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World Class Baptists

By Rev. Dr. Kent Berghuis

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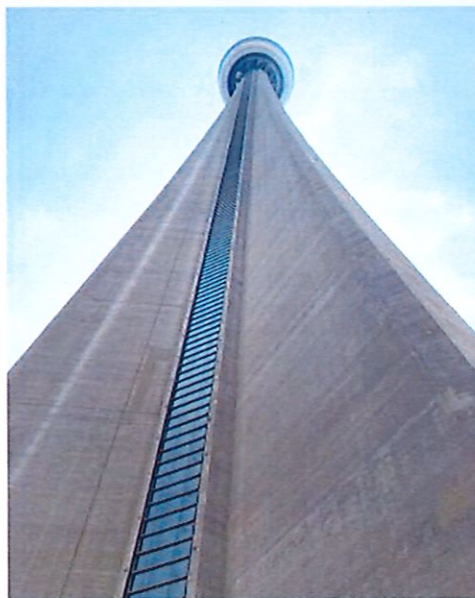
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Recently it was my privilege to attend the Annual Gathering of the Baptist World Alliance in Toronto. Several hundred Baptist leaders from around the world came to our host site of Tyndale University, where I got to adjust back to dormitory life for a week. Last year I attended the BWA event in Brisbane, Australia, so the travel situation was easier, as I was able to drive there in about 7 hours or so.

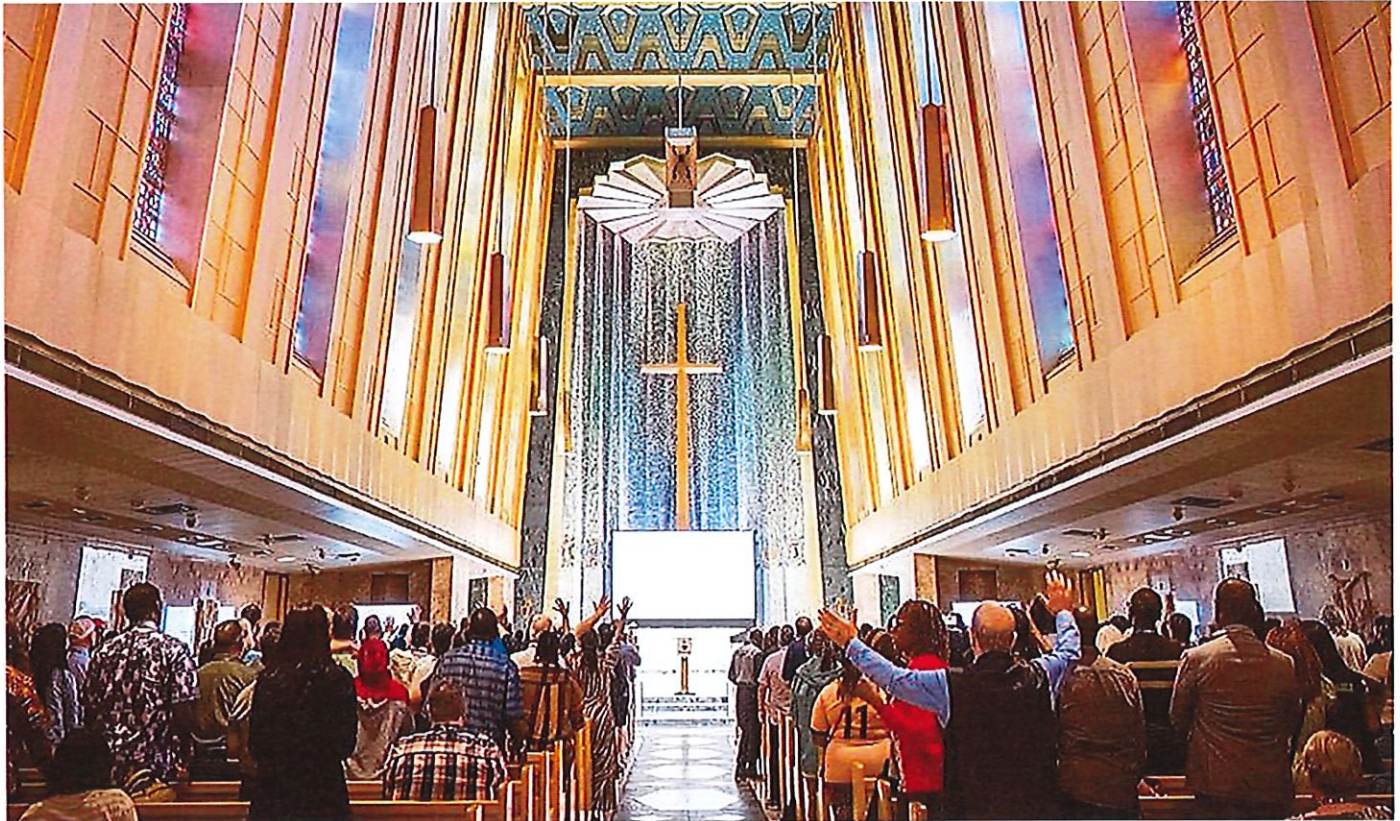
For 17 years now I've been a representative to BWA for our denomination, the American Baptist Churches-USA, serving on appointed commissions. At the present time I am part of the Commission for Doctrine and Christian Unity. This commission is responsible for representing Baptists with other Christian denominations on the global stage. For instance, there has been a long-standing dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church, enabling Baptists to have representatives meet with bishops and even the Pope in the Vatican during their Synods where they invite fraternal church organizations to participate. There have been discussions with other groups such as Pentecostals, Mennonites, and various Orthodox churches, promoting cooperation in places where there has sometimes been conflict.

