

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

The First Baptist Church

A Welcoming and Affirming Church

Worcester, Massachusetts

January 3, 2010

MORNING WORSHIP



January 3, 2010 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 Chorale Fantasia on *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*
Dieterich Buxthude
1637-1707

***OPENING HYMN 728** God of the Ages, Whose Almighty HandNational Hymn

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The true light, that lightens everyone, has entered the world in Jesus Christ!

People: He is the light of life, and through him we are blessed with grace and truth.

Leader: From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. Lift up your hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

***INVOCATION (unison)**

O God, for you a thousand years is like a day. But for us, we mark this Sunday as the first Lord's Day of a new year. We begin this year by thanking you for the blessings of the past. You have been our strength in adversity and our blessing in prosperity. We praise you, O God, for your continuing ministry to us as the years pass, and for the promise of your presence for all who worship in this place. May your benediction rest upon this hour of worship, so that friend and stranger may find themselves part of the family of faith, for we are all your children. And to you, O God, may our hearts be forever lifted in praise. In the words Jesus taught, we pray: Our Father... (depts)

***GLORIA PATRI 734**..... Greatorex

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTSHeather Kattan

THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory Solo *A Star in the Sky Brightly Shining*.....David Johnson
...guided three kings through the night. 1922-1987

They journeyed through mountains and valleys,
led by the star’s silver light.

The wise men traveled, though weary, seeking a Baby so small,
with gifts so precious and rare, to offer the Savior of all.

A Star in the sky brightly shining, will be my guide to the King.
Each day of my life I will praise him; songs of His love I will sing.
The wise men offered their treasures, gifts for the Baby so small,
and I will give my devotion, praising the Savior of all. AMEN.

***Doxology**Dix
*As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ to you, our heavenly King.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

O COME, LITTLE CHILDRENIhr Kinderlein Kommet
O come, little children, o come, one and all, to Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small.
And see with rejoicing this glorious sight, the Christ, our redeemer, our joy, and delight!

AFFIRMATION OF THE CHILDRENHeather Kattan
(Children who desire to participate in a Children’s Worship Experience are invited to join their worship leader following the Children’s Message.)

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE: John 1:1-14 (pg. 862)

COMMUNION MEDITATION *Angels on Roller Skates*..... Thomas R. McKibbens

***COMMUNION HYMN 196** *In the Bleak Midwinter*.....Cranham

A SERVICE OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution
The Passing of the Bread and Wine
The Passing of the Peace, and *Blest Be the Tie*

***CLOSING HYMN 409** *God of Our Life*.....Sandon

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Two settings of *The Old Year Has Now Passed Away*.....J.S. Bach

1685-1750

Marcel Dupré

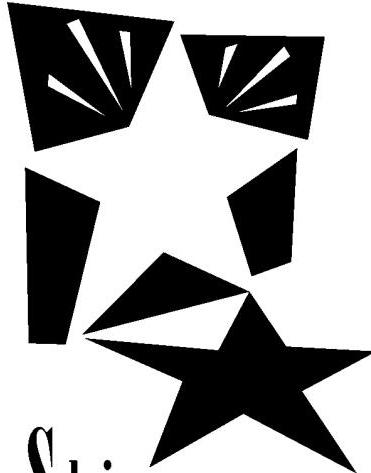
1886-1971

**Those who are able may stand.*

Abigail Ayres, soprano

William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts

The LIGHT



Shines in the
darkness

& the darkness
did not
overcome it

John 1:5

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VALUE 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, LARGE PRINT BULLETINS, AND CHILDREN'S BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE... Please speak with one of our ushers for assistance.

CHANCEL FLOWERS...Today's arrangement is dedicated by Phyllis and Richard Whitten in memory of David Whitenack Whitten.

SUNDAY EDUCATION SCHEDULE

8:00 AM: Bible & Bagels I

8:45 AM: Continental Breakfast Served

9:00 AM: Bible & Bagels II, Church School

10:00 AM: Morning Worship

11:00 AM: Coffee and...

11:20 AM: Forum, AB Kids, Mini-Chorister Choir



Youth Group: See bulletin announcements as well as posted schedule for meeting times and activity.

IF YOU ARE VISITING FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY:



Join us for fellowship in Gordon Hall following the service. You can enjoy refreshments, meet members of this congregation, and learn about the many programs of this church. Gordon Hall is located by exiting the sanctuary through the double doors near the pulpit. Enter Gordon Hall by the first door on the left in the hallway.

If you are searching for a church home, we would love to get to know you. Please speak with the pastor, Thomas R. McKibbens, or call to speak with him during the week at 508-755-6143.

