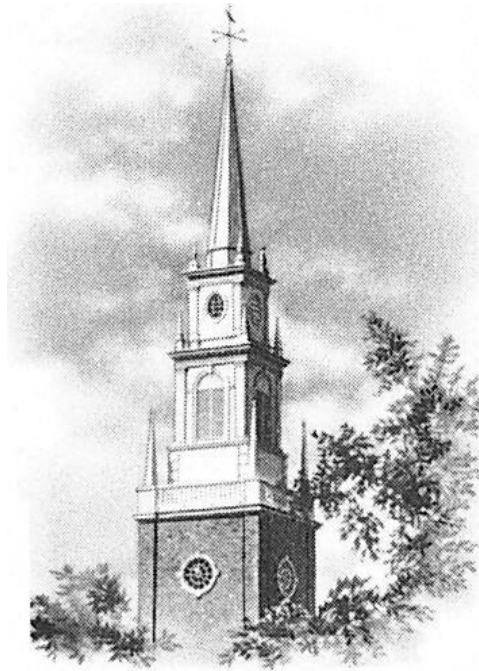


First Baptist Church

April 27, 2008



Worcester, Massachusetts
A Welcoming and Affirming Church

Mission Statement

We are a community of believers who seek to grow in our faith and understanding as we live the Way of Jesus Christ.

Morning Worship

April 27, 2008..... 10:00 AM

*Please turn pagers and cell phones to silent mode.
Nursery care is available for children during the worship service.
Please speak to one of the ushers for assistance.*

PRELUDE The Strife is O'er..... Douglas Wagner
b. 1952
Praise to the LordKevin McChesney
b. 1963

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 507** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God..Ein' Feste Burg

***CALL TO WORSHIP**..... Ruth Richards

Leader: Because of the living Lord Jesus, we can confidently say:

People: We are never alone, for the Counsellor, the Spirit of truth, is with us forever.

Leader: Bidden or unbidden, God is always present.

People: *As the sea is to the fish, as the air is to the bird, so is God to all who live by faith, hope, and love...*

Leader: Blessed is our God, who had never rejected our prayer, nor ever removed from us the love that endures forever.

ALL: Bidden or unbidden, God is present!

***INVOCATION**

Loving God, by your Spirit, fill us with holy joy through this time of worship, that we may be able to offer you something far brighter than duty and much livelier than religious solemnity. Let us worship you with love and love you with our worship. Through Christ Jesus our ever-living inspiration, we pray the prayer he taught us: Our Father...(debts)

***GLORIA PATRI 734**.....Creatorex

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM If Ye Love Me Thomas Tallis
c. 1505-1585

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE..... Thomas R. McKibbens

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Call to Giving

Offertory If We Believe That Jesus DiedJohn Goss
1800-1880

***Doxology 34**.....Old Hundredth

*Prayer of Dedication

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRIPTURE Psalm 66: 8-20 (p. 459) Ann Ming Samborski

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE..... Ruth Richards

(Children who would like to participate in a Children's Worship Experience are invited to join their worship leader following the Message.)

***HYMN 389** Put Peace into Each Other's Hands (*Stanzas 1-3, 5*) St. Columba

SCRIPTURE John 14:18-27 (p. 877)

SERMON *You Don't Have to Be Afraid!*..... Thomas R. McKibbens

***HYMN 346** O Come to Me, the Master SaidKingsfold

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Prelude and Fugue in C Major BWV 547J.S. Bach
1685-1750

**Those who are able may stand.*

Chancel Choir

First Handbells

William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts

NOTES ON TODAY'S ANTHEM

Little is known about **Thomas Tallis'** early life, but there seems to be agreement that he was born in the early 16th century, toward the close of the reign of Henry VII. His first known appointment to a musical position was as organist of Dover Priory in 1530-31, a Benedictine priory at Dover (now Dover College) in 1532. His career took him to London, then (probably in the autumn of 1538) to the Augustinian abbey of Holy Cross at Waltham whose London residence stood nearby, until the abbey was dissolved in 1540; then he went to Canterbury Cathedral, and finally to Court as Gentleman of the Chapel Royal in 1543, composing and performing for Henry VIII during which he wrote music for the Protestant Church of England (Holman 201), Edward VI (1547-1553), Queen Mary (1553-1558), and Queen Elizabeth I (1558 until he died in 1585). Throughout his service to successive monarchs as organist and composer, Tallis avoided the religious controversies that raged around him. Tallis married around 1552. His wife, Joan, outlived him by four years. They apparently had no children. Late in his life he lived in Greenwich, likely close to the royal palace: a local tradition holds that he lived on Stockwell Street.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VALUES STATEMENTS

INCLUSION

We welcome all in Christ's love.

