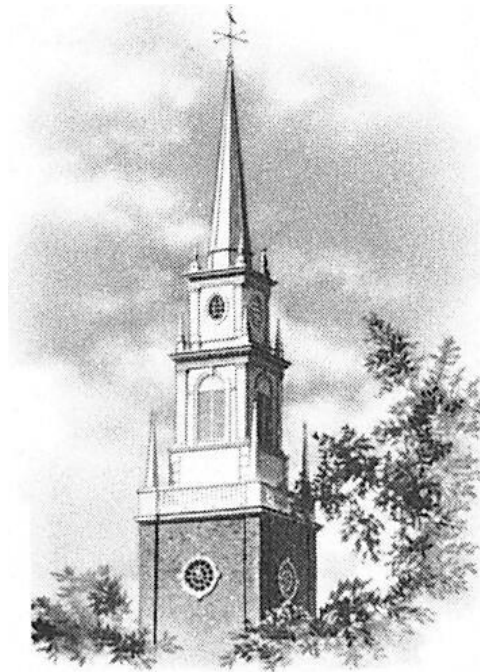


First Baptist Church

December 28, 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

◆◆ *Welcome College Students!* ◆◆

December 28, 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

*HYMN MEDLEY of CHRISTMAS CAROLS

179 Joy to the World!Antioch

Stanzas 1 and 4

182 O Come, all Ye FaithfulAdeste Fideles

Stanzas 1 and 3

188 Angels We Have Heard on HighGloria

Stanzas 1 and 3

*CALL TO WORSHIP Mark Hecox

Leader: God's beloved people, come together to hear the story of peace.

People: For a child has been born for us; a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Leader: Come together to hear the story of good news!

People: But the angel said to them, *Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people!*

Leader: Come together to hear the announcement of salvation.

People: For to you is born this day in the city of David, a savior, who is the Christ, the Lord.

Leader: Come together to praise God for the gift of the incarnation, showing that God was in Christ.

All: And the Word became flesh, and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*INVOCATION (unison)

O light of the World, be among your people today. Illumine our lives. Enlighten our minds. May your light within us serve as a beacon to those who search for you. Brighten our darkness today.

O Abundant Life, be among your people today. You came to call us to follow you and to live the abundant life you bring. May we know your presence in this celebration of Christmas. In the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray: Our Father...(debts).

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTSAshley Ward

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE.....Ashley Cate

1 John 4:7-21 (pg. 991)

God is Love.

LET THE CHILDREN COME.....Cradle Song

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

AFFIRMATION OF THE CHILDREN.....Mark Hecox and David Goff

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

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

MEDITATION *Unstriking the Blow*David Goff

***HYMN 571** Christ, You Call Us All to ServiceIn Babilone

THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS.....Ashley Ward

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory Selection

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

***Prayer of Dedication**Ashley Cate

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIVES

***CLOSING HYMN 191** It Came upon the Midnight ClearCarol

***BENEDICTION**.....Stephanie Stevens

POSTLUDE

**Those who are able may stand.*

*Mark Hecox, saxophone/piano
William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts*

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.

LARGE PRINT BULLETIN AVAILABLE...with the Order of Service. Please speak with one of our ushers to receive a copy.

CHANCEL FLOWERS...Today's floral arrangement is donated in remembrance of Anna and Louis Weber by Ruth and Russell Weber. 

COFFEE AND...Join with the family and friends following the service today as we take a moment to greet our returning college students in Gordon Hall.



RESCHEDULED CHORAL EVENSONG...Plan to join us for the annual Service of Lessons and Carols featuring the work *Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten with harpist Lira Cady **Saturday, January 3, 2009 at 4:00 PM.** Conducted by William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts.

RESCHEDULED YOUTH GROUP OUTING AT LAZERZONE! Meet on **January 4, 2009** in the lobby outside the Church Office at 12:30 PM. We will depart the church at 12:45 PM. Our game starts at 1:30 PM. **Please bring \$15.00 to cover costs** (includes 2 slices of pizza & a soda, unlimited popcorn, and all the fun you can manufacture) **and a completed permission slip.**

PASSAGES OF LIFE: A GROUP FOR WOMEN (AGES 50 – 65)

Life certainly has its many phases and stages. And we are finding that what used to be very characteristic of certain stages back in the 1960's and 1970's are very different in many ways in the year 2008. Statistics prove that we are, indeed, living longer and the roles that were once considered typical for women do not always apply today. Gail Sheehy wrote about many of these ideas in her 1976 book entitled *Passages*. Yet, in a more updated and recent version of this, entitled *New Passages: Mapping Your Life Across Time*, Sheehy shares incredible insights and stories as to how we, and those around us, have experienced changes in those roles and expectations of our life phases and stages.

If you would be interested in joining a 4-6 week discussion group about this book and these life topics please **contact Brenda Baker, FIELD EDUCATION INTERN**. Once we see how many women would be interested in participating we will determine whether this will be an offered during Wonderful Wednesdays in the Spring (Feb. 25 – April 1) or on a Sunday. **Contact Information:**

By Phone: Church (508) 755-6143x234 Cell (919) 749-5899
Email: Brendab@fbc-worc.org Brendabaker37@aol.com

THIRTY-HOUR FAMINE UPDATE...Everyone who is participating in the 30 Hour Famine, for fundraising or other activities, should stop by Rev. Heather Kattan's office to pick up a collection envelope. Included is a guide from World Vision about the 30 Hour Famine, and the materials you will need to collect money from people. Thank you to everyone who is participating, and there is still plenty of time to get involved!

CALLING ALL SHUTTERBUGS...Do you have photos to share from recent FBC events? Please submit to Cindy Johnson via e-mail (URL only—do not send photos as an attachment), photo CD, or just bring in your camera! Many thanks to those who have already submitted church event photos!



WPI's Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity is having a clothing drive to benefit The Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Details are posted on the bulletin board.



And she gave birth
to her firstborn, a son. She
wrapped him in cloths and
placed him in a manger.

Luke 2:7

Prayer...

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; Be born in us today."*

~Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Please include in your prayers...

- Each minister and staff member of our church
- The renewal of our church boards, committees, and fellowship
- Philip Heywood
- Those who are experiencing chronic illness
- Thanksgiving "for all the blessings that have attended our lives; for every hour of safety, health, and peace, of domestic comfort and innocent enjoyment. [Jane Austen]"
- Thanks for the countless volunteers who help the ministries of FBC to continue



Do you have a prayer request? Simply complete a prayer request card located in the pew rack and then post in one of the three Prayer Mailboxes located outside the Sanctuary.

The First Baptist Church Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 8, 2009. Committee chairs and designated church staff are asked to prepare their submissions for the 2008 Annual Report. You may submit via e-mail, fax, or hard copy to Cindy Johnson (see back cover for contact information). All reports are due no later than Sunday, January 11, 2009, to ensure plenty of time for compilation and printing prior to the Annual Meeting. We appreciate your cooperation!

REPORTS
FROM OUR
COMMITTEES

