumn and Jason Kocher May 3, 2011.

A son, "Hudson" Walker, born to Jennifer and Zac Gibbs May 12, 2011.

A son, "Bryant" Austin, born to Sarah and Mike Reed May 12, 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.

Allen Cook

Father of Wayne Dailey

Mother of Jennifer Muffley

Mother of Garry Wimberly

Father of Linda Gafford

Mother of Adrien Rodriguez

Mother of Carol Machen

Father of Dan Cooper

Father of Chancey Barnes

Virginia Till

Paul Cobb

Gerry Coleman

Renaye Sileo

Ed Barnes

Carl Spinozzi

Mother of Dr. Malcolm Brown

Mother of Teresa Hatfield and Sue Stanley

Tornado Relief

continued from page 1

"On a daily basis, we have heard about people from the Frazer family who have been going out to help," said Butch McPherson, Frazer's director of Outreach and Missions. "The Frazer family has helped people in all corners of the disaster area- Tuscaloosa, Elmore, Huntsville, Walker County, Birmingham...The generosity of our congregation is just overwhelming."

Weeks after the devastating storm, Butch said that the needs are shifting to providing long term help for those who have lost their homes and property, and Frazer is working with Emergency Management Agencies and Homeland Security to identify those needs and find ways the church family can continue to help. Butch said that the Elmore County Disaster Relief Council and the Elmore Emergency Management Agency have provided Frazer with a list of families in that area who lost their homes and/or loved ones. Those families will be offered tickets to the upcoming Tim Hawkins concert.

"The need for help is ongoing. The loss and pain is still there for individuals and now we really need to step up and help with the continued relief efforts," Butch said.

As further needs are identified, Butch said there will be more opportunities for Frazer members to get involved to help. To stay updated, you can e-mail your name and contact information to disaster@frazerumc.org to be placed on a distribution list to be updated whenever new opportunities to help arise.

"We want to send people where there is genuine need," Butch said.



PHOTOS BY AMY PRESLEY

Frazer members donated enough supplies to fill an 18-wheeler and two more truckloads during a one-day donation drive Sunday, May 1. The supplies were delivered to tornado victims in Elmore and Walker counties.

To stay updated on ongoing tornado recovery efforts and get on the volunteer list, e-mail your name and contact information to disaster@frazerumc.org. You will be notified whenever new opportunities to serve arise.

Frazer volunteers serve the community through Meals on Wheels



To volunteer with Meals on Wheels, call Robin Vandermey in Frazer's Community Ministries at 495-6312.

If you or someone you know could benefit from receiving daily meals, call the Montgomery Area Council on Aging at 240-6765.

By Andrea Vandermey NEWS STAFF WRITER

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?" Isaiah 58:6-7

Meals on Wheels gives volunteers an opportunity to serve outside of Frazer, and to help the community. Through the Montgomery Area Council on Aging (MACOA), Frazer staffs three different routes and helps MACOA find volunteers for other routes. Frazer route volunteers pick up meals at Baptist East or Father Walters around 11 a.m. and head for their destinations. Each route delivers meals to about 10 people.

When the volunteers deliver the meals, they are able to get to know the people and develop relationships month after month.

"I know that I may be the only person that some of these people see that day. It's nice to put a smile on someone's face" Beth Kingry said.

Betty Miller started volunteering with Meals on Wheels in March.

"At first I was a little apprehensive, but everything runs so smoothly. I love being able to talk and visit with the people on my route," she said.

The need for volunteers to deliver meals is ongoing. Volunteers must be at least 20 years old, and often times couples, friends and parents and children serve together on a route. Volunteers are asked to commit an hour to an hour and a half one day a month. If you are interested in serving on a Meals on Wheels delivery route, call Robin Vandermey in Community Ministries at 495-6312. If you or someone you know could benefit from receiving daily meals, call MACOA at 240-6765. Participants receive a hot lunch, drink and dessert Monday through Friday. Those not placed on a route are eligible to receive frozen meals.

