

SOUL FREEDOM

This weekend we celebrate freedom, remembering the founding of our nation 234 years ago. As we celebrate political and civil freedoms, it's also a good time to recall the contributions of our Baptist forebears to the cause of religious liberty:

In 1611, English Baptist Thomas Helwys issued the radical call for freedom of conscience for all persons and demanded that government not interfere in religious affairs.

In 1636, Roger Williams founded the settlement of Providence, Rhode Island as a haven for those "distressed of conscience" who had been expelled from other colonies, including Quakers, Baptists, Jews and Native Americans. In 1638, he founded the First Baptist Church in America.

In 1787, Baptist evangelist John Leland met with James Madison to press the cause of religious liberty in what would become the Bill of Rights.

We cling closely to the doctrine of soul liberty, that each person stands before God in freedom and that all should be accorded the freedom to come to their own understandings of that relationship without

coercion or outside intervention.

Baptists did not pull this notion out of thin air; we believe it is a foundational Biblical teaching. Paul told the Galatians: *"For freedom Christ has set us free."* Our American Baptist Executive Secretary, Roy Medley, put it this way at our Denver biennial: *"Only truth freely found and freely embraced stands in the court of conscience. Our deep commitment to soul liberty is because it is essential to Biblical authority in our lives. Through soul liberty we recognize that no one else can answer for us—neither priest, nor preacher, nor creeds or councils. Through soul liberty we honor the primacy of every soul's encounter with the living God. This is the very heart of what it means to be a Baptist Christian."*

To this day, we stand with others "distressed of conscience," many of them of unpopular religious backgrounds, remembering that we ourselves were once considered dangerous heretics. We thank God for the opportunity to worship freely in this great land.

—Pastor Cheri Grizzard

WORSHIP

SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2010

10:00 a.m. Worship ■ 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time

"The Challenges Americans Face"

I Timothy 2:1-6

Alexis de Toqueville, a famous French political philosopher, visited our nation to uncover the secret of our greatness. After traveling from town to town, talking with people, asking questions and examining every facet of our society, he returned to France and wrote these amazing words: *"I sought for America's greatness. I found it not in her fields & forests. I found it not in her mines and factories. I found it not in her Congress and great tribunals. It was only when I entered her churches and heard her pulpits thundering against sin and preaching righteousness that I discovered the secret of her greatness."*

Then he added, *"America is great because America is good. If America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."* As we celebrate the goodness of our nation, we will explore some of the challenges that face us as Americans today.

Music: *"America The Beautiful"* — Danielle Blancaflor, *"Blessed is the Nation"* — Men's Ensemble

Greeters: Don & Zene Baker, Rosemary Marshall,
Wayne & Diane Nowlan, John & Mandi Dyke

Welcome Center:
Chuck Browder, Dianne Bayes

Flowers on July 4, will be given by Paul and Nan Weers in loving memory of Nan's mother Marlyn Wilkins and Paul's parents Jay and Verla Weers.



CALENDAR

Sunday, July 4

- 9:00 a.m. Men's Ensemble Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 11:20 a.m. Bible in 90 Days (Chapel)

Monday, July 5

Office Closed for July Fourth Holiday

- 6:30 a.m. Kids' Corner
- 7:30 a.m. Fun & Fit
- 7:00 p.m. FunMakers

Tuesday, July 6

- 6:30 a.m. Kids' Corner
- 9:00 a.m. RAY
- 10:00 a.m. M.U.G.S. (Panera's)
- 7:00 p.m. Summer Band

Wednesday, July 7

- 6:30 a.m. Kids' Corner
- 7:30 a.m. Fun & Fit
- 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. Bible in 90 Days (Chapel)

Thursday, July 8

- 6:30 a.m. Kids' Corner
- 7:00 p.m. Summer Band

Friday, July 9

- 6:30 a.m. Kids' Corner
- 7:30 a.m. Fun & Fit

CALENDAR NOTES

There will be no men's breakfast in July. The next breakfast will be August 7.

Heartwarming Hats will not meet on July 5. They will meet instead on July 12 at 11:00 a.m. here at the church.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember in your prayers:

- Lorey Schlehner, Louise Heimann
- Richard Petroski, Gail Sexton,
- Don Stoner, Jan Swanson,
- Sieg Polakow, Bill Pitts,
- Madelynn Claire Ryan,
- Jason Roberts (son of Andi & Dennis)

HEALTH TIPS

Take your family for a walk — add the fun factor:

- ☺ Turn your walk into a scavenger hunt.
- ☺ Walk to a fun destination.
- ☺ Choose routes that pass points of interest.
- ☺ Let your child lead the way.
- ☺ Create theme walks. On a "bug" walk, for instance, look for different kinds of insects.

