

Constructive trip

Church youth help build house in Kentucky

he youth from First Baptist Church in downtown Birmingham devoted their spring break to a mission trip to Fleming-Neon, I(y., a small coal mining town deep in the Appalachian Moun-tains of southeastern Kentucky near the Virginia border. The group of 18 left on Easter Sunday afternoon and returned on Saturday, April 10.

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While in Kentucky, they worked with a Christian non-profit housing ministry called Homes, Inc. Two other groups from western Michigan were also working at Homes, Inc. during the same week. This group builds new houses and rehabilitates old houses for poor families in a three county area. The group from Birmingham had to raise \$175 per person to contribute toward the construction materials they used during the week.

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The group did landscaping for several days, and then helped with construction of a new home. The group installed electrical wiring, ceiling and floor insulation, ceiling shingles, doors and windows. On Friday afternoon, at the and of their week, a family of four arrived at the work site to thank the youth for helping to build their home. They plan to move into their new home as first-time home-owners in May. The father is disabled and the family is on a limited income.

Those participating from First Baptist
Church of Birminghum were: Erica
Alexander of Southfield, Adam Bennett
of Rochester Hills, Lindsay and Mike
Cannon of Sterling Heights, Brian and
Stephen Jones of Birmingham, Angela
Kestel of Brooklyn, Jackie and Jason
Nixon of Birmingham, Kate O'Donohue
of Troy, Claris and Jonathan Olsen of
Birmingham, and Bob, Wendy, Cole and
Madison Schaffer of Highland.



Happy group: Mrs. Johnson, the recipient of the new home, (from left), poses with some of the First Baptist youth group: Adam Bennett, Jackie Nixon, Erica Alexander, Brian Jones, Lindsay Cannon and Jason Nixon.

To raise funds for the trip the youth sold Little Caesar Pizza Kita, and the church took a special offering to support the youth. The scriptural theme for the trip was taken from Luke 6:31. The youth also shared responsibilities for

On one evening, the group attended a special performance by Doc Frazier, a local folk singer who writes and performs songs about the Appalachian mountains and the people who inhabit them. The area is in difficult financial times because the coal industry now employs a fraction of the workforce of earlier years.

carlier years.

One of the young people said, 'The people in Kentucky were different from us, but also very open to us, and I enjoyed meeting them and working with them very much.' Another said of his experience, 'I enjoyed the construction work. We worked hard, but it was rewarding to see all you accomplished at the end of the day.' A third responded, 'This was so good for our group, We bonded together and return home with deeper friendships among ourselves than ever before. It's been great!

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First Baptist Church is located downtown between the Jacobson's Department Stores at the corner of Willits and Bates Streets. The church has an active year-round Senior High youth ministry, the BYF, sponsored by Keely and Paultyson, Bob and Wendy Schaffer, and Stephen Janes. The church also has a younger youth ministry called American Baptist Youth. Cathi Feldpausch, the church's director of Christian education, coordinates the younger youth group.

"The smaller size of our congregation is a real advantage in youth ministry," said Jones. "With ease, every one of our youth are known by name by a cross-section of the congregation. Adults and youth are engaged with each other and support one another. This is a congregation that has a wide acceptance and tolerance of its young people."

COMMUNITY MESSENGER

Community Messenger runs each Thursday in The Eccentric and features announcements from Oakland County religious institutions, as space permits. To be included in the calendar, announcement, must be submitted by noon on the Friday prior to publication. To include an announcement, Write: Community Messenger, clo Beliefs and Values Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspaper, 805
E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009.

FAITH LUTHERAN

Musical talent from area churches will participate in a benefit concert for Abigayle Ministries at Faith Lutheran Church, 37635 Dequindre, Troy, at

Faith Lutheran Church, 37635 Dequindre, Troy, at 7pm. on April 22.
Abigayle Ministries is an interdenominational Christian non-profit organization dedicated to providing a anfe and nurturing environment for the nuwed pregnant woman and her child. The concert features Rennie Kaufmann, a local musician who has appeared with Cee Cee Winnas and has performed for Oprah Winfrey and Michael Jordan. Musical talkat from area churches will participate. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Call (248)889-4664 for information.

ST. HUGO OF THE HILLS

An avening of traditional Irish music, with singers, dancers, and instrumentalists, will begin at 8.p.m. Friday, April 23, at 28. Hugo of the Hills Church in Bloomfield Hills, on Opyke Road to the south of Hickory Grove Road. The church tele-

phone number is (248)644-5460.

The event is free, but donations will be accepted. All proceeds will benefit the Metro Detroit Ulster Project, a not-for-profit organization aponeoring the Ulster Project in Southeastern Michigan. The Ulster Project is a peace project that brings Protestant and Catholic teenagers from Northern Iroland to the United States for one month during the summer; they stay with American families who have youths the same age.

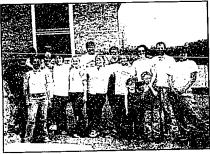
Mary Callaghan Lynch, Caitlin Lynch and Fat Lynch are featured vocal performers. The dance ensemble includes members of the Heinxman School of Irish Dance. Local traditional Irish instrumental musicians will also perform.

Local churches involved include the Congregational Church Birmingham, Kirk in the Hills Church, Bloomfield Hills, Srist Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Kirk in the Hills Church, Bloomfield Hills, St. Owen Church, Birmingham, and St. Regis Catholic Church, Birmingham,

NATIVITY EPISCOPAL

Nativity Episcopal Church invites the communi-ty to a Celebration of Creation service and Earth Day Festival at 10:30 a.m. on April 25. Featured speaker is Dr. Orin Gelderloos, professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at the University of Michigan, Dearborn, and the 1998 recipient of the Detroit Audubon Society's Conservationist of the Year Award.

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Over spring break: Adam Bennett, (from left), Jason Nixon, Angela Kestel, Jonathan Olsen, Lindsay Cannon, Erica Alexander, Stephen Jones, Kate O'Donohue, Brian Jones, Lackie Nivan Madison Jackie Nixon, Madison Schaffer, Wendy Schaffer, Cole Schaffer, Bob Schaf fer, and Chris Olsen stand in front of the house they worked on in Kentucky over spring break.





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