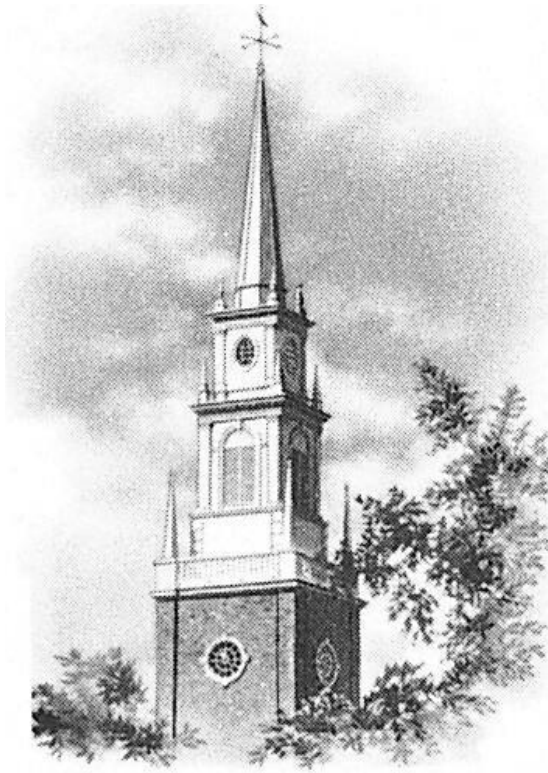


First Baptist Church

January 27, 2008



Worcester, Massachusetts
A Welcoming and Affirming Church

Morning Worship

January 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 Prelude in C minor, BWV 546J.S. Bach
1685-1750

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 388** O God in Whom All Life Begins Noel

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity!

People: It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!

Leader: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!

ALL: For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life for evermore!

INVOCATION

Gracious God, we gather in prayer that your Spirit may gift us with your presence, that our hearts may be open to your guidance, and that our gathering here may lead us into deep communion with you. Free us from fear and distrust; confirm us in our commitment to justice and truth; remind us that we are sisters and brothers; break down any walls between us; and unite us in the commitment to follow your Way. In the spirit of Christ, we pray the prayer he taught: Our Father...(debts)

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM For Hard Things Jane Marshall
b. 1924

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Call to Giving

Offertory Gloria in Excelsis DeoW. A. Mozart
January 27, 1756-1791

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRIPTURE Matthew 4:12-23 (p. 785)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

(After which, the children and youth 4 years old through 4th grade may leave for Junior Worship.)

***HYMN** Christ, You Call Us All to Service..... In Babilone

SCRIPTURE I Corinthians 1:10-18 (p. 926)

SERMON *Life Together* Thomas R. McKibbens

***HYMN 572** God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending Rustington

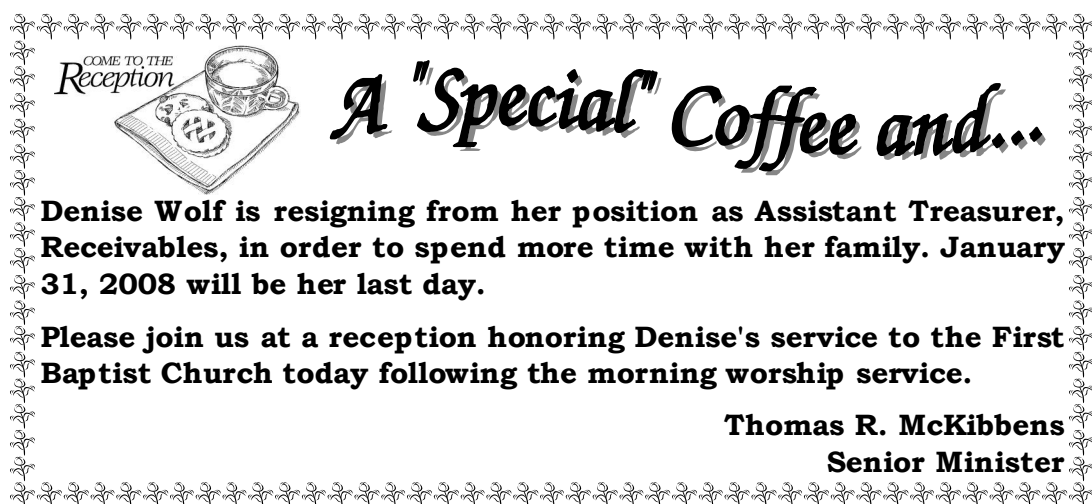
***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending Charles Callahan
b. 1951


**Those who are able may stand.*

*Children’s Choir
Chancel Choir*

*William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts
Patricia Czerny, pianist*



*COME TO THE
Reception*



A "Special" Coffee and...

Denise Wolf is resigning from her position as Assistant Treasurer, Receivables, in order to spend more time with her family. January 31, 2008 will be her last day.

Please join us at a reception honoring Denise's service to the First Baptist Church today following the morning worship service.

**Thomas R. McKibbens
Senior Minister**

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

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.

CANDIDATES FOR BAPTISM...Classes to prepare candidates for baptism will begin February 10, 2008 at 9:00 AM in the Youth Lounge. The classes will run for five weeks, culminating with baptism on Palm Sunday. See you then!

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING...scheduled for today WILL meet at 11:45 PM in the Krueger Room. This slight time adjustment will facilitate attendance by all members. Thanks for your understanding!

PASTOR'S CLASS...All those interested in learning more about joining First Baptist Church are invited to attend the Pastor's Class Sessions on February 13, 20, and 27 (**Wednesday evenings!**) at 5:00 PM. The class will learn about the history of the Baptists, the history and organization of this church, and the process of joining. There will also be a tour of the building. Please join us in the Whitney Room (next to Gordon Hall) beginning February 13.