Debbie McGlothlen, 635-3666
Lurene Ladd, 691-2054



DIRECTORY UPDATE

It's time to update the address listing of the church directory. Has your home address, e-mail address, home phone or cell phone number changed since the current directory was published in 2007? If so, please update your information using the form in the Sunday bulletins July 4, 11 and 18, or by mail, phone or e-mail to the church office.

We hope to distribute the updated listing the last week of July.

First Baptist Church
411 W Lake Ave., Peoria, IL 61614
e-mail: fbcpeo@mtco.net
phone: 309-682-5491

CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Please bring non-perishable food this Sunday, July 4 and place it in the cart in the Warm Room.

Donated goods will go to West/Mark Food Pantry.



LAKE SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CAMP

Kindergarten — High School Ages

- First Baptist Church Covers one-half of the registration cost.
- Registration forms are available from the church office or on-line at <http://www.abcgr.org/grrcamps/index.htm>.

Grades 6-9 (\$210)
July 5 to July 10

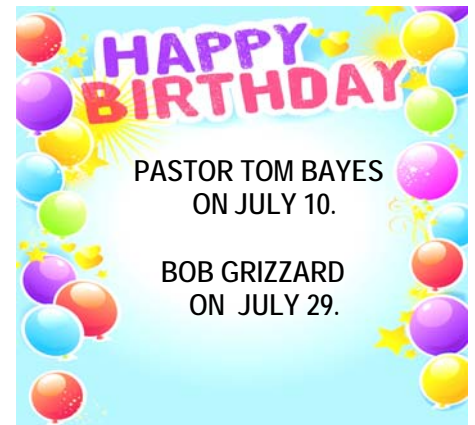
Grades 4-6 (\$210)
July 11 to July 16

Grades K-2 (\$25)
July 17, 9:30-4:00

Grades 9-12 (\$240)
July 18 to July 24

Grades 6-9 (\$240)
July 25 to July 31

Grades 2-5 (\$130)
August 1 to August 4



PASTOR TOM BAYES
ON JULY 10.

BOB GRIZZARD
ON JULY 29.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Erica R. (Ashburn) VanBrakle on her ordination.

A Service of Ordination will be held for Erica on July 11, 2010 at Michigan Avenue Baptist Church in Saginaw, MI. Pastor Tom Bayes will deliver the ordination sermon.

A Service of Celebration will be held at First Baptist Church of Peoria at a future date.

Mailing address:

Erica VanBrakle
227 Wylie
Saginaw, MI 48602



'NORTH 40' UPDATE



We are happy to welcome Jacob, a new personality, to our garden (next week will be his sister Sara). He is the invention of Karen and Butch Vickerman, so be sure and send a big smile his way. We also invite you to come and see our little Hen n' Chicken feet that are patrolling our footpath, in tennis shoes no less, plus a pair of real cowboy boots, courtesy of Joan Trotter!

Our thanks as well to Diane and Dave Tomsovic. They lent a much appreciated helping hand to our busy little people as the last remaining bed of impatiens (left side) was planted and the finishing application of black mulch was applied to the 'North 40.'

Next week, July 4th, our little people will migrate to pine tree haven. (Those are the long needled trees that grow between the church and the 'white house.')

It is here that they will create a path made entirely of hosta that will visibly connect the two buildings (we hope). Anyone who wants to help us in our task will be welcome. Please contact Karen Stroemer, 691-0853 or Jan Olson, 691-7955.

—Jan Olson

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who generously assisted with my birthday celebration on June 20. I was so thrilled that so many people came in spite of it being on Father's Day. You made it a truly special celebration for me, one I thoroughly enjoyed.

—Martha Nibbelin



First Baptist Church of Peoria
411 W Lake Avenue
Peoria IL 61614

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THE MISSION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO MINISTER TO OUR CONGREGATION, THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD, SO THAT ALL MAY EXPERIENCE THE LOVE AND GRACE OF GOD.

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010



Come take VBS to the extreme! Camp E.D.G.E. is not your typical stroll through the woods. It's an action-packed, adrenaline-filled expedition to an Extreme Adventure Camp that teaches kids their strength and might come from God.

