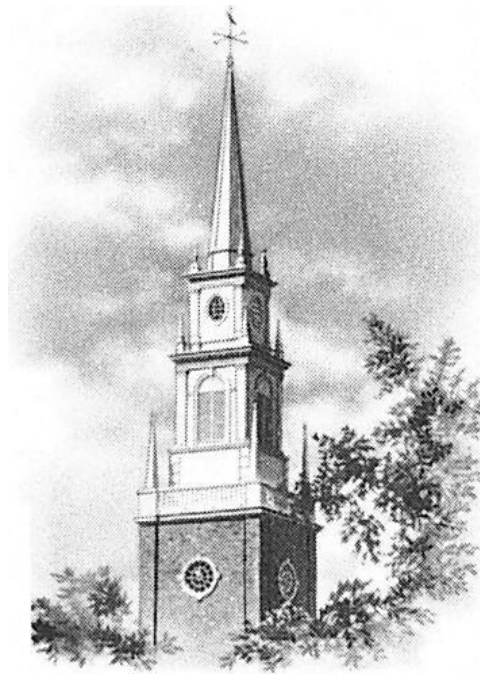


First Baptist Church

October 26, 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

October 26, 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 October Interlude..... Clarence Mader
1904-1971

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 23** All Creatures of Our God and King Last Uns Erfreun

***CALL TO WORSHIP**..... Heather Kattan

Leader: Sing to the Lord, all creatures!

People: We are gathered as a family of God to worship the One who has shown us love and life Eternal.

Leader: Come, let us praise, give thanks, and worship our loving God.

***INVOCATION (unison)**

Open our eyes, O God, that we may see the glimpses of wonder you have for us to envision. Open our eyes that we may hear voices of hope in the words that surround us. Prepare our hearts, O God, as we listen with anticipation for your presence. Open our mouths that we may have the courage and the strength to speak the truth in love and mercy as you have shown to us. In the spirit of Christ, we offer the prayer he taught us to pray: Our Father...(depts).

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Thomas R. McKibbens

STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONYDavid Story

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:34-40 (pg. 804)

Jesus is asked, "Which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

UNISON Reading of Psalm 90:1-6, and Response

RESPONSE

Psalm 92:15; 18:2
Johann Crüger; harm. Felix Mendelssohn

Sing praise to God our rock, in whom we take our refuge.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals." For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

[REPEAT RESPONSE]

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I Thessalonians 2:1-8 (pg. 959) Heather Kattan
Paul reminds the Church that, "so deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the Gospel of God, but also our own selves, because you have become dear to us."

LET THE CHILDREN COME (please remain seated) Dix
For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child;
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild.
Lord of all to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

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 *Love Commanded*..... Brenda Baker

***HYMN 596** Help Us Accept Each Other..... Beck

THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS..... Thomas R. McKibbens

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory Anthem Blessed are You, O Lord Our God ... Kenneth Jennings
b. 1925

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIVES

***HYMN 466** Take My Life and Let It Be Hendon

***BENEDICTION**..... Brenda Baker

POSTLUDE Chaconne Louis Couperin
c. 1626-1661

**Those who are able may stand.*

*Chancel Choir
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 given in celebration of Carter, Emma, Erik, Rae, Cal, Sam, Christian, Aidan, Liam, and Sarah. Also, a "rosebud welcome" in celebration of Allison Elizabeth Werner, daughter of Muffy (Davis) and Tim Werner, born on October 19, 2008. The Proud grandparents are Sarah and Dix Davis. ✨

FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY TODAY...All Children and Youth are invited to join us from 4:00 PM—6:00 PM today for this annual event. Don't forget your costume, and don't forget to bring a friend. Please meet Heather at 3:00 PM if you are helping with setup. See you there!

BIBLE & BAGELS...Our Sunday Bible Study for “grown-ups” continues!



Bible & Bagels Session #1 meets on Sundays at 8:00 AM

Bible & Bagels Session #2 meets on Sundays at 9:00 AM



Choose either class session (the topic is identical) enjoy a bagel, and join us in the Lee Room. The study focus is on the Book of Exodus.

UPCOMING ADULT/SCROGIN FORUMS:

- November 2 — Scrogin Forum: Give War a Chance, by P.J. O'Rourke
- November 9 — FALL BUSINESS MEETING
- November 16 — Ellen Dunlop [American Antiquarian Society]
- November 30 — ADVENT WORKSHOP

The FBC Music & Arts Committee is **Baking YOUR Thanksgiving Pie!**

Pick up an order form in the Church Office TODAY and make your choice of a nine-inch HOMEMADE pie, and the dessert portion of your Thanksgiving meal will be finished! Last day to place your order is Sunday, November 16. Pies will be ready for pick up on Sunday, November 23. All proceeds to benefit the refurbishing of our Mason & Hamlin Piano in Gordon Hall.



Why spend your time baking? Order your HOMEMADE Thanksgiving Pie from the Music & Arts Committee!