Creatures great and small come out for Blessing of the Animals service

By Dr. Martha POOLE SIMMONS NEWS STAFF WRITER

On the perfect spring Saturday morning of April 9, more 50 animals were blessed at the Frazer's Pavilion. Frazer's Coordinating Pastor of Life Care, the Rev. Suzie Beeson, and Prayer Ministry Director Jan Niel, blessed dogs, cats and one cockatoo. Diane Waters, coordinator for the P.A.W.S. ministry (Pets Are Working Saints), planned and organized this special day, "Blessing of the Animals".

Owners held their pets in their arms or by leash, and received a spiritual blessing from seeing such care for their beloved animals. Suzie prayed with each animal and owner, saying, "Bless, O God, this your creature and all those who are charged with its care and protection."

Several years ago a blessing of animals involved in the P.A.W.S. ministry was performed at the close of a Sunday night service, but this year's event this was the first such ceremony especially for blessing all kinds of animals. After each blessing, owners were given a certificate, and animals were given a treat. Donations were accepted for the Alabama Animal Alliance (Spay & Neuter Clinic) and the Pet Food Bank, which serves families in the Montgomery area.

"Animal blessings have been part of church tradition for hundreds of years. Many blessings will traditionally coincide with the remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi, but they can be done at any time of year and spring is also a great time," Suzie said. "Many different denominations offer animal blessings as celebrations of God's goodness and a reminder to us of our responsibility of love and care for his creation. God is the author of all creation, and God himself declared that all he created was good."

Suzie noted that companion animals in particular often give their owners a "reflection" of the unconditional love of God. Volunteers in the P.A.W.S. ministry witness again and again the power of touch and non-judgmental presence as the animals interact with the elderly, ill, and challenged adults and children in hospitals and care centers," she said. Oftentimes, these individuals will respond to animals more easily than they can respond to people and caregivers.

"We know that God works through this ministry and the volunteers and their animals. God asks us to be good stewards as we care for creation, and the United Methodist Church includes a liturgy for the Blessing of Animals in its Book of Worship. As we do our blessing, we remember that all life is a gift from God, and we remember the story of God's good creation and ask that he bless both the animal and owner," Suzie said. "It truly is a celebration of God's goodness and the many ways that he reaches out to us with his love."

During the ceremony, Suzie quoted Psalm 104:24, "How many are your works O Lord. In your wisdom, you made them all. The earth is full of your creatures." She also read from Numbers 22:1-25, the story of Balaam, a Gentile prophet who betrayed Israel for fame and fortune and received a reprimand from his donkey.

"This is a vivid story in how God reaches us through animals. Time and time again, we know that God loves us through the gift of companion animals," Suzie said, as she recalled how her two dogs provided companionship when her husband was away on military duties. Her dogs were always there and loved her unconditionally.

"This is the love that we see through companion animals. We give God thanks for this wonderful gift of unconditional love and grace," she said.

Jan Niel prayed for those who participated in the ceremony:

"We are so conscious, God, this day of how you gift us and bless us through animals. I pray for your blessings on each person here today and on those who could not be with us here today. Help us as we care and protect your creation and particularly the animals that you have put into our care. Help us always to remember, Lord, that they are a precious gift from you. To you, we give our thanks."

Linda White has been a member of the P.A.W.S. ministry for the last year and makes at least four such P.A.W.S. visits each month.

"Everybody remembers my dog, Molly, and no one remembers me," Linda said. "I think it is wonderful to have the opportunity to have our dogs blessed. Our dogs are so used to blessing people."

Melissa Snowden said, "It is just exciting to have a blessing for the whole family, pets and children included. Pets play such an important part in our home and bring a lot of joy. We just appreciate that our church is recognizing the whole family."



PHOTOS BY MARTHA POOLE SIMMONS

Pets and their owners wait their turn to receive a special blessing at the Blessing of the Animals service held at Frazer's Pavilion April 9.



Rev. Suzie Beeson prays a special blessing for a dog and its owner at the Blessing of the Animals service. The Pets are Working Saints (P.A.W.S.) Ministry and LifeCare Ministry organized the event, and more than 50 animals and their owners came to be blessed that day.