*Those with infants are welcome to take them to the **Nursery**.
Please ask one of the ushers to assist you.*

YOUTH GROUP PLANNING TODAY...join us in the Lee Room at 11:45 AM as we begin planning for this year's **30 HOUR FAMINE** event—and enjoy some Sundaes with ALL the toppings! We will discuss service projects and address any concerns from last year. This meeting is for ANYONE interested in taking part in the famine, including adult chaperones!



THE MEN WILL SING...The men of the choir will sing on January 17. If you would like to join with us, please come to rehearsals on January 7 and 14. There is one upbeat piece and the other is a spiritual. It should be fun!

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP...will have their first meeting of the new year on Saturday, January 9, 2010, 8:00 AM at KP's in Holden (across from Wachusett Regional High School). Questions? Contact Tom Ward [tward@oxps.org].



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE THIS WEEK...on Monday, January 4, 2010.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE NEXT SUNDAY...Annual reports from committee chairs and selected church staff are due no later than **Sunday, January 10, 2010**. Please submit reports to Cindy Johnson [cindyj@fbc-worc.org/ 508-797-3313 fax]. Many thanks! **The Annual Report Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 7, 2010 following Morning Worship. SAVE THE DATE!**




PRAYER...

Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, faith looks up.

~Guideposts

Please include in your prayers...

- Pastor Thomas McKibbens, Rev. Heather Kattan, William Ness
- FBC Staff: Cindy Johnson, Patricia Czerny, Andrea Letourneau, John Belanger, Emily Smith, Mark Dorsey
- Building & Grounds Committee; Music & Arts Committee; Social Action Committee
- The Prayer Ministries
- Russell Weber, Roberta Fitch
- Those with chronic health problems
- This country and the world community
- That we may be empowered with God's Spirit to face whatever the future holds

REMINDER...The Prayer Fellowships will resume regular schedule on  Wednesday, January 6, 2010! We receive and pray for your prayer request each week. Do use the cards in the pew racks and deposit them in the Prayer Mail Boxes just outside the Sanctuary doors.

ADULT FORUMS IN JANUARY

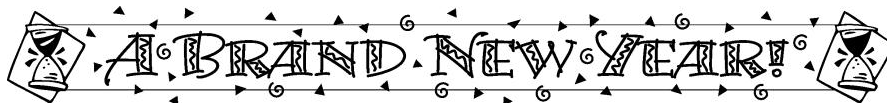
January 10—Scrogin Forum: *Wordy Shipmates*, by Sarah Vowel

January 17 — Adult Forum: On Martin Luther King, Jr., with David Siddle

January 24 — Adult Forum: Mission to Tibet, with Ken Swenson

January 31 — Family Forum: The Environment, with Colin McCullough

HOPE FOR HOUSING...Remember to stop by our table in Gordon Hall each week to make your food shopping card purchases! When used, 5% of your total purchase goes toward the prevention and early intervention assistance to families and individuals who are at risk of homelessness.



OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

TODAY, Jan. 3, 2010 9:00 AM Church School
 10:00 AM Morning Worship
 11:45 AM Youth Group Planning Meeting
 & Ice Cream Social

Mon., Jan. 4, 2010 — NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (February Issue)
 5:45 PM Buildings & Grounds Committee
 7:00 PM Music & Arts Committee

Tue., Jan. 5, 2010 8:00 AM Worcester Interfaith
 10:00 AM Full Staff Meeting
 1:00 PM Salisbury Belles
 4:00 PM Chorister Choir
 7:00 PM Social Action; Compassionate Friends

Wed., Jan. 6, 2010 — EPIPHANY
 9:00 AM Women’s Prayer Fellowship (resumes);
 Jericho Road Worcester
 12:30 PM Staff Holiday Outing
 7:00 PM Evening Prayer Fellowship (resumes);
 Park Cong., Food Addicts in Recovery

Thu., Jan. 7, 2010 9:00 AM Literacy Volunteers
 6:15 PM First Handbells
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir
 8:00 PM AA

Fri., Jan., 8, 2010 3:15 PM Girl Scouts

Sat., Jan., 9, 2010 8:00 AM Men’s Breakfast Fellowship (offsite)

Sun., Jan. 10, 2010 — ANNUAL REPORTS DUE
 8:00 AM Bible & Bagels Session I
 8:45 AM Continental Breakfast
 9:00 AM Bible & Bagels Session II; Church School
 10:00 AM Morning Worship
 11:20 AM Scrogin Great Issues Book Forum

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