(continued)

We have a bit of a Dayton contingent serving in my commission, as many of you will remember former members Jason Hentschel and Derek Hatch, who both also serve. Jason came to Toronto with his family, and we all went with several other friends on sightseeing and evening outings together. We went up to the top of the famous CN Tower, though we all declined the opportunity to hang from a rope over the edge. We went to a sports bar to watch the USA play Portugal in the World Cup soccer match, and perhaps not too surprisingly, most all the Canadians in the room rooted for Portugal!



The worship times were lovely experiences, held in Tyndale's beautiful chapel that was built by Roman Catholics for a Convent. Soaring stained glass windows and an acoustically wonderful auditorium made the singing ring. Speakers from around the globe shared concerns from their regions and offered diverse Scriptural perspectives in preaching and testimony. My favorite was an indigenous man from Canada who helped us understand the impact of colonialism on native Americans. He accompanied his message with a drum and singing, and humbly and skilfully made a case for an integration of Christ with culture.



I return from this experience with a greater appreciation for what Christians around the world face in their day to day challenges. We hear of the massive impact that America's withdrawal of aid has had on the developing world where our Christian friends are often serving. We hear of places where churches are growing rapidly, as well as places where they are in decline. But in every place, God is at work, and likeminded people find ways to fellowship and work together.

Being with these people makes me appreciate the world class leaders our Baptist denominations and church groups have. A global mindset with deep empathy for people pervades the atmosphere. It is both humbling and uplifting to attend such a gathering. Thanks for letting me get away and represent our church in this world class setting!

--Pastor Kent Berghuis

August Church Meetings

Board Meetings

Wednesday, Aug. 12 @ 6:30pm

Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday, Aug. 19 @ 6:30pm

Coffee & Cookie Social Time at One Lincoln Park

Next Social: August 5, 2026

Monthly - 1st Wednesday from 2:00-3:30pm
590 Isaac Prugh Way, Kettering 45429



On the first Wednesday of the month, you're invited to drop in at One Lincoln Park for the monthly coffee/cookie social time for our members who reside there. We currently have 4 members residing there--Linda Ginter Brown, Gerald Busch, Bill Harrell, and Ken Taylor. Stop in and say hello! **Upcoming dates:** Aug 5, Sep 2, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Herbert, coordinator, at 937-380-8000.



