

## Billy's Blog

No, I'm not writing this to make Mary Sirico cry. Believe me; I'm sure she will though. I'm writing this because it's the truth. Many of you know it as well. God broke the mold after Mary Sirico. I have two young boys that you hear about all the time. Caleb is nine and Brennan is five. Those two little boys act as if Mary belongs to them. When they come to church they ask me, "daddy where is Ms. Mary?" I think that in the same way our students feel that way about Mary. I cannot tell you how many times I have witnessed Mary speak truth into a young person's life. I have so often seen students who were having a bad day get so excited to see and talk with Mary. I've been able to witness Mary getting pelted with water balloons. Of course, she was dishing it out as much as she was getting it! I can see her now covered in shaving cream and laughing with that "belly laugh" of hers. I've been able to witness her praying with and over students who are having a hard time. I watch Mary and think she is not just an awesome Middle School Youth Minister...she is just an awesome minister of the gospel of grace. If you know her then you know that you have been ministered to by her love and very presence. If she has gotten to know you then you know that she has prayed for you. Mary loves to share Jesus and she does it by sharing her life and love. As one of the students said to me the other day, "those are big shoes to fill!" (I couldn't help but imagine Mary with clown shoes on!) Yes, they are big shoes to fill. But I know this, God knows what He is doing and often I do not know what He is up to. I know that He has big plans for Mary and I am so glad to have served with her. I know that you are glad to have known her and called her friend. Please join me as we support Mary by praying for the Lord's provision as she steps into this next chapter of life. Mary and Joe will be heading to Italy in the near future. I can now only imagine the laughter, love, and life that will be shared with some of the Italian people who don't even realize that God is moving to reach them for His Glory. How exciting. Please join us as we celebrate Mary's service to the Lord for these last several years here at First UMC Niceville. We will be having a "sending forth" celebration for Mary and Joe on July 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm in the Community Life Center. You do not want to miss it!

### Did You Know.....

**You can find pictures & information on our summer interns on our web site!!**

**We hosted almost 60 new 6th grade students at our Welcome To Middle School Lunch and Celebration.**

**Our Summer Activity Schedule is posted on our web site and included in this Watzabuzz.**

**Our Love At Work Mission team consisted of 58 students and adults!**

### Prayer Corner

**Thank you to all our prayer warriors who took a sheet of student names at our Youth Family Night to pray for this year. Please remember each of your students by name as they are feeling the stress of finishing the school year. We do have a need for more prayer warriors for our new students. Please let us know if you would like to join our prayer team.**

Activity Brochures with Registration Forms and Medical Release Forms are located outside the Student Ministries Office, 2nd floor of the Community Life Center, 678-4411 ext. 151.

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[www.fumcniceville.org/youth](http://www.fumcniceville.org/youth)

# July Birthdays!

Shawn Bryan	1	Ginger Godfrey	11	Stephen Taylor	16	Alexis Tidwell	24
Wesley Jordan	2	Rachel Guidry	11	Amanda Boone	17	Lexi Tidwell	24
Elya Lopez	2	Michael Haney	11	Amanda Clark	17	Katie Weekley	24
Mercedes Lopez	2	Hayley Rinke	11	Camille Guss	17	Logan Gaither	25
Brittany Alford	3	Correen Smith	11	Kinsey West	17	Laura Arcos	26
Jessie Maraman	3	Catlin Williamson	11	Bridget Cutrer	18	Billy Billings	26
Robert Owens	3	Eric Wilson	11	Kyle Downing	18	Ben Clark	26
Parker White	3	Stephanie Smith	12	Sari Hernandez	18	Ryan Hill	26
Ian Cooke	4	Katie Bankus	13	Allyson Smith	18	Nicole Lande	26
April Bockover	5	Seth Cooke	13	Josh Thompson	18	Carly Racer	26
Jerry Nuffer	5	Kayla Patoek	13	Nick Hooper	19	Aarika Whittle	26
Chris Hernandez	6	Kristen Seal	13	Joey Pabst	19	Pierce Agnew	28
Danielle LeBeau	6	Raine Smith	13	Wes Schwerdtferger	19	Cecelia Nicole Ross	28
Colten Griffin	7	Katie Colson	14	Meaghan Tondreau	19	Jeffrey Yanora	28
Joseph Payne	7	Ryan Elliot	14	Robin Bailey	21	Tim Calvert	29
Tyler Roberts	7	Jamie Newman	14	Matt Higdon	21	Lauren Dale	29
Jake Burger	8	Sam Rosario	14	Kaci Mahoney	21	Haley Hendrix	29
Jennifer Oelschlager	8	Tayrn Sileo	14	Erika Jackson	22	Jeff Smith	29
Kelli Ordonia	8	Crystal Dietz	15	Vanessa Hasenzahl	23	Preston Bates	30
Taylor Walters	8	Rebecca Pike	15	Erica Herzig	23	Megan Hill	30
Brian Cowan	9	Ty Costley	16	Shelby Rose	23		
A.J. Nardo	9	Emily Gatlin	16	Jack Duchock	24		
Arianna Hotaling	10	Erin McVey	16	Marisa Hancock	24		
McKenna Mills	10	Colby Taylor	16	Trey Pryor	24		

## Weekly Youth Events

**Sunday Morning D-Groups—Community Life Center (CLC), Grades 7-12. At 9:40**, groups for 6-8 grade boys, 6-8 grade girls, high school girls, high school boys, and high school co-ed. **At 11:00**, groups for 6-8 grade boys, 6-8 grade girls, high school co-ed, and generations (high school teens and parents).

