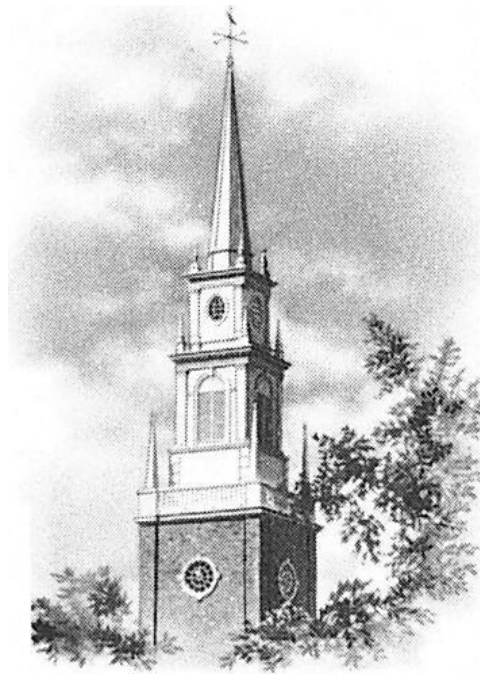


First Baptist Church

September 14, 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

◆ Festival Sunday ◆

September 14, 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 Hymn to Joy Albert Travis
b. 1940
Morning Hymn Robert Speed
b. 1930

***HYMN 24** God, You Spin the Whirling Planets..... Hymn to Joy

***CALL TO WORSHIP**..... Brenda Baker

Leader: We worship God, who caused the sea to look and flee.

People: God is our strength; we gather to praise God!

Leader: We worship the God in whose presence the mountains and hills
skipped like lambs!

People: God is our strength; we gather to praise God!

Leader: Tremble, O Earth, at the presence of the Almighty, the one who turns
rock into pools of water and flint into springs.

ALL: God is our strength; we gather to praise God!

***INVOCATION (Unison)**

Holy God of freedom, we celebrate your name, joined with voices through the ages who have shouted thanksgiving for your great works. Our feet are wet from our journey through uncertainty. Our necks are stiff from looking over our shoulders at the threats to our lives. Now we seek to walk your way and look ahead, trusting in you. May your Spirit give us wisdom to journey together, listening to our stories, and trusting in your steadfast power to part the waters of life. We pray in the spirit of Christ, who taught us the model prayer: Our Father...(debt).

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Thomas R. McKibbens

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Exodus 14:19-31 (p. 53)

*God delivers Moses and the people by giving them safe passage through the sea.
When the people saw what God had done, they sang the oldest hymn in the Bible.*

Unison Reading of Psalm 114 (p. 491)

This is one of the many psalms that kept the memory of God’s powerful acts alive among the people.

Matthew 18:21-35 (p. 800)

Human nature is such that we want our own sins forgiven, but we are reluctant to extend forgiveness to others. Here, Jesus speaks of forgiving “seventy times seven” - that is, without limits, and he shows by way of the story and the consequences of not extending the grace shown 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

(Children who would like to participate in a Children’s Worship Experience are invited to join their worship leader following the Message.)

SERMON *Between Migdol and the Sea* Thomas R. McKibbens

***HYMN** *Crashing Waters at Creation*Galilee (345)

Crashing waters at creation, ordered by the Spirit’s breath,
First to witness day’s beginning, from the brightness of night’s death.

Parting water stood and trembled as the captives passed on through,
Washing off the chains of bondage—channel to a life made new.

Cleansing water once at Jordan, closed around the One foretold,
Opened to reveal the glory, ever new and ever old.

Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Well-spring, Source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Call to Giving

Offertory Anthem *But the waters overwhelmed their enemies...*Georg Handel
from *Israel in Egypt* 1685-1750

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

(Continued on next page)

LITURGY OF DEDICATION FOR TEACHERS AND EDUCATION LEADERS

- Words of Introduction
- Gathering of Teachers and Leaders

TO THE LEADERS AND TEACHERS

Minister: Will you the teachers and leaders in our Church School seek and serve Christ in all those who are entrusted to your care?

Teachers: *We will, God being our helper.*

Minister: Will you encourage them not only to learn about the faith, but by your example encourage them to live it?

Teachers: *We will, God being our helper.*

***TO THE CONGREGATION** (*those who are able may stand*)

Minister: Will you support these teachers and leaders in their ministry, and will you continue to learn and study?

People: We will, God being our helper.

UNISON PRAYER:

We praise you, loving God, for the openness that our teachers and leaders have demonstrated by responding to your call to serve in this community of faith. We ask you to nurture them and lead them by the gift of your Spirit. Help us to support them in all their endeavors. We thank you, O Lord, for the enthusiasm, the spontaneity, and the natural curiosity of the children, youth, and adults of our church. Help us to welcome all and encourage all to grow in their faith. Hear, O God, our prayers for our Church School and for all who are involved in it (silent prayer)....

Minister: We ask these things in the spirit of Jesus—AMEN.

***HYMN 501** Guide Me, O Thou Great JehovahRhondda

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah..... Barbara Harbach
b. 1946

**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 arrangement is dedicated by Jean Perkins and B.J. Perkins in remembrance of son and brother Earle R. Perkins, Jr.

FESTIVAL SUNDAY BRUNCH...ALL ARE WELCOME to our customary and hearty Festival Sunday Brunch following the morning worship service, where you will also receive information about this year's program schedule and how to participate during the program year!

