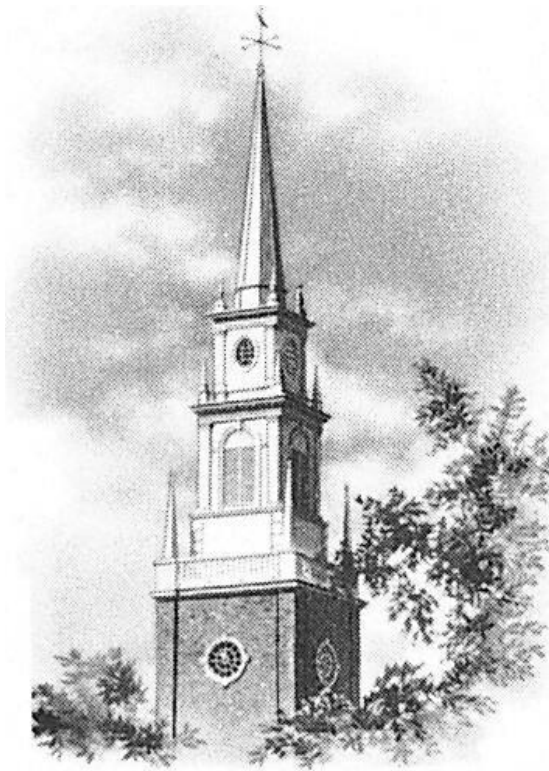


First Baptist Church

March 2, 2008



Worcester, Massachusetts
A Welcoming and Affirming Church

Morning Worship



March 2, 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 Meditation on *Brother James' Air* Harold Darke
1888-1976

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 93** Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness ..Nettleton

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

Leader: Some people have excellent eyesight, but do not see further than their noses...

People: Some have sight, yet choose to see only a fragment of the truth and love of Christ.

Leader: And some there are who have no physical sight, yet who see brilliantly. The light of Christ Jesus be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: One thing we know for sure,

ALL: Once we were blind, but now we can see!

***INVOCATION**

God of glory and God of grace, bring us to our senses. If that means shining your light fiercely until our inner eyes hurt, and until our negligence and willfulness stand exposed, then so be it. We do not look for an easy way home, but the hard way of truth and integrity. Slowly but surely we come to you. In your presence, may we find the grace to let down our defenses, and to listen for your good word in our worship. This we pray in the name of Christ Jesus, who taught us to pray: Our Father...(debts)

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Thomas R. McKibbens

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Call to Giving

Offertory The Lord's My Shepherd Gordon Jacob
1895-1984

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRIPTURE Ephesians 5:8-14 (p. 951) Andrew Hitzhusen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE..... Ruth Richards
(After which, the children and youth 4 years old through 4th grade may leave for Junior Worship.)

SCRIPTURE John 9:1-5 (p. 871)

MEDITATION *God's Work in a 24/7 World* Thomas R. McKibbens

***HYMN 692** Eat This Bread and Never Hunger Modesto
Stanza 1, Choir; Stanzas 2 & 3, All

A SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sanctus..... Herbert Sumsion
1899-1995

The Passing of the Bread and Wine

Agnus Dei..... Herbert Sumsion

The Passing of the Peace, and "Blest Be the Tie"

***HYMN 519** On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand.....Promised Land

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: We are numbered among those whose eyes have been touched with the
salve of Jesus Christ.

People: Amen! Once we were blind, but now we can see!

Leader: See clearly and walk gently wherever you go this week.

**People: Look gladly on those who encourage and patiently on those who
irritate.**

Leader: See light where others see gloom, and hope where many see defeat.

**People: Look upon weak souls with mercy and face the tough ones
without fear.**

Leader: Travel calmly with the confidence of those who have caught a glimpse of
God's great work for us to do;

People: In and through Christ Jesus our Savior.

Leader: The grace of Christ will redeem all your work, the love of God will
undergird your work, and the presence of the Spirit will empower your
work!

ALL: Amen!

***RESPONSE** God Be in My Head..... John Rutter
b. 1945

POSTLUDE Air from *Suite in D Major, BWV 1068*.....J.S. Bach
1685-1750

**Those who are able may stand.*

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

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.

CHANCEL FLOWERS...Today's floral arrangements have been dedicated in memory of Barbara and Gordon Butler by Tammy and George Butler.

SCROGIN FORUM...Today's discussion will surround the book God Is Not Great, by Christopher Hitchens. The forum will be led by Janice Hitzhusen. Please join us in the Roy Room!

BAPTISM AND BEYOND...Discussion group available for anyone seeking to explore baptism and faithful living is running in parallel with the baptism preparation class, 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings in the Going Library (opposite Gordon Hall). All are welcome!

PASTOR'S CLASS...All those interested in learning more about joining First Baptist Church are invited to attend the remaining Pastor's Class Session on **Wednesday, March 5** 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).

HEALTHY NEWS...The latest issue of the Health Cabinet newsletter is now available, featuring information on exercise, osteoarthritis, and lots of great tips to help keep you "in the PINK". Pick up your PINK copy of **HEALTHY NEWS** today in the Church Office, or at the Health Cabinet information area near the Roy Room!

CALLING ALL YOUTH...at FBC! Please join your friends and the Senior Minister **TODAY** following Sunday School for a VERY IMPORTANT MEETING to give you an update on the search for a new Minister of Education and Youth, as well as some planning for Youth Sunday in May. Join us for pizza in the Lee Room at 12:15 PM!



