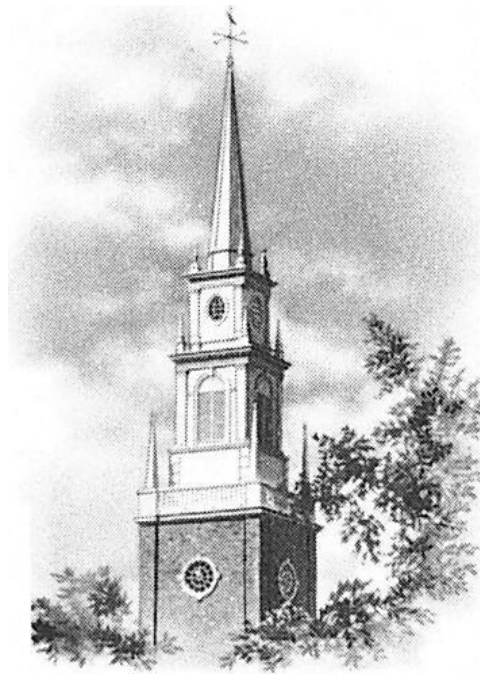


First Baptist Church

September 21, 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

September 21, 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 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.....Emily Maxon Porter
b. 1942
They Did Not Build in Vain Percy Whitlock
1903-1946

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 542** They Did Not Build in Vain.....Darwall's 148th

***CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 105)**..... Brenda Baker

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord...make known his deeds among the peoples.
People: Sing to God; sing praises to the Almighty! Tell of God's wonderful works!

Leader: Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

People: Seek the Lord and find strength; seek God's presence continually.

Leader: Remember the wonderful works God has done, the miracles and the judgments uttered. Lift up your hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

***INVOCATION (Unison)**

We gather in your presence, O God, recognizing that you have created us to seek you, to love you, and to find our identity within the fellowship of your faithful people. Help us so to participate in this time of worship offered to you as our reasonable service, that we may be open to receive from you gifts of grace, new glimpses of truth, and a deeper experience of the life you have given us. We pray in the spirit of Christ the prayer he taught: Our Father...(debts).

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Thomas R. McKibbens

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Jonah 3:10-4:11 (p. 753)

The story of how God's mercy and grace toward the city of Nineveh made Jonah angry and resentful.

Unison Reading of Psalm 145:1-9 (p. 506)

This psalm is an acrostic, with each new verse beginning with the next letter in the order of the Hebrew Alphabet. The section we read today is the psalmist's personal expression of praise and wonder over God's wonderful deeds.

Matthew 20:1-16 (p. 801)

The Kingdom of Heaven is likened to a vineyard owner whose call for laborers is issued to all. Those who respond late are no less recipients of God's grace than those who were employed much earlier.

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..... Brenda Baker

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

SERMON *Grace and Entitlement*..... Thomas R. McKibbens

***HYMN 68** Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing..... Nettleton

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Call to Giving

Offertory Anthem Lord of Mercy, Our Defender Thomas Morley
c. 1558-1602

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

***HYMN 583** You Call Us, Lord.....Rhosymedre

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE We All Believe in One True God, BWV 680J.S. Bach
1685-1750

**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 arrangements are dedicated in loving memory of Barbara H. Holmes by her family, and by Robin McFee in memory of her mother, Cinderella "Cindy" McFee.

BIBLE & 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 each Sunday. The study this fall will focus on the Book of Exodus.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING...during the 9:00 AM Bible & Bagels class will be led by our Field Education Student, Brenda Baker. She will guide the children through a new curriculum sponsored by the Massachusetts Council of Churches entitled, *Healthy Kids, Healthy Churches, Healthy Communities*. This Biblically-based resource provides children with an introduction to issues concerning the environment and the problem of toxic chemicals in everyday life, and provides practical solutions. Bring your children in grades one through six to Bible & Bagels at 8:45 AM, where they can grab a bagel and then head upstairs to the Youth Lounge for this informative and enjoyable class!

BAKE SALE TODAY...following worship in Gordon Hall. Proceeds go toward restoration of the Mason & Hamlin in Gordon Hall. Sponsored by the Music & Arts Committee. Thank you for your support!



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 Anger*.

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.



