

SOUTHWEST AREA NEWS

American Baptist Churches of Ohio
Clinton, Dayton, Miami and Western Associations

December 2007

Are You Listening?

Good News!
God is with us!
Emmanuel.
Glory!
Nothing will be impossible!
Hope! Joy! Angelic singing!
Peace! Love!
Light! Gifts!
Salvation!
Jesus!

Let your heart and mind feast on these wonderful words from the Advent story. Take time to reflect on the scenes and the feelings that form in your inner space as you allow God to speak to you.

We are bombarded with so many words and messages all year long, and the noise only grows more loud and persistent as we enter this busy season.

We need a time out...a time to listen...a time to hear what God is trying to say to us. Spend some quality time just meditating on these words and ask God to tell you what our loving, heavenly Father wants to say to us. Be still and listen. God has a message just for you.

CELEBRATIONS

During morning worship on November 4, **Rev. Dr. James Van Zile**, pastor of **First Baptist Church of St. Paris**, and his wife, Denise, were surprised by an unexpected presentation for their 20th wedding anniversary. Their children and the church congregation gave them an all-expenses-paid trip to Hawaii for the first week of December. The gift was kept as a complete surprise by everyone involved. Even the younger children kept the secret. It was a beautiful expression of love and respect for this dedicated couple who have spent thirteen years ministering in this congregation and was part of their celebration of pastor appreciation month.

CHANGES

Memorial Baptist Church, Dayton, voted to partner with The Vineyard (Indian Ripple Road, Beavercreek) as the main worship presence that will take over official ownership of the building. They plan to have a community outreach organization on premises and to continue God's work in that area.

The **Miami Association** has leased the building of the former **First Baptist Church of Lebanon** (which closed on Sept. 30) to a local congregation known as New Freedom (not ABC), and that group began worshipping there on November 1. We give thanks to God that ministry will continue in that location.

WELCOME:

The **Rev. Mark Click, First Baptist, Greenfield**, has been called to be the new **Minister of Congregational Development for ABC/OH**, serving the four associations of Clinton, Dayton, Miami, and Western. He will begin his duties on January 15.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AMERICAN BAPTIST YOUTH OF OHIO CONVENTION

FEBRUARY 22-24, 2008

Heartland Conference Center

(Watch for more details)

2008 MISSION CONFERENCE IN OHIO

Planned by ABC/USA Board of International Ministries and ABC/OH Staff
Montgomery Community Church, Cincinnati

May 16-18

Meet our Missionaries, Share in Worship, Learn About Mission

Put this on your church calendar and begin planning for a wonderful event!

A YOUTH EXPERIENCE LIKE NONE OTHER!

More Than a Week '08

Equipped for Life

The National Gathering of American Baptist Youth

July 5 - 11, 2008

ESTES PARK, COLORADO

Sponsored by National Ministries,

American Baptist Churches USA

5 days of Dynamic Speakers

Register online www.morethanaweek.org

KEEP THESE CONGREGATIONS and SEARCH COMMITTEES IN PRAYER :

Church of Matthew 25, Cincinnati, Pastor.

Fellowship of Mercy, Independence, KY, Co-Pastor

Heritage Community Church, Cincinnati, Part-time Director Children/Youth Ministry.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Woodlawn, Cincinnati, Pastor

St. Clair Avenue Baptist Church, Hamilton, Pastor.

Sugar Creek Baptist Church, Washington Court House, Pastor.

Remember, the ministry of this insert and the ministry of your Minister of Congregational Development, as well as many mission endeavors are made possible by your generous support of the America for Christ Offering, United Mission, and ABC/OHIO Specifics.

Revs. Alvin and Rachel Lee

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