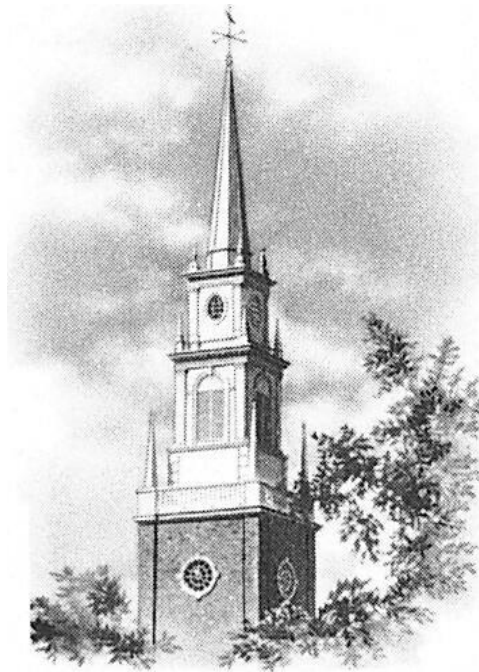


First Baptist Church

March 22, 2009



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



March 22, 2009 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 *Deck Thyself, My Soul with Gladness*, BWV 654 J.S. Bach
1685-1750

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 40** For the Beauty of the Earth..... Dix

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 107) Brenda Baker

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

People: God's steadfast love endures forever!

Leader: We are gathered here from many places:

People: From east and west; from north and south.

Leader: In times of sickness and health, of wandering and searching, of hunger and thirst;

People: God has sent out a word to deliver us!

Leader: Let us give thanks for God's steadfast love and wonderful works!

ALL: We will praise God in the great congregation!

***INVOCATION (unison)**

O God of mercy and abiding love, your desire is for all your people to know fullness of life, abundant life, eternal life. Meet us here today with grace that forgives and heals, so that we may lift up our hearts to you, and live. In the humble spirit of Jesus we offer the prayer he taught: Our Father...(debts).

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

A LITANY OF CONFESSION Thomas R. McKibbens

Leader: God invites us to let the light of Christ shine honestly, openly, and generously through our lives in community. Yet we struggle to live so transparently. Let us reflect on the ways in which we block the light of Christ.

[silence]

When we hide the light of our talents, and do not use them for the common good:

People: Lord have mercy.

Leader: When we are afraid to take a stand in the light of justice, and hide in the shadow of fear:

People: Lord have mercy.

Leader: When we are less than truthful, and cast shadows of doubt across relationships.

People: Lord have mercy.

Leader: Christ, lifted up to draw all people to God, offers forgiving grace and welcome into a community of trust, faith and hope.

People: Let us give thanks for the grace of God and pass the peace of Christ among us!

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Heather Kattan

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Numbers 21:4-9 (pg. 122) Heather Kattan

A bronze serpent is placed upon a pole as a sign of God's forgiveness and healing.

John 3:14-21 (pg. 864) Brenda Baker

Jesus concludes his conversation with Nicodemus by noting that humanity tends to love "darkness rather than light."

ANTHEM *Witness* Jack Holloran
1916-1997

LITTLE CHILDREN, WELCOME Koleda

Little children, welcome! Earth is yours to live in;
arms of love protect you, little children, welcome!
We, the church of Jesus, we will help your growing,
Jesus' love enfolds you, little children, welcome!

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

SERMON *Good News/Bad News* Thomas R. McKibbens

***HYMN 264** *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* Rathbun

THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS Thomas R. McKibbens

(Continued)

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory *Ah, Holy Jesus*, BWV 1093J.S. Bach

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

***CLOSING HYMN 90** *Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!* Hyfrydol

***BENEDICTION**..... Thomas R. McKibbens

POSTLUDE *We All Believe in One True God*, BWV 680.....J.S. Bach

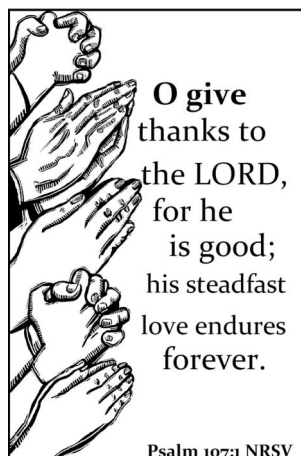
**Those who are able may stand.*

*Chancel Choir
William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts*

MUSIC NOTES

Jack Holloran was a choral director with earned degrees from Morningside College and Northwestern University. He had a quartet which appeared on numerous television shows. He eventually moved to Hollywood and became the choral director for film, recording and television industry.