Frazer experiences the power of the Cross and the Resurrection this Easter



Easter Eggstravaganza

PHOTOS BY MARTHA POOLE SIMMONS

Changed: The Power of the Cross Easter Musical presented by Frazer's Worship, Music & Drama Ministries



PHOTO BY MAC MCLELLAN



PHOTO BY CHRISTHORNTON



PHOTO BY CHRISTHORNTON



PHOTO BY MAC MCLELLAN



PHOTO BY MAC MCLELLAN



PHOTO BY MARY OGDEN



PHOTO BY CHRISTHORNTON



PHOTO BY MARY OGDEN



PHOTO BY MAC MCLELLAN

Stations of the Cross



PHOTO BY CHRIS THORNTON



PHOTO BY JUDI MALLORY



PHOTO BY CHRIS THORNTON

Children's Prayer Garden with Jesus



PHOTO BY JUDI MALLORY

Good Friday Tenebrae Service of Darkness



PHOTOS BY CHRIS THORNTON



PHOTO BY LYDIA CULP

Cherub Church: Preschoolers reenact the story of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday Worship at Frazer

Easter Sunrise Service at Blount Cultural Park



PHOTO BY CHRIS THORNTON



PHOTO BY HAROLD HILL



PHOTO BY CHRIS THORNTON



PHOTO BY CHRIS THORNTON



PHOTOS BY LORI MERCER

Congratulations to Frazer's 2011 Graduating Seniors



PHOTO BY MARY OGDEN

Frazer's Crave Student Ministry celebrated its 2011 graduating senior class Sunday, May 15 with special recognition during morning worship services and a family luncheon in the Fellowship Hall.

Blake Barrow

Samantha Luster

Lacey Sport

Taylor Calloway

Elise Mason

Shea Summerlin

Ashtyne Cole

Allison Mitchell

Danielle Sutter

Reeves Cox

Liz Ogden

Pruett Troy

Ryan Edmundson

Anna Beth Peavy

Josh Watkins

Lyndsay Ewing

Carrie Rushton

Elizabeth Wilson

Courtney Johnson

Allison Sasser

Kaylin Windham

Jessica Klinner

John Slayton

Hunter Williamson

The Little Squirrel



GINGER'S CORNER

Ginger Koerner

While cleaning out my fridge, I came across some bread sticks brought home from an Italian restaurant. Opening the bag, I smelled the wonderful aromas of the butter, garlic and cheese on the top of the bread. Just thinking about it makes me hungry!

It was stale, so I decided to break it up and throw it on our side lawn so I could watch our many birds feed on it. As I continued working in the kitchen I could see the bread and hoped, before I finished my tasks, I would see them eat.

To my surprise a little gray squirrel came along and sniffed the bread, pawed it and then took a nibble. I thought that squirrel began singing the "Hallelujah Chorus" as he began devouring that bread. Then he grabbed it and ran off with it. I thought that was the end of it, but to my surprise that little squirrel did his weeks food shopping, as he grabbed a piece of the bread, running off and, I assume, placing it in hiding. He returned several times to help himself to the free food.

The next morning all of the bread was gone. That poor foolish squirrel will be so shocked when he finds that the first rain or ants will eat the bread for him.

The Bible talks about foolish people: those who build on sand—or things that have no foundation (Matthew 7:24-27). Then there's the story of the foolish virgins who were having so much fun with the present, they didn't plan for the future. Their oil ran out, and they missed the wedding (Matthew 25:1-13).

Most of us can relate to that little squirrel. We have all been foolish in one thing or another. We have smelled the aroma of the temptation and either gave in and partook of it, or stood firm in the Lord. Ephesians 5:15-17 says: "Be careful as you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time—So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is..."

Still, I feel a bit sorry for that little squirrel, but I know God has provided enough nuts for him to eat from our pecan trees.

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.

Shared values crucial in a marriage



THE FAMILY COUNSELOR

Dr. Don Hill,
Ph.D., LPC

Shared values are an important ingredient to marriage. A recent study at the University of Michigan found that couples who have good marriages and share values literally begin to physically look alike. According to this study, it is the fact of having same values that produce this unusual event. Values are shared when individuality is appreciated. Married people need to be open to how their mate thinks and feels about certain matters. We must recognize that they are entitled to their rights and privileges as we are to ours. This can only occur when we make a real effort to appreciate their principles.