FREEDOM OF FAITH

Individual interpretation of God's Word and freedom of expression are cornerstones of our faith.

SERVICE

We seek to be a Christ-like presence in the world.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

We encourage all to seek Christian growth.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE & PROGRAMS

WE WELCOME YOU...to the Morning Worship of the First Baptist Church. If you are a guest, we express a special word of welcome and invite you to fill out the Welcome Card found in the pew rack. We are honored by your presence and hope you will return whenever you are able. The congregation of First Baptist Church, believing that God's unbounded love and grace are offered to all and meant to be shared and celebrated by all, embraces persons of every age, race, sexual orientation, denomination, cultural background, and economic means as vital and integral members of God's family. We welcome everyone to participate in the membership, life, worship, and activities of this church.

HEARING AIDS AVAILABLE DURING THE SERVICE...If you would like to take advantage of our hearing aids, please speak with one of our ushers, who will explain this simple yet effective device.

CHANCEL FLOWERS...Today's arrangements are donated by Donna Sanfacon, in remembrance of Philip G. Sanfacon, and Valerie & Stephen Loring, in celebration of the staff at Briarwood and to honor Janice Wilson, who retires after 14 years of service.

COFFEE AND...Join your friends, and perhaps make a few new friends following the service in Gordon Hall!

ADULT FORUM...A MassMedLine™ Presentation with Donna Bartlett, RPh., Clinical Pharmacist. Donna is a pharmacist with MassMedLine™ at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. This presentation will include information on medication safety, proper disposal, headlines of the past year, and understanding prescription benefits. This information is very useful, so please plan to join us in Gordon Hall at 11:15! This Forum is sponsored by the Health Cabinet.



Join us next weekend for our Music & Arts Celebration, May 2 thru 4!

This year's Annual Music & Arts weekend commences with an ORGAN RECITAL by Wesley Hall, stellar student of our Minister of Music & Arts William Ness, on Friday, May 2, 2008 at 7:30 PM. Wesley won second place in the Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition in September, 2007. He will perform music by Bach, Bruhns, Sweelinck, Messiaen, Bossi, Handel, and Reger. This will be an outstanding program by a young talented musician. Free to all, with reception following.



During Sunday morning worship on May 4, our Chancel Choir will bring inspiration with the premiere performance of the composition of our Anthem Competition Winner, BJ Brooks, entitled "Thou, Who art the Light," based on text from the Gelasian Sacramentary. This powerful text was used in the material handed out during the All-Church Retreat last June by Tom McKibbens. Please join us in worship at 10:00 AM!

A wonderful musical event will occur at First Baptist Church on May 4 at 3:00 PM, with the performance of *St. Paul*, by Felix Mendelssohn by our Chancel Choir and the Choir of Memorial Congregational Church of Sudbury. The Sudbury Festival Orchestra will accompany this oratorio, under the direction of Dr. Marjorie Ness, Director of Music at Memorial. Both choirs have spent several months in rehearsal on the rarely heard work. Our soloists for this performance are Rebecca Grimes, soprano, Dianna Betit, mezzo soprano, Jason McStoots, tenor, and Bülent Güneralp, bass. **Please inform your friends of this wonderful event** that will be performed by over 80 singers, instrumentalists and soloists, in our Sanctuary on May 4, 3:00 PM. Admission free of charge.



REBECCA GRIMES, SOPRANO



JASON MCSTOOTS, TENOR



DIANNA BETIT, MEZZO SOPRANO



BÜLENT GÜNERALP, BASS

A display of table art will be located in the Whitney Room, open during the weekend's performances.

ROY FUND LOANS—FBC SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS...The deadline to submit your application is **THIS Thursday, May 1, 2008**. Please return completed forms to Andrea Letourneau, Assistant Treasurer and Roy Fund Coordinator. The Church Office is open 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM weekdays, and also open on Sunday mornings.

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP...Saturday, May 3 at Bickford's Restaurant on Lincoln Street, Worcester. For more information and to R.S.V.P., please contact Tom Ward [tward@oxps.org].

FBC IS NOW ADVERTISING ON CABLE TV! If you subscribe to Charter Cable in the Worcester area, watch for our church ad during broadcasts of CNN, ABC Family, Animal Planet, Comedy Central, Discovery, E!, ESPN, Fox News, MSNBC, and USA. The ads should begin this week. Rev. Tom McKibbens is the narrator. Thanks to the Public Relations Committee for this media debut!



FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY...Please consider donating for one of the following available Sundays: May 25 (1 Urn), June 1 (2 Urns), June 15 (1 Urn), June 22 (2 Urns) June 29 (2 Urns). Simply complete the form located by the floral sign-up sheet outside the Church Office, and return it with your payment. Thank you!

A SAVE THE DATE ALERT FROM YOUR SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE...We hope you will join us on Sunday, May 18, at the **WALK FOR THE HOMELESS**. Be a member of our FBC team as we walk to help alleviate homelessness. Beneficiaries this year include *Hope for Housing*, making this a great opportunity to burn off calories acquired from the good food we buy with our *Hope for Housing* grocery cards. We will team up with the **Health Cabinet**, support *Hope for Housing*, and get great exercise—all together in one fun walk! Watch the bulletin boards and the Worship bulletin for more details, or please speak with Jean Perkins.

NEXT WEEK'S ADULT FORUM...Magic, juggling, and other strangeness with Scott "Dezrah" Blinn, a magician, juggler, and entertainer based in Central Massachusetts. Join us in the Lee Room at 11:15 for a performance of *Magic, Mystery, and the Search for Truth*, a 30-45 minute demonstration of "psychic" abilities that encourages critical thinking and healthy skepticism when dealing with claims of the "paranormal".

Note: The Scrogin Forum's discussion of Pathologies of Power is rescheduled for Sunday, May 11.

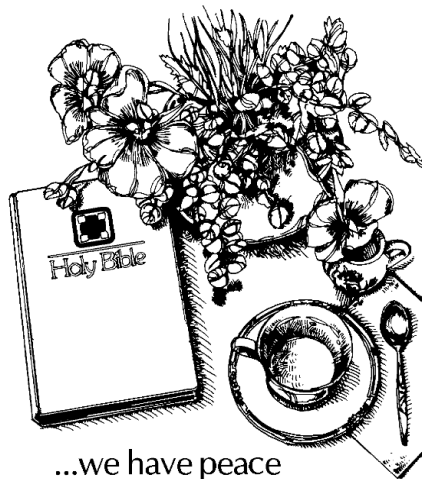
Prayer...

O Lord, guide and govern your Church, so that it may walk warily in peaceful times and boldly in times of trouble, through our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen

~The Franciscan Breviary

Please pray for...

- Pastor Thomas McKibbens, Ruth Richards, William Ness
- The Board of Christian Education
- Barbara Van Schermbeek, Eleanor Long, Cheryl Goff, Charles Sibley, Cynthia Fischer, Audrey Terpo, Shirley & Charles Hodgkins and family
- Keith Coolidge and Susan Phaneuf, as they leave our FBC staff
- Each who is chronically ill; those undergoing medical procedures
- Those who are unemployed
- Victims of war, domestic strife, or abuse, crime, accident
- Those who are recently bereaved
- Persons in care facilities or who are homebound



...we have peace
with God through our
Lord Jesus Christ,...

Romans 5:1

OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Sun., April 27	10:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	<i>Taking Steps</i>
	11:15 AM	Sunday School; Adult Forum
	12:30 PM	Youth Group
Mon., April 28	7:30 PM	Rehearsal for <i>St. Paul</i> @ FBC
Tue., April 29	10:00 AM	Weekly Staff Meeting
	4:00 PM	Children's Choir
	4:45 PM	Orff Session
	6:30 PM	Habitat BD
	7:30 PM	Liturgical Dancers <i>Mustard Seed</i>
Wed., April 30	9:00 AM	Women's Prayer Fellowship
	6:30 PM	Midweek Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Greater Hammon Hts. Neighborhood
	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer Fellowship
Thu., May 1	6:00 PM	Choir Carpool to Sudbury MCC
	7:00 PM	Rehearsal for <i>St. Paul</i> @ Sudbury MCC
Fri., May 2 — Music & Arts Weekend Begins	3:15 PM	Brownies
	7:30 PM	Wesley Hall in Recital (reception) <i>Table Art on Display in the Whitney Room all evening.</i>
Sat., May 3	8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast @ Lincoln St. Bickford's
	5:00 PM	Choir Carpool to Sudbury MCC
	7:30 PM	Performance of <i>St. Paul</i> @ Sudbury MCC
Sun., May 4 — Music & Arts Weekend Concludes	10:00 AM	Worship; Premiere of <i>Thou Who art the Light</i>
	11:15 AM	Sunday School; Adult Forum (Lee Room) <i>Table Art on Display in the Whitney Room all day.</i>
	11:30 AM	Set up Sanctuary for Concert
	1:30 PM	Choir warm up
	3:00 PM	Performance of <i>St. Paul</i>

The First Baptist Church — 111 Park Avenue — Worcester, MA 01609
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