Johann Sebastian Bach's birthday is March 21, 1685, for which this year marks the 234th year since his birth. Bach's music will remain immortal! No other composer has influenced composition as much as Bach. He is the musician's musician, as well as the greatest composer, bar none. No more need be said.



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 arrangements are given by Audrey Terpo in remembrance of her husband, Christopher T. Terpo, and Elizabeth Ayres in remembrance of her husband, Donald Ayres.✝

SUNDAY EDUCATION...We offer a variety of worship and learning opportunities for children and youth. Following the Children's Message, children are invited to attend a Children's Worship session upstairs in the Green Room. At 11:15 AM, we have Church School classes for all ages on the second floor. For more information, please speak with one of our ushers, or the Rev. Heather Kattan.☰

COFFEE AND...Join with the family and friends following the service today in Gordon Hall. Be sure to take time to reach out to those among us who are new to the First Baptist Church! ☷

TODAY'S ADULT FORUM IS A MINI-TOUR...The Benevolence Committee sponsors today's visit to three of the agencies we support through the Benevolence Budget. A light lunch (free-will offering) will begin the tour at 11:30 AM, then we will visit *Jeremiah's Inn*, *The Kathleen Burns Prep School (YOU Inc.)*, and *Dismas House*. Transportation will be via minibus, so there are no traffic/parking woes. Return to First Baptist Church by 3:00 PM. Tour is open to youth and adults—ALL ARE WELCOME!


FORECLOSURE CRISIS BRIEFING...A community briefing on Worcester's foreclosure crisis will be held at First Baptist Church on Tuesday, **March 24, 2009 from 3:45 PM to 5:30 PM**. This event is sponsored by the Worcester Area Mission Society, and panelists will provide federal, state, and local perspectives. Of special interest to the members of the First Baptist Church will be a presentation by Matthew Wally, who heads the Community Loan Fund. First Baptist Church is a leading investor in the Loan Fund, which plays a key role in foreclosure prevention lending and the property receivership program.


DRESS REHEARSAL...The Montessori School of Shrewsbury invites you to watch our dress rehearsal on Wednesday, **March 25 at 9:00 AM** in Gordon Hall. The students, grades 4 through 6 will be presenting the Broadway Junior Production, *Annie Junior*.

FBC GOLF FELLOWSHIP...A start-of-the-season meeting of the FBC Golf Fellowship will be held at 11:15 AM on Sunday, **March 29, 2009** in the Roy Room. All golfers who might be interested in playing with members and friends of FBC are encouraged to attend. This will determine when, where, and with what frequency folks would like to get together for a friendly round of golf. If you are interested but not able to make the meeting, please e-mail Dave Johnson [johnsondm1@verizon.net].

DELIVERING SUNSHINE...The Visitation Team is a group of Deacons and church members who regularly call on our homebound or hospitalized members and friends, bringing flowers from the altar and warm wishes from the congregation. We are looking for more Visitation Team members. If you already visit one of our homebound members or would like to join the Visitation Team, we welcome you! Please contact Karen Brockney [508-832-4267/brockney@gmail.com] or Jean Tait to learn more about this opportunity or to volunteer.

HOPE FOR HOUSING...Remember to stop by our table in Gordon Hall each week to continue making your food shopping card purchases! When cards are used at local grocery stores, the store will contribute 5% of the total purchase to Hope for Housing to give to the Central Mass Housing Alliance, for use in prevention and early intervention assistance to families and individuals that are at risk of homelessness.

JERICHO ROAD WORCESTER...is a skills based volunteer program First Baptist is launching in cooperation with First Unitarian. This month we will hire a director, and next month we hope to be operational,  matching volunteers in our churches with the needs of non-profits in the greater Worcester area. We are currently in need of a used, but functional laptop. If you can donate one, you receive a tax deduction, as well as helping a very worthwhile organization get started. The technical requirements are: Windows PC Laptop, minimum 1.7 MHz CPU, 20GB Hard Drive, 500 MB Memory, wireless capacity preferred, Dell vendor preferred (but flexible). No software required. Please contact Tom McKibbens if you have any ideas!

PIANO RESTORATION FUND UPDATE...Our thanks to everyone who supported the bake sales, pie sales, English teas, and the Christmas Dinner sponsored by the Music & Arts Committee. Thanks as well to everyone who  generously made donations. We now have sufficient funds to begin the work planned for the Mason & Hamlin piano in Gordon Hall, which will be restored to its full glory in approximately four months time.