Firepit Fellowship

Friday, August 21 @ 6pm

Dorothy Lane American Baptist Church (960 W Dorothy Ln) has invited us to their "Firepit Fellowship" every 3rd Friday of each month throughout the summer beginning at 6:00pm. Hotdogs, snacks, marshmallows and drinks are provided, but you can bring something to share if you wish. Don't forget to bring a lawn chair or blanket.



Homecoming Sunday

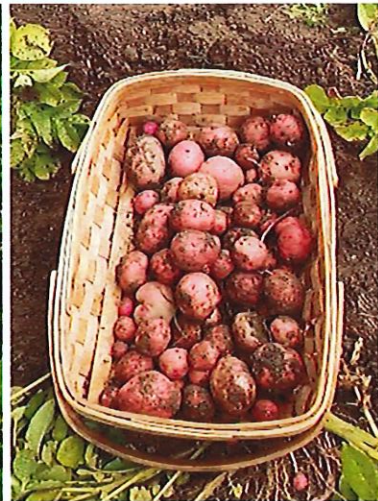
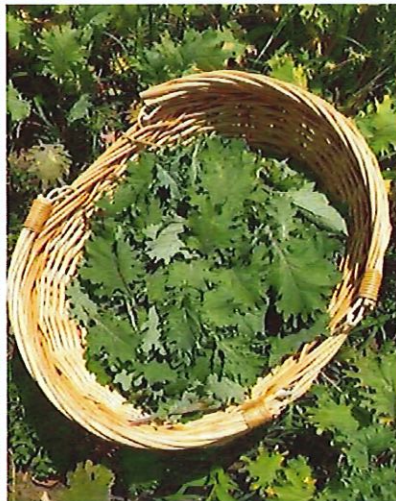
September 13, 2026

When the summer season starts to wind down, and students and teachers return to schools, we look forward to welcoming each other back from various travels and times away. And we mark the beginning of a new season of learning as we resume our full schedule of Sunday School offerings and other weekday opportunities. We also keep in mind that the idea of homecoming applies to all those who may yet join with us and find a spiritual home with First Baptist. So continue to keep an eye out for those who are new to our gathering, and help them to feel welcome!

Garden Report: Swords Into Plowshares

The lesson today in Vacation Bible School was from the prophet Isaiah, Chapter 2, verse 4, "He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks, nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." Roy Vice demonstrated the blacksmith's task of heating and pounding a sword to mold it into an instrument of peace and productivity, a plowshare. Pastor David led the Peace Plow Parade to the church garden, where some of the children tried their hands at pushing the plow, while others were more interested in the harvesting of planted potatoes. It is harvest season, and we have delivered onions, kale, and potatoes to the House of Bread. More to come as squash, tomatoes, and green beans ripen.

We grow by the grace of God,
Pastor / Farmer Dave



Volunteering is Dangerous



DAYTON CHRISTIAN CENTER

'What we need most is money and volunteers.' (I paraphrase the words of Ms. Yvonne Watkins.)

Recently two other members of the Mission Board went with me to visit **Dayton Christian Center**. We sat with the Ms. Watkins, the Director, to talk about the programs and the needs of the Center. Top of the needs list: Money and volunteers.

I was reminded of Valli and my first year in Congo. One of my regularly assigned tasks was to shepherd volunteers from American and European Baptist Churches. It was a task I found frustrating. It took time away from other things that needed doing. And when you consider the logistics, translating, and supervision of tasks, and the sightseeing they often expected to do, it was frequently counterproductive. Frustrating!

A more seasoned missionary who mentored me through our first few years in Congo noticed how I was feeling. He sat me down and showed me some interesting figures. Churches that had previously sent volunteers almost always had significant increases in mission giving when they returned home. And it wasn't a blip, the increased giving went on for years. Often, they would return again and bring others with them. And that almost always resulted in increased giving.

And over the years I have noticed that nearly all of the missions, church, and aid organizations I have associated with have *money and volunteers* at the top of their wish lists. Having Volunteers almost always leads to increased donations.