AN ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE...for those who wish to participate will be held in the Davis Chapel on February 5 at 7:00 PM, sponsored by FBC and the Park Congregational Church.



**Wonderful Wednesdays
start February 13th!**

ANNUAL REPORTS STILL MISSING??? We are still missing reports for the following committees/departments (as of this printing):

- Board of Christian Education
- Buildings & Grounds Committee
- The Graduates
- History Committee



Please submit your report via e-mail (Cindyj@fbc-worc.org), fax (508-797-3313) or place a hard copy in the mail slot for Cindy Johnson. If you do not plan to submit a report, please contact Cindy to let her know. Your cooperation is appreciated!

THE ANNUAL MEETING... is scheduled for **February 10, 2008**, in Gordon Hall. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the cost of \$5.00 per person, with the meeting following. If you plan to attend lunch, please sign up or call the church office to make a reservation.



ALL COMMITTEE NIGHT! Following tradition, all newly elected committee members meet their fellow committee members for the first time on the Tuesday following the Annual Meeting. This will take place on **February 12, 2008**, beginning with dinner at 6:00 PM (donation requested), followed by a briefing with the Moderator and then breaking out into meetings by committee. If your name appears on the ballot, please mark your calendar and plan to be present at your **FIRST** meeting of the year!

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP...for February will be Saturday, February 2, 2008 at the Bickford's Restaurant on Lincoln Street in Worcester. For additional information or to R.S.V.P., contact Tom Ward (tward@oxps.org).



Would you Fill Out a Steeple Stories Survey? Look for one in the Narthex or Lobby!



WANTED:

Caring People

The Graduates have given baskets of homemade cookies and fruit to our nursing home and shut-in church members on Valentine's Day for years. However, the Graduates are no longer meeting.

We are looking for some CARING INDIVIDUALS who would be willing to make cookies, donate money for fruit, help to package these items or help to deliver them to one or two of our 35 shut-ins.

If you are willing to help in any of these ways, please sign-up in the Church Office or contact Jean Tait or Jean Mills to let us know. We will package these items on Monday, February 11 at 10:00 AM, and they may be delivered any time that week. Thanks in advance for your participation!



Jean Tait (508-852-4629)
Jean Mills (508-829-4551)

HOPE FOR HOUSING...Hundreds of families in and around Worcester are homeless, and we have a wonderful opportunity to join with other local faith communities in declaring that this is unacceptable. **The Social Action Committee** will be in Gordon Hall following worship every Sunday selling grocery cards from Shaw's, Stop & Shop, and Big Y in \$25, \$50, and \$100 dollar denominations. You will get the full value of that card at the grocery store, AND the store will contribute 5% of your total purchase to Hope for Housing. It gets better: Hope for Housing will give that 5% to the Central Mass Housing Alliance, and THEY in turn will use it to provide prevention and early intervention assistance to families and individuals that are at risk of homelessness. Please remember to purchase and use these family homelessness prevention grocery cards for all of your own shopping. Stop by our table in Gordon Hall TODAY!



Prayer...

O Lord, convert the world—and begin with me.

~A Chinese Student's Prayer

Please include in your prayers...

- Pastor Thomas McKibbens and the Board of Christian Education during this time of transition
- Petition for unity among congregations of faith in Worcester and beyond (*There is one body and one hope, one Spirit and one call, one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, one Father of us all. F. Bland Tucker, 1980*)
- Thanks for the ministry of Denise Wolf
- Thanks for those who volunteer to send out the church newsletter
- The Oxford School System, its teachers, guidance counselors, and students
- Families who are experiencing stressful transitions
- Each who is homebound or in a care facility, as well as their caregivers
- Those who are chronically ill; those in the process of testing
- Those who face surgery in the near future
- The unemployed, the homeless, the hungry, the hurting
- Audrey Terpo, Hillary Bath, Edmund Bennett, Robert Hohler, John Belanger
- The Valentine's Day gift bag and visitation program
- People who have lost their homes to fire
- Those experiencing marital problems or family problems



The Women's Prayer Fellowship and the Evening Prayer Fellowship (for men and women) meet on Wednesdays at 9:00 AM and 7:30 PM, respectively. Each of you are invited to join us whenever your schedule permits!

OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Today, Jan. 27 10:00 AM Worship
 11:15 AM Sunday School; Jr. Church Svc
 11:45 AM Steering Committee (time change!)

Special “Coffee and…” a Reception for Denise Wolf

Mon., Jan. 28 6:30 PM Habitat

Tue., Jan. 29 9:00 AM Literacy Volunteers
 10:00 AM Weekly Staff Meeting
 4:00 PM Children’s Choir
 4:45 PM Orff Session
 6:30 PM Habitat
 7:30 PM Liturgical Dancers

Mustard Seed

Wed., Jan. 30 9:00 AM Women’s Prayer Fellowship;
 Literacy Volunteers
 6:30 PM Midweek Bible Study
 7:30 PM Evening Prayer Fellowship

Thu., Jan. 31 6:15 PM First Handbells
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir;
 Alcoholics Anonymous

Fri., Feb. 1 3:15 PM Brownies

Sat., Feb. 2 8:00 AM Men’s Breakfast at Bickford’s

Sun., Feb. 3 10:00 AM Worship
 11:15 AM Sunday School; Scrogin Forum
 12:30 PM Youth Group

The First Baptist Church
111 Park Avenue Worcester, MA 01609
508-755-6143
www.fbc-worc.org