Everyone will learn that God is with them, guides them, teaches them, loves them, and sends them. Each child will also learn how to stay close, follow, learn, love and go with God. Get ready to trek through the scriptures July 18-22, from 6:00 p.m.- 8:15 p.m.

VBS is open to all children age 5 through 4th grade. Make sure to sign up for a week of fun and fellowship. Enrollment forms will be in the Sunday bulletin on July 4 and are on the church website www.fbcpeoria.org under resources, forms & brochures, and in the church office.

FBC Peoria Wants YOU!

We are looking for people to staff our [Welcome Center](#) and to become [Pew Greeters](#).

No prerequisites are required and you don't work during Church services!

If interested please contact:

[Pew Greeter](#) - Richard Heller:
rpheller@comcast.net or 922-1665

[WC Staffer](#) - Chuck Browder:
charles_browder_820@comcast.net or 678-0114



RICHARD & MARIE GILLASPIE

Which came first – the chicken or the egg? In the case of Dick and Marie Gillaspie, that's easy. The egg. By the dozens.

Dick and Marie met as college students. When Dick was a senior at Kansas State University, he roomed with his brother. Each weekend one or the other would travel back home to the family farm, pick up eggs and deliver them to campus customers. Marie lived with three other girls, one of whom was dating Dick. But Marie seemed to be the only one ever home when he delivered eggs on Sundays -- and so the romance began.

Council Grove, Kan., the "birthplace of the Santa Fe Trail," was also the birthplace of Dick and his six siblings. Living on a general livestock farm, the entire Gillaspie family pitched in when it came to farm chores. Still, the boys managed time to participate in school sports; Dick and three of his brothers ended up in university track programs. "With six boys we always had something going," says Dick about their family life.

Born in St. Louis, Mo., Marie had one older brother. Her mom was a medical technologist and her dad a mechanical engineer. Marie attended St. Louis schools before heading off to Kansas State to major in home economics (now called human ecology).

Dick had met Marie's roommate at the Baptist Student Center but got to know Marie better each time he delivered those eggs. Soon he asked her to the track team picnic, and they continued to date through his graduation with a degree in agricultural economics. They corresponded in the summer when Marie was back in St. Louis, then picked up their romance when she returned back to K- State.

Dick had been in the ROTC during his college years and in November of 1965 went on active duty. They became officially engaged early the next year just before he left for Germany. A year later Dick returned to the States and they married. By that time, Marie had graduated (in 3 ½ years) and they returned to Germany as newlyweds.

After stints at Ft. Bragg and in Vietnam, during which Marie lived with her folks and worked for the State of Missouri, Dick's final military assignment was in Oklahoma. Marie was hired by the Oklahoma Department of Welfare as a case worker.

After 4 ½ years, Dick left active duty and they continued their education at Kansas State, both receiving master's degrees. Dick went to work in Peoria in the business economics department at Caterpillar Inc., and Marie searched for a job.

That was in 1971, the same year they walked for the first time through the side door at First Baptist Church, where Bob and Mary Park were greeting. The Parks promptly invited them to a Memorial Day cookout at their house. Shortly after, they attended the June "Doubles" social and became active in the life of the church, joining in October of that year.

Yes, the eggs came first, but the "chickens" finally arrived in the form of sons Tim and Bill, born in 1972 and 1975. In 1976 Marie began working for the Illinois Department of Welfare, where she will celebrate her 35th anniversary next year. Tim, a Lieutenant Colonel, and wife Michelle, a Major, are on active duty with the Air Force. They and children -- Matthew, 4, and Elizabeth, 2 -- live in Anchorage, Alaska. Bill, a family-practice physician, and wife Kate, marketing director for Outward Bound and a professional photographer, live in Golden, Colo., with their nine-month old daughter Mica.

Dick retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the Army Reserves after 24 years and from Caterpillar after 35 years. He has been on every FBC board except Missions and has served as Trustee chairman twice. He is currently the assistant team captain for the Area Three American Baptist Men's Disaster Relief effort. At home, he enjoys vegetable gardening.

A member of the Peoria Garden Club, Marie takes charge of the flower gardening. She's served on the Board of Christian Education and as a Sunday School teacher at First Baptist. Valuing her home time, she is a voracious reader, dipping into every book genre.

Both, of course, enjoy visiting the grandchildren and providing child care while the parents travel.