Individual values can lead to conflicts. It is not always a case of making a decision based on a good or bad value. It is usually based on what at least one of the mates thinks is a good value, because each value in question is of great importance to one of the individuals. When values are the same there is harmony. When they are not the same, there is conflict.

As a couple works on developing common values, their relationship deepens. They learn to operate as one, rather than as two people. The relationship a couple has reflects their whole lifestyle. Values are not restricted only to likes and dislikes, but they make up the lifestyle each

wants from anything relating to their economic, social, or spiritual planes. Individuality can be maintained but there should be a basic agreement on values necessary for happy living.

This is why couples, who have had a great marriage for many years, begin to physically look alike. Conversely, couples with perpetual conflicts show more facial seriousness after years of marriage. Shared values produce better relationships. Better relationships produce happier marriages. Happy marriages cause couples to look alike. Do you find that you and your mate are beginning to look alike?

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.

Learn to fix money behavior issues to become debt free instead of relying on debt management companies

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,
How do you feel about debt management companies? Can they actually help you reduce and get out of debt?
---Jake

Dear Jake,
My advice is to stay away from debt management companies. If you go to the Federal Trade Commission's website, you'll find that debt management companies receive more complaints than just about any other type of business. In other words, tons of them are operated poorly to the point of incompetence, or they're just plain scams.

Debt management companies don't wave a magic wand and make your problems disappear. The only way a creditor

will take less than they're owed is if you're way behind on payments, and they're afraid they won't get paid. And, if it comes to a settlement situation, you have to watch your back. Always make sure you get any settlement offers and agreements on your own and in writing—no exceptions. And never allow a creditor to have electronic access to your bank accounts.

But the big problem is that you need to fix your behavior when it comes to handling money. You can do that a lot cheaper than any company. But if you don't get control of your money, start living on a budget, and living on less than you make, your debt problem is going to hang around your neck for the rest of your life!

—Dave



DAVE SAYS

Dave Ramsey

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Board of Stewards votes to modify loan

Staff Reports

Frazer is taking advantage of current lower interest rates to press toward the goal of paying off our building loan as early as possible.

At the April 10 meeting of the Board of Stewards, Finance Committee chairman Larry Hughes gave a report explaining the opportunity to find a better rate on our current \$3.5 million debt. After researching options at eight banks, the committee selected a proposal from Sterling Bank offering a variable interest rate currently at 1.79 percent. Even though rates are expected to rise, the goal will be to pay off the loan before they exceed the current fixed rate of 5.72 percent. Hughes further explained that Frazer would be able to exit the loan without a penalty should rates rise more rapidly.

The board unanimously approved the move, which has a potential for savings of up to \$250,000. Once the loan is paid, the church looks forward to being able to make approximately \$15,000 a month available to missions and ministry projects. Frazer members wishing to give above and beyond their regular contributions to the Operating Budget have the opportunity at any time to designate gifts to the Early Debt Retirement account.

Connect 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 our Year of Transformation, including updates on our Haiti and Montgomery transformation projects, and download the "Heart and Home" devotion guide at transform.frazerumc.org

Also, don't forget to "Like" the Frazer page if you are on Facebook, www.facebook.com/frazerumc.

Chess Ministry: Making a difference in students, one move at a time

By E.L. Perry SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Research and experience have shown that elementary school children who learn to play chess have better scores in reading and math when compared to other students. Chess is now a mandated and funded part of the curriculum in the state of Idaho. New York City Public Schools have taught chess at all levels (kindergarten through 12th grade) since 1986 and a recent article in "USA Today" describes the efforts of America's Foundation for Chess to expand chess into many other elementary school classrooms.