TODAY'S ORGAN MUSIC...is composed entirely by living American organists. Albert Travis is organist at the Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, where he plays the largest French-styled organ in the world. Robert Speed wrote *Morning Hymn* (2004) for Marjorie and William Ness, and William plays it for the first time today. Marjorie played it last Sunday at the service in Sudbury, so these are co-first performances of this work. Robert was organist for forty-eight years at Central Presbyterian Church in Des Moines, Iowa, and also Professor of Humanities at Grandview College in Des Moines. Barbara Harbach is a noted organ recitalist and also editor of *Women of Note Quarterly*.

BIBLE AND BAGELS...Have you ever thought that Sunday Bible Study was just for children? Here is a Sunday Bible Study for “grown-ups” who take the Bible seriously! **BIBLE AND BAGELS** gives you two options for your study:



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) and join us in the Lee Room beginning September 21, 2008. The study this fall will focus on the Book of Exodus.



CHURCH SCHOOL CURRICULUM...for the new program year is now available in the Education Office (across from Gordon Hall). Teachers may pick up their copy of the curriculum materials at their convenience.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY...Led by Michael Harvey on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the Krueger Room. We hope you will join us as we continue the series *Living a Joyful Life*. This week's topic is entitled: *Living with Reality*.



THE GEORGIA GUITAR QUARTET...will present the Caswell Memorial



Concert on October 3, 2008, 8:00 PM, in the Sanctuary. This group hails from the University of Georgia in Athens. The ensemble maintains an active national concert schedule, performing in a variety of venues that range from concert halls to popular music clubs. They have released four recordings, the most recent of which consists exclusively of music composed by the Quartet. This fabulous concert is open to all at no charge. Please take advantage of this generous gift to the wider community, and invite friends to hear a wonderful evening of excellent music.

TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE NEEDED...We occasionally receive requests for rides to & from Sunday services or events from people who would otherwise be unable to attend. If you would like to help by making yourself available to drive (your car) when the need arises, please leave your name and phone number in the Deacons' mailbox in the main office, Attention: David Aalto.

MUSIC & ARTS BAKE SALE...next Sunday, following worship in Gordon Hall. Proceeds go toward restoration of the Mason & Hamlin in Gordon Hall. Thank you for your support!



PRAYER...The Prayer Pyramid continues to pray for any prayer requests during this interim the Prayer Fellowships are not in session. You may place Prayer Request cards in any of the Prayer Mail Boxes. You may also call the Church Office (508-755-6143) or Eleanor Brockway (508-753-7827) with any prayer requests you may have.

HEALTH FAIR...at First Baptist Church on Oct 18, 2008, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, sponsored by the FBC Health Cabinet. **REMINDER:** HeartScreen America is providing free screening for 6-8 children/teens on a first-come, first-served basis. **Pre-registration is necessary.**

E-mail Robin McFee [tweetydoctor@aol.com] or call Jinny Smith [508-393-8659].

FROM THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE...We will be in the front of Gordon Hall after worship every Sunday selling grocery cards from Shaw's, Stop and Shop and Big Y in 25, 50 and 100 dollar denominations. Remember - you will get the full value of that card at the grocery store – but the store contributes 5% of your total purchase to Hope for Housing! Hope for Housing will then 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 purchase and use these homeless family prevention grocery cards for **ALL** of your own shopping.

PAVE THE WAY FOR A GOOD CAUSE...Help Greater Worcester Habitat for Humanity raise funds to build simple, decent, affordable housing for those in need by attending **The Cement Mixer Gala**. The evening will include live music, Hors d'Oeuvres by Struck Catering, silent & live auctions and a cash bar.



- **Date:** Saturday, October 4, 2008
- **Time:** 6:00 PM
- **Place:** Saint John's High School, Shrewsbury, MA
- **Tickets:** \$50.00 per person
- **Attire:** Tuxes to tool belts



For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <http://www.gwhfh.org/>.

UPCOMING FORUMS:

- ☛ September 21—Edla Bloom, Abby's House
- ☛ September 28—Ann Gibbons-Smith
Central Mass Housing Alliance; Hope for Housing
- ☛ October 5 — Scrogin Forum: *The Faith of 50 Million: Baseball, Religion, and American Culture*, Hodge Evan and Herzog, eds.



OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Today, September 14 — Festival Sunday

	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:15 AM	Brunch Fellowship
Mon., September 15	10:00 AM	Weekly Staff Meeting
	5:45 PM	Buildings & Grounds
	6:00 PM	Habitat Gala
	7:00 PM	Benevolence; Habitat Family
Tue., September 16	9:00 AM	Literacy Volunteers
	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Mary Stone
	1:00 PM	Salisbury Belles (resumes)
	4:00 PM	Children's Choir
	4:45 PM	Orff (resumes)
	7:00 PM	Governing Board; Board of CE; Mothers of Twins; Compassionate Friends
Wed., September 17	6:30 PM	Midweek Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Habitat Family
Thu., September 18	9:00 AM	Literacy Volunteers
	9:45 AM	PAK Music
	6:15 PM	First Handbells
	7:00 PM	Park CC Fellowship
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir; Alcoholics Anonymous
Fri., September 19	3:15 PM	Brownies
Sun., September 21	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

Blood Pressure Check in the Library

Music & Arts Bake Sale

**The First Baptist Church—111 Park Avenue
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