The reason is simple: when you volunteer you give of yourself. Matthew 6:21 says *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* I would suggest that the converse applies here. ***Where your heart is, there your treasure will be.*** The danger of volunteering is that you might leave part of your heart behind.

Our Church supports a number of local missions, all of whom want more volunteers. And a number of our Church members do work with these groups. Ask around. I'm sure there is someplace for you to volunteer. Someplace where you will lose part of your heart.

As we toured the Dayton Christian Center we stopped in one classroom where two and three year olds were on small cots having nap time. One very cute little boy got up to come over and greet us. I stuck out my hand for him to shake. He was having none of that! He put his arms up and insisted on being hugged. As hugs go that was a 10 out of 10.

...And there went part of my heart.

For your Mission Board,
Tom Howard

SUMMER MUSIC SERIES 2026

First Baptist Church of Dayton

202 Years of Musical Excellence

JUNE 14

*John Kurokawa
Clarinet*



JUNE 21

*Kirsten Nordland
Mezzo-Soprano*



JUNE 28

Noel Walton



JULY 5

*Cynthia Schindler
Soprano*



JULY 12

*Cyerra Pemberton
Soprano*



JULY 19

*Mr. Patrick Nugent
Pianist*



JULY 26

*Cynthia Schindler
Soprano*



AUGUST 2

*Maestro Charles Pagnard
Trumpet*



AUGUST 9

*Jason Holmes
Baritone*



AUGUST 16

Guy Chambers



AUGUST 23

*Dr. Melody Williams
Soprano*



AUGUST 30

*Dr. Lou Lillie
Tenor & Pianist*



SEPT. 6

Dr. William Henry Caldwell



(pictured with Renée Fleming)

Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM

111 W Monument Ave
Dayton 45402

937-222-4691

Email: fbc@fbcd Dayton.org

Website: www.fbcd Dayton.org

From the FBC Photo Album

Photos from the end-of-season Chancel Choir Party & Farewell to Samantha Leal
held at the Curry home on Friday, July 17, 2026.
Samantha is leaving to attend Graduate School in the Fall.



Photos from Vacation Bible School Week
held July 13-17, 2026





Photos from the FBC Picnic with Dorothy Lane American Baptist Church held on Sunday, July 26, 2026 at the Hills & Dales Park, Paw Paw Pavilion.

"Food for the Soul"





August Celebrants

- 7 Greg Merkle
- 11 Jack Radachi, Jamie See
- 13 Corine McMaster
- 14 Randy Compton
- 17 Michael Curry
- 18 Patricia Taylor
- 22 Griffin Leach
- 23 Shirley Williams
- 28 Allyson Black
- 30 Ashley McWain
- 31 Jason Alspaugh, Dawn Kalbfleisch

(Is your birthday not listed? Please notify the church office to update our records.)



For Our Cards and Prayers

Linda Ginter-Brown
Gerald Busch
Merriann Craig
Domesick Family
Neil Earnest
Lavanda Ferguson
Bill Harrell
Debbie Harshman
Gene Lee
Patty Loxley
Shirley Nash
Paloncy Family



Susan Parent
Petry Family
Judy Smith
Nancy Soloski
Joanne Stephens
Veghte Family
Harold West
Sharon Wingham

Military Duty:

Sebastian Ewald, Sunny Ewald,
Brittany Kalbfleisch, Kyle Kline,
Will Radachi

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ted & Gina Greenwood on the birth of their granddaughter, Violet Ava Edelstein, on June 22, 2026. Proud parents are their daughter, Mallory, and her husband, Craig.

Our Condolences

We extend our condolences and prayers to the Paloncy family on the loss of long-time member **Mary Ann Paloncy**. Mary Ann died on July 15, 2026.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the Veghte family on the passing of **Anne Veghte**. Anne died on July 30, 2026.

JUNE 2026 Financial Report

	Budget	Received	YTD Budget	YTD Received
Loose Offerings	108.33	48.00	650.00	544.00
Pledges	17667.67	15045.00	106006.00	120526.76
Non-pledged Contributions	5000.00	2895.00	30000.00	23474.00