One volunteer group in Montgomery is working to get chess into the curriculum and as a club activity in the Montgomery Public Schools. The Chess In The Public Schools (CIPS) ministry at Frazer hosted the second annual competition between Wares Ferry Elementary and T. S. Morris Elementary April 30. Senior Pastor Dr. Tim Thompson welcomed 30 students, accompanied by faculty and staff from the two schools. Numerous parents and other observers were present during the lively competition as third through fifth grade students played chess in a tournament type setting. James Garner of the Montgomery Chess Club was the tournament director. Referees included Don Graham, Don Nolte, Ursula Nolte, Jesse Miles, Rhonda Miles, April Frederick, Lee Werling, Andrew Roberts, Dee Perry and E. L. Perry.

Rhonda Miles, who worked in both schools this year, said "It is so awesome when you can see in their eyes that they really understand"

Andrew Roberts, a teacher at Wares Ferry and the primary school contact for the Chess Club at Wares Ferry agreed.

"The program is great. We just need more interested teachers, school officials and volunteers to expand it into more schools and to make it a permanent part of the curriculum," he said.

Don Nolte, a retired Air Force Officer and an avid chess player, wants to expand the program into intermediate schools for next year. Dr. Don Hill, of the Frazer Counseling Center, observed part of the tournament and said "The children are so intent and they are so well behaved. I am really impressed with the program."

During the school year, volunteers helped school officials with an after school chess club at both schools. Teachers at T. S. Morris also taught chess one hour per week as part of the curriculum. In the states with the most successful chess programs, the game is also taught one hour per week in the classroom, so that all students are exposed to chess. The after school chess club is voluntary so only those students who develop an interest and have the necessary after school transportation are able to participate.

Don Graham served as the coordinator for the after school chess club at T. S. Morris. He was assisted by Rhonda Miles, Jesse Miles, Don Nolte and Ursula Nolte. Dee and E. L. Perry worked with the chess club at Wares Ferry assisted by Rhonda Miles and Jesse Miles. The tournament at Frazer marked the culmination of activities for both groups. Frazer's Community Ministries provided the food as well as t-shirts and awards for the players. Volunteers helping with food service for the tournament included Henry and Linda Lynn, Joe and Linda Silverman, Herb Goodwin, Rhonda Miles, Ursula Nolte



PHOTOS BY E.L. PERRY

Volunteer Dee Perry referees a chess match at Frazer April 30, as part of the Chess in the Public Schools Ministry tournament for third-fifth graders from two local schools.



Chess team from T.S. Morris Elementary.



Chess team from Wares Ferry Elementary.

and Claudia Graham.

CIPS plans to expand the chess program to at least four schools this fall and volunteers are needed to work in the fall programs. It is not necessary for a volunteer to know how to play chess, and summer training courses available. If you can commit one afternoon per week or if you can help with weekend tournaments and competition, call E. L. Perry at 514-1461.

Student ministry lives out Great Commission during Dominican Republic mission trip

by Kelly Levangie NEWS STAFF WRITER

In Matthew 28, 19, Jesus calls us to “go and make disciples of all nations.” This is truly a global mission that begins here and extends around the world, to every nation and all different kinds of people. Our mission is to equip and empower people to lead others from different cultures to Jesus.

The Crave Student Ministry has made it their goal this year to focus on missions, and students have been given many opportunities to put into practice the Great Commission—“go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth.” Crave has equated this to mean going into Montgomery, the state of Alabama, the United States, and various countries around the world. Once a month Crave, focuses on a local outreach, as well as mission trips within the United States, such as the community outreach and construction in Miami coming up in July. International construction and community outreach has been to the Dominican Republic the past four years. This year, the construction consisted of working on two homes in the Cielo community. The community outreach consisted of meeting and building relationships within the Cielo community and hosting several vacation Bible schools for the children.

Several of the students that went on the trip said they were amazed by the fact that these people had so little but were willing to give all that they had. Holly Carr said she simply made a comment to a little girl that she liked her earrings and the little girl took them off and gave them to her. Anthony Boston, who has been on the Dominican Republic mission trip in the past, met a boy there named Alberto three years ago. When he returned this year, he assumed that the boy would not recognize or remember him. but as soon as Alberto saw Anthony, he ran up to him and gave him a huge hug. Alberto then immediately ran back to his house and got a hat that Anthony had given him a few years ago. A simple kindness Anthony had shared years ago had made an incredible impact on this boy.