**Youth Hang Time—Wednesdays, 2-6 pm, Grades 9-12, CLC, Youth Café.** Students sign in at Youth Café and must remain in the youth area unless signed out with our adult café monitor. Students hang out, play games, do homework, etc. Snacks/drinks are available for purchase. Enter through the CLC deck doors. **This will become 4-6 pm from June 11 through August 13.**

**FUSION—Wednesdays, 6-8 pm, Grades 9-12, CLC Youth Center.** Fellowship, testimonies, big group challenges, praise band, small group discussions, etc. Lots of excitement here!

**NEXUS—Wednesdays, 6-8 pm, Grades 6-8, Fellowship Hall.** Fellowship, testimonies, big group challenges, praise, small group discussions, games, etc. The place to be for Middle School students!

005000 50-1 4-070K

**\*NEW\* Covenant Groups (Grades 9-12)** - Covenant Groups are 4-6 students meeting on a weekly basis with an adult facilitator. The primary focus is accountability and discipleship. The goal is to spend focused time on becoming fully devoted followers of Christ by encouraging one another to grow in Christlikeness—also plan, pray, and play! Each group decides when is the best time to meet. It could be the same day and time every week or it can change. Groups can meet at the church if they reserve a room through our office or they can meet in a host home. We already have some groups that are meeting. Others are forming. Interested? Either call or come by our office for more Information about signing up.

**City-Wide High School (Grades 9-12) Youth Lunch and Prayer, Noon—2 p.m., Wednesdays.** Meet at the lunch location with money for your own lunch at noon. After lunch, move to the prayer location to pray for that church and its ministries. Schedule and locations are listed on page 5.

**Java Hut Coffee House (Grades 9-12), 8-10 p.m., Community Life Center Youth café and theater.** Worship, fellowship, food and activities. Next one is Friday, July 18. Bring a friend!

**Dive High School Bible Study—2-3:30 pm, CLC Room 958.** Tuesdays (10th graders), Wednesdays (9th graders) and **Thursdays, Noon—1:30 for 11th and 12th graders.** Led by our college interns.

**See Summer Youth Ministry Schedule on page 5....**

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**Monday Mission Madness (Grades 6-8), every Monday beginning July 7 through August 11, 12:30-4:30 p.m., Meet in the Youth Café.** Mission work, fun, and fellowship for Middle School students. Please ensure your student has a completed 2007-2008 FUMC Medical Release Form on file in our office.

**Summer Sleepover (Grades 7-8), 9 pm July 11 to 9 am July 12, Community Life Center Youth Center.** Completed registration form, current medical release form if we don't already have one on file, and \$10 are due to the Student Ministries office by Monday, July 7.

**See Summer Youth Ministry Schedule on page 5....**

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**Student Ministry Staff**

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# Sirico Sending Forth Celebration

For Everyone!

Sunday, July 20, 5-8 pm, CLC Gym

Eat, Fellowship, worship and share together as we send Mary and Joe off FUMC style as they enter the missions ministry in Italy. As part of the evening, we'll be presenting the Siricos a gift from all the members of the church.

## Youth Family Night (Grades 6-12 in the Fall of 2008)

**Sunday, July 27, 5:30-8 pm, Community Life Center**

For all youth and their entire families!! Please bring a store bought (no homemade) dish/dessert to share. Cost is \$15 per family. RSVP to the Student Ministries Office by Monday, July 21 with count of how many are coming.

Come and meet our new Middle School Minister Tyler Fuller and his wife Leslie.

Find out what's in store for the youth program beginning in the Fall. Take this opportunity to complete your student's 2008-2009 medical release form. Inquire about helping with youth activities Sunday school, small groups, etc. Play, fellowship, eat and have a blast with other families and the youth staff. Games and inflatables for the children and even the adults if you'd like!

## Summer Youth Ministry Schedule

### High School Students (Grades 9-12 in Fall 2008)

**City-Wide High School (Grades 9-12) Youth Lunch and Prayer—Noon—2 pm**  
**Meet at the lunch location with money for your own lunch at Noon**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lunch Location</u>	<u>Prayer Location</u>
Jul 9	Danny's	FUMC
Jul 16	Wendy's	First Baptist of Niceville
Jul 23	Niceville McDonalds	Rocky Bayou Baptist Church
Jul 30	Subway	Holy Name of Jesus
Aug 6	PFIA	New Hope Baptist
Aug 13	No Lunch/Fasting	FUMC (Meet here at Noon)

**Java Hut Coffee House (Grades 9-12) - 8-10 pm, CLC Youth Café and Theater**  
**Worship, Fellowship, Food, Dates—June 13, July 18, and Aug 15**

**Dive—Bible Study— 2-3:30 pm, CLC Room 958**  
**Tuesdays (10th Grade) and Wednesdays (9th Grade)**  
**June 10—July 30**

**Dive—Bible Study—12-1:30 pm, CLC Room 958**  
**Thursdays (11th and 12th grade)**  
**June 10 - July 30**

**Youth Hang Time—(Grades 9-12), Wednes., 4-6 pm, Youth Café, June 11—August 13**

**Fusion—(Grades 9-12), Wednesdays, 6-8 pm, All Summer Long, Youth Theater**

### Middle School Students (Grades 6-8 Fall 2008)

**Welcome to Middle School Lunch and Celebration, (Grade 6) Friday, June 20,**  
**12:30-4:30 pm, Youth Café and Theater**

**Monday Mission Madness (Grades 6-8), 12:30-4:30 pm, Every Monday July 7 through**  
**August 11, Meet in the Youth Café**

**Summer Sleepovers (Grades 7-8), July 11 9 pm—July 12 9 am and**  
**Aug 8 9 pm—Aug 9 9 am, Youth Center**

**Nexus—(Grades 6-8), Wednesdays, 6-8 pm, All Summer long, Fellowship Hall**