FLU SEASON IS UPON US...and once again the FBC Health Cabinet is considering providing free flu shots. If you are very interested in getting the vaccine, please contact the Church Office to sign-up, or e-mail Robin McFee [tweetydoctor@aol.com]. Do not delay in signing up—we will need to obtain the vaccine and choose a date for administering the shots.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS CONTINUES...Each weekly session begins with dinner together, followed by a time of devotions and prayer, after which participants break up into their various classes. *Participants planning to enjoy the supper meal served before each evening session should enter their name on the sign-up sheet or call the Church Office to sign-up by the Monday prior to each Wednesday session.* The cost for the meal is \$5.00. **JOIN us** each Wednesday evening through November 19. We will begin with **supper at 5:30 PM in the Lee Room**, followed by vespers and a choice of class session.

SANDWICHES & SUNDAES... Open to ALL Youth at FBC (6 grade through 12 grade). Please join us NEXT SUNDAY November 2, 2008 at 12:30 PM in the Lee Room to talk about the Youth Group and the kinds of activities and trips we want to have this year...and, BRING A FRIEND!



YOUTH THANKSGIVING PROJECT... For Thanksgiving this year, we will come together to collect and serve food to those who are in need. We will be serving a meal on **November 25, 2008**, as part of the Mustard Seed ministry in which FBC participates. Throughout the month of November, we will also collect donations of non-perishable food items, as well as financial donations to purchase the items needed for the meal that we will serve. Donations can be brought by children and youth to their Sunday School classes, and there will also be a basket for donations in the narthex. To sign-up for serving of the meal (4:45 PM—about 6:30 PM), please contact Heather Kattan via e-mail [HeatherK@fbc-worc.org], by phone [508-755-6143 x228] or by writing your name on the sheet outside of Heather's office. Thank you!



Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at
The First Baptist Church
Sunday, November 23, 2008
5:00 PM



Fall Business Meeting
Sunday, November 9,
immediately following Worship:
• Brief Reports
• Vote on Strategic Plan



DAYLIGHT SAVING
ENDS NOVEMBER
2—TURN CLOCKS
BACK ONE HOUR
SATURDAY NIGHT!

NOTICE: Due to the rising wholesale cost of Christmas trees, our continuing need for more volunteers, as well as competition from large discount stores, THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WILL NOT OFFER CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE THIS YEAR. Look for other fund-raising activities by the Youth Group during the year ahead!



Don't forget the Annual Christmas Dinner
on December 14 at 5:00 PM.
Sign-up TODAY—tickets available next week
\$12 Adults – \$6.00 Children under 12 – \$35 Family

Prayer...

May you be blessed forever, Lord, for being constant and unchanging, amidst all the changes of the world....

~Teresa of Avila

Please include in your prayers...

- Our church as it ministers to its parishioners and the wider community of Worcester and beyond
- The Diaconate; The Nominating Committee
- Roger Williams, Emily Holt, Eleanor Long, Audrey Terpo, Stanley Manierre, Cheryl Goff, Nancy Burgess, Jean Podell
- Those who are confined to their homes or care facilities
- Those living with chronic illness
- People who are hospitalized or undergoing treatment
- A civil, respectful, peaceful transition of power as our country elects new leadership
- The First Handbells and the Salisbury Belles
- The Prayer Shawl Committee



Please Note:

- The Women's Prayer Fellowship continues its weekly 9:00—10:00 AM Wednesday meetings.
- The Evening Prayer Fellowship [EPF] will NOT meet during the evenings of Wonderful Wednesdays, or on Thanksgiving eve. The EPF will resume its meeting time Wednesday, December 3, 7:30—8:30 PM in the Roy Room.

REMINDER: Second Semester Roy Fund Applications are DUE November 1, 2008. You may pick up paperwork at the reception desk in the Church Office. If you did not receive a first semester loan, you MUST complete the entire application and sit for an interview.



Please help Dean Stevens collect pull-tabs to benefit the Shriner's Hospital Fund. The tabs may be left in the container in the Church Office, or in your own container, labeled to Dean's attention. Thank you!



OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

TODAY, October 26	8:00 AM	Bible & Bagels Session I
	9:00 AM	Bible & Bagels Session II
	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:15 AM	Sunday School; Adult Forum
	4:00 PM	FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY
Mon., October 27	4:00 PM	Investment Committee
	7:00 PM	Habitat
Tue., October 28	9:00 AM	Literacy Volunteers; Habitat
	10:00 AM	Weekly Staff Meeting
	1:00 PM	Salisbury Belles
	4:00 PM	Children's Choir
	6:30 PM	Habitat
	7:00 PM	Board of Deacons; FBC Sunday School Teachers
	<i>MUSTARD SEED</i>	
Wed., October 29	9:00 AM	Women's Prayer Fellowship; Music Guild
	5:30 PM	Wonderful Wednesdays!
	7:00 PM	Finance; Food Addicts in Recovery
Thu., October 30	9:00 AM	Literacy Volunteers
	10:00 PM	TABCOM Conference of Baptist Ministers
	6:00 PM	Nominating Committee
	6:15 PM	First Handbells
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir; Alcoholics Anonymous
Fri., October 31	3:15 PM	Brownies
Sat., November 1	8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast at Bickford's (Lincoln St.)
Sun., November 2	8:00 AM	Bible & Bagels Session I
	9:00 AM	Bible & Bagels Session II
	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:15 AM	Sunday School; Scrogin Forum
	11:30 PM	Music & Arts Committee
	12:30 PM	Sandwiches and Sundaes (FBC Youth)



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