One common theme the mission team members shared about their experiences in the Dominican Republic was the amazing love of the people. A love that can cross language and cultures. Alex



PHOTOS BY CRAVE STUDENT MINISTRY

Crave Student Ministry sent a team of students and adults to the Dominican Republic over spring break to share Christ's love and serve the people of the Cielo community.

Stroud passed a homeless man on the street and, though he didn't understand much of what the man said, he did pick out one word he recognized, “come” meaning “to eat.” He walked on but then felt God put it on his heart to go and buy the man some food. When he came back and gave the man the food, he attempted to say “God loves you” in Spanish. Though he may not have gotten the words just right, God's love still beamed over his actions that day.

Karen Vander Hey said her experience with a woman named Anna, from the Cielo community, had a great impact on her. The team had been building a brick wall, which would eventually become a home for Anna and her children. Karen said she was holding hands with Anna as they watched the group work on her house. Karen wanted to have a conversation with the woman, but knew very little Spanish. Anna placed her other hand on Karen's, squeezed it and smiled.

“I knew then that she knew what I was feeling. We had something in common—a love for God,” Karen said. “It didn't matter that she spoke Spanish and I spoke English, but language we had together was a great love for God.”

On each visit to the Dominican Republic, the Crave team visits the Leprosarium, a leper colony. They look forward to sharing Christ and His love with a group of people who have essen-



The mission team spent time with the local children, (above and right), and ministering to the residents of a leprosarium, (bottom right), along with helping with construction projects and hosting vacation Bible school.



tially been abandoned by everyone and deemed unlovable. But the love of Christ looks beyond the physical and into the heart of every person.

Kathy Boston, who participated in the mission trip with both of her children, said she always thinks that every year she goes on this mission trip that her experience could be as good as the last. She recalled a man at the leprosarium who could barely stand but wanted to give the group something for all that they had done for them, so he began to sing.

“I had no idea what he was singing, but the more he sang, the stronger he became. So much so that the more he sang, the more he stood up until he was walking, even dancing around the room! That was nothing but God,” Kathy said.

The mission team members recalled

they had never before seen something so miraculous, and such a great example of the power and strength in the worship of God.

The trip to the Dominican Republic, as with any mission trip, is more than mixing concrete or building homes. It is more than vacation Bible school. It's about building and shaping lives God's way—both Dominican and American. Our Frazer family always feels as though they received much more than they gave and their lives are changed forever.

FRAZER MISSION SUNDAY



FRAZER FAMILY NEWS

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SUNDAY, JUNE 12 IN ALL MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES



COMEDIAN TIM HAWKINS LIVE AT FRAZER JUNE 12

Who says you can't have good, clean family entertainment that's roll-on-the-floor funny? Not Tim Hawkins. Whether he's ranting on aging Rock Stars, questioning life on Noah's Ark, or singing his famous "Chick-Fil-A Song," you'll be laughing along and loving every minute. See him live at Frazer Sunday, June 12 at 6 p.m. in Wesley Hall. Tickets are \$15* in advance, \$20* at the door, and available in the Frazer Bookstore or online at www.frazerumc.org/timhawkins. All tickets are general admission.

*A \$1 service fee applies to ticket price.



DARAJA CHILDREN'S CHOIR AT FRAZER

The Daraja Children's Choir will perform at Frazer Sunday, June 19 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Don't miss this inspiring event. The Daraja Choir is a ministry of 410 Bridge, Frazer's partner in the Transform Haiti project. Nursery will be available for ages 0-3.



WOMEN'S HIGH TEA AND FASHION SHOW

Ladies, join us for the Second Annual High Tea and Fashion Show, Saturday, June 25 at 3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy High Tea, complete with linen, china cups, tea and savory treats. Participate in a silent auction and don't miss the fashion show by Studio South Boutique. Don't forget to wear your favorite bonnet! Tickets are \$12 and available in the Frazer Bookstore.

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