ORGAN RECITAL...Marjorie and William Ness in recital today, 4:00 PM at St. Matthew's UMC, Newtown Road, Acton, MA. Admission.

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP...this Saturday, March 8, at the Bickford's on Lincoln Street in Worcester. We meet at 8:00 AM, so please join in! For additional information, please contact Tom Ward [tward@oxps.org].

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE...for the APRIL issue is this Friday, March 7. Please submit items for publication to Cindy Johnson (508-797-3313 fax/cindyj@fbc-worc.org/hard copy in office mail slot). Thank you!

JUST A REMINDER...The Mid-Week Bible Study will not meet during the Wonderful Wednesday sessions. We will resume March 19, 2008.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED...volunteering at FBC? If so, there *is* something you can do to help once every fifth week. We are in need of help tidying pews in preparation for Sunday worship. You'll remove discarded bulletins, replace envelopes and brochures, and gather items that may have been left behind. You can do this before the next worship service, at any time during normal business hours. **Contact Susan Phaneuf at ext. 224 to learn more!**



First Baptist Church WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

February 20—March 12, 2008, featuring:

- Seekers After a Mature Faith *with* Thomas R. McKibbens
- Following Jesus (for Children) *with* Ruth Richards
- How to Talk So Kids Will Listen... *with* Sarah Sams & Tom Ward

Begins with supper in the LEE ROOM at 6 PM followed by a short devotional time in the Davis Chapel. Please SIGN-UP to have supper for a donation of \$5.00. *Join Us!*

CHURCHES IN WORCESTER TO PARTNER WITH REFUGEES... Refugees who arrive in Worcester are vulnerable but resilient. They don't need the American dream handed to them on a silver platter, but they do need communities of hope to come along side and serve as partners in rebuilding a hopeful future. Here are some of the ways we along with other churches are planning to help bring a sense of community:

- Help a refugee family find and move into a new apartment or home.
- Help to furnish an apartment or home and do minor repairs
- Help accompany members of a family on a shopping trip
- Help with transportation to an appointment
- Tutor a refugee in English
- Identify job opportunities for refugees
- Collect non-perishable food, bed linens, towels, blankets, personal toiletries, household cleaning products, kitchen utensils, dishes, and other common household items

If you would like to be on an On Call List when a new family is arriving in Worcester, please contact Warren Jones, Jean Perkins, Liz Waithanji, or Mary Gemme. There will be a training meeting to help us understand ways to relate with mutual respect for a Refugee Immigrant family individual or family arriving in Worcester. We will meet with other church representatives at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester, 90 Holden Street, Worcester on March 5 at 7:30 PM.



HOPE FOR HOUSING... Please remember to purchase and use these family homelessness prevention grocery cards for all of your own shopping. Available in Gordon Hall following worship every Sunday are 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, who will give that 5% to the Central Mass Housing Alliance, who in turn will use it to provide prevention and early intervention assistance to families and individuals that are at risk of homelessness.

Prayer...

Lord, make me see your glory in every place.

~Michelangelo

Please pray for...

- Our Sunday School—children, youth, teachers, parents
- All those who visit and minister to others
- The Buildings & Grounds Committee, the Music & Arts Committee
- Lynn McMillen, Betty Bennett, Elizabeth Minott
- Habitat for Humanity
- Those who are undergoing medical testing and/or anticipating surgery
- People who are daily dealing with chronic diseases
- Pastor Thomas McKibbens, Ruth Richards, Sarah Sams & Thomas Ward in the Wonderful Wednesday series; also, Emily Smith and William Ness as support staff.
- FBC with its Lenten programs and outreach ministries
- The persons seated around you in this service of worship



THE EVENING PRAYER FELLOWSHIP will not meet on the first three Wednesdays in March, but will resume at its regular time of 7:30 PM on March 26, following Easter Sunday.

THE PRAYER CARDS in the pew racks are for your use. Simply write your request for prayers, and then place the cards in any of the three Prayer Mailboxes located just outside the sanctuary and at the building entrance by the Church Office. The Pastor and Prayer Fellowships will pray for each request.

**Daylight Saving Begins on March 9th!
Move clocks **AHEAD** one hour...**



OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

- Today, Mar. 2 9:00 AM Baptism Class; Baptism and Beyond
10:00 AM Worship
11:15 AM Sunday School; Scrogin Forum
12:15 PM Youth Group Meeting with Senior Minister
- Mon., Mar. 3 7:00 PM Habitat
- Tue., Mar. 4 9:00 AM Literacy Volunteers; Montessori rehearsal
10:00 AM Full Staff Meeting
10:30 AM Women's Central Baptist Association
4:00 PM Children's Choir
4:45 PM Orff Session
5:15 PM Health Cabinet
7:00 PM Social Action Committee
7:30 PM Liturgical Dancers
- Wed., Mar. 5 9:00 AM Women's Prayer Fellowship;
Montessori Rehearsal; Literacy Volunteers
5:00 PM Pastor's Class
6:00 PM Wonderful Wednesdays
7:00 PM Habitat
- Thu., Mar. 6 6:15 PM First Handbells
6:30 PM Habitat
7:15 PM Chancel Choir
7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous
- Fri., Mar. 7 — Newsletter Deadline**
3:15 PM Brownies
- Sat., Mar. 8 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast at Bickford's
- Sun., Mar. 9 — Daylight Saving Time Begins!**
9:00 AM Baptism Class; Baptism and Beyond
10:00 AM Worship
11:15 AM Sunday School; Adult Forum
11:30 AM Music & Arts Committee

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