Central Massachusetts Association of American Baptist Women



ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST FOR ALL WOMEN
“EXPERIENCING GOD’S EXTRAVAGANT LOVE”



April 18, 2009
Baptist Church of Grafton, 1 South Street
8:30 AM registration
\$6.00 cost includes meal & program
Call Dawn Wentworth by April 11, 2009
[508-839-4911]

THE FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE

March 1 – April 30

Dear First Baptist Church;

The generous Mr. Feinstein is once again sharing his money with agencies that help to feed those who are hungry and in need. All money and each non-perishable food item donated to us through April 30, 2009, will be counted in the CHALLENGE.

Mr. Feinstein's \$1 Million will be divided proportionately between all the agencies taking part in the CHALLENGE. The more food we collect, and the more money we raise, the more we receive from Mr. Feinstein. If you would like to donate money, please make your check payable to "Wesley United Methodist Church", and note on the memo line that it is for the FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE. Food items may be brought to the Carty Cupboard as usual.

For your convenience, a list of the foods that we currently need is included below. Last year, with your help, the Carty Cupboard distributed enough food to provide over 105,255 meals! We would like to take this time to thank you for your generous donations and support during this challenge and throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Nancy J. E. Spencer – Carty Cupboard

CARTY CUPBOARD FOOD LIST

- Breakfast bars
- Single-serving packages of cereal
- Canned fruit
- Grape jelly
- Single-servings of applesauce or fruit
- "100% Juices"
- Canned vegetables (e.g. green beans, peas, carrots, corn)
- Canned tuna or chicken
- Dry pasta
- Rice (any kind)
- Hearty canned soups
- Meals in a can (e.g. stew, hash, baked beans [small], pasta)



Prayer...

*Eternal Father of my soul, let my first thought today be of Thee,
let my first impulse be to worship Thee, let my first speech be Thy name,
let my first action be to kneel before Thee in prayer.*

~The Rev. Dr. John Baillie

Please include in your prayers...

- Today's Benevolence Tour
- The Board of Finance; the Diaconate
- Wonderful Wednesdays
- Betty Bennett, Heather MacNeill, Marijane Jones, Audrey Terpo
- Those who are bereaved; the family of Martha Aney
- Those battling chronic disease; caregivers
- The Baptism Class
- The people of Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other war-torn areas of the world
- Each individual who is dealing with the economic crisis
- The leaders of the world, for wisdom and compassion



Annual Prayer Breakfast for ALL Women—**April 18, 2009**,
Baptist Church of Grafton—8:30 AM to Noon.



DID YOU REMEMBER YOUR "SECRET FRIEND"? Be sure to check your mail slot in Gordon Hall...and don't forget to write back!




SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS... We need your help! We are currently looking for individuals to be involved in teaching Sunday School this summer. If you are interested in helping out or need more information, please contact Rev. Heather Kattan by e-mail [heatherk@fbc-worc.org] or telephone [508-755-6143 x228]. Thank you!



Park Congregational Church cordially invites First Baptist Church to an Easter Sunrise Service on April 12, 2009. Meet in Institute Park (across from FBC) at 7:00 AM. Following a short service, we will adjourn to the Lee Room for coffee and pastries.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Sun., Mar. 22, 2009	8:00 AM & 9:00 AM—Bible & Bagels 9:00 AM Baptism Class 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Sunday School; Adult Forum (Tour)
 Tue., Mar. 24, 2009	9:00 AM Montessori Rehearsal 9:30 AM Literacy Volunteer Reading [ESL] 10:00 AM Weekly Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Salisbury Belles 3:45 PM Foreclosure Seminar 4:00 PM Children's Choir 7:00 PM Board of Finance; Joint Meeting of Deacons & Board of CE
Wed., Mar. 25, 2009	9:00 AM Women's Prayer; Mont. Dress Rehearsal 9:30 AM Ministers' Training 12:00 PM Massachusetts Council of Churches 5:30 PM WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS SUPPER 6:30 PM WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS; 7:00 PM Park Congregational; Food Addicts in Recovery
 Thu., Mar. 26, 2009	9:00 AM Literacy Volunteers; Literacy Vol. Reading 6:15 PM First Handbells 7:00 PM Montessori Performance of Annie Jr. 7:30 PM Chancel Choir
Fri., Mar. 27, 2009	3:15 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Montessori Performance of Annie Jr.
Sat., Mar. 28, 2009	9:15 AM Church School Teacher's Meeting
 Sun., Mar. 29, 2009	8:00 AM & 9:00 AM—Bible & Bagels 9:00 AM Baptism Class 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Sunday School; Adult Forum; Golf Fellowship 12:30 PM Youth Group

The First Baptist Church
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