

# THE MONTGOMERY BAPTIST



Serving Christ Through Montgomery Area Churches

KEN MAY, DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS • THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2008

## A Personal Word



Ken May

In my last article, I mentioned some futurist trends a group of Christian Camp and Conference leaders envisioned over the next ten to twenty years. You might wonder how people can come up with these ideas. I have a hunch. They look around at changes they are already seeing and accelerate these or extrapolate these to a future setting. One of the statements I did not list in the earlier column was:

- “Communication among people will become more difficult because of traditional language barriers and new technology languages.”

It really doesn't take a genius to figure out that if we are already having difficulty in communicating, and if part of these difficulties we are currently experiencing are brought on by advances in technology (i.e. internet, text messaging, etc), will not more advances at an accelerated rate make the situation even more difficult?

One statement I did mention was that “choices and competition for people's attention would increase.” We already see this happening in our family and church life. If it gets worse, what does that mean for the church? Well, I think you are already seeing some churches respond to that challenge. First, in many situations, you see churches streamlining their activities and events. No longer is a full calendar of events evidence of a successful church. It is just evidence of a church that is trying to be busy.

Secondly, among these churches you see a commitment to excellence in everything they do. They will not put on an event, even a worship service, without assurance that it will be done in an excellent manner. Their philosophy in this is two-fold. First, God deserves our very best in everything we do. Secondly, if we are going to ask busy active people to commit their time, we had better offer them a first class experience.

We don't have to go back very far to recognize how we developed a problem with the lack of excellence. In Training Union or Church Training days, members took a “part” in presenting the program. But this devolved in far too many cases into a group of people sitting around in a circle reading “parts” out of a quarterly. And, I heard many a person say, “I'm not coming up here (church) to sit and listen to someone read what I can read on my own.” We have already seen how mediocrity destroyed what began as a good idea.

A third way churches respond to this competition for time and attention is by making sure that the activities they do pursue are those that fulfill the priority of their God-given vision. If the activity does not accomplish the driving motivation for the church, that activity is eliminated. Activities for activity sake cease to exist. Activities that may be good in themselves are eliminated because they do not, in the long run, further the fulfillment of the church's vision.

I hope these thoughts will help you as you seek to serve God through your local church. Let us know how we can help you.

*Ken*

Ken May

## MBA News:

**Lakeview**-Congratulations to **Rev. Paul Hubbard**, pastor, upon his 18th anniversary.

**Eastern Hills**-Congratulations to **Donna Brown**, financial secretary, upon her 6th anniversary.

**Cloverdale** is accepting resumes for a part-time Minister to Students. Interested ministers can send their resume to:

Cloverdale Baptist Church  
Attn: Rev. Danny Crosby  
608 E. Fairview Ave.  
Montgomery, AL 36106.



## Keys to Understanding

### Poverty Seminar

Sponsored by STEP Foundation and First Baptist Church Community Ministries

January 31, 2008

8:30am-3:00pm

First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall  
305 S. Perry Street  
Montgomery, AL

\$15 registration fee which includes a box lunch

Register by calling Susan Byers at 334-262-3141.

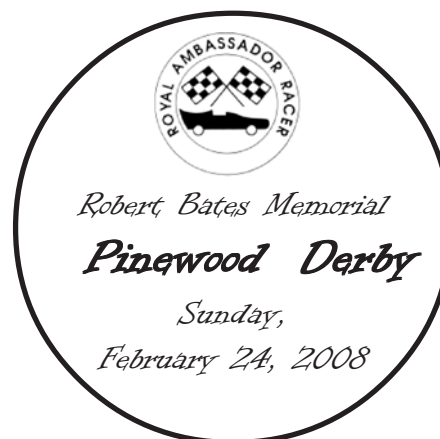
[www.stepmontgomery.org](http://www.stepmontgomery.org)

### Who should attend?

Anyone interested in improving the community and helping break the barriers of poverty and learning how to help people for the long term.

### Keynote Speaker:

**Louise Kneese**  
*Louise is a retired coach, special ed teacher and educational diagnostician. She has done extensive volunteer work in organizations designed to help individuals in need.*



## RA Basketball Schedule

### Friday 1/18/2008

6:00 PM	<b>EHBC #2</b>	vs	<b>EHBC #1</b>	Elem.
7:00 PM	<b>Ridgecrest</b>	vs	<b>Eastmont</b>	Elem.
8:00 PM	<b>#2 Seed</b>	vs	<b>#3 Seed</b>	HS



### Saturday 1/19/2008

9:00 AM	<b>Ridgecrest</b>	vs	<b>EHBC #1</b>	Elem.
10:00 AM	<b>Dalraida</b>	vs	<b>EHBC #2</b>	Elem.
11:00 AM	<b>EHBC #1</b>	vs	<b>EHBC #2</b>	JH
12:30 PM	<b>#1 Seed</b>	vs	<b>Winner (#2 vs #3)</b>	HS

### Saturday 1/26/2008

9:00 AM	<b>Eastmont</b>	vs	<b>EHBC #1</b>	Elem.
10:00 AM	<b>#2 Seed</b>	vs	<b>#3 Seed</b>	JH
11:00 AM	<b>Ridgecrest</b>	vs	<b>Dalraida</b>	Elem.
12:30 PM	<b>#1 Seed</b>	vs	<b>Winner (#2 vs #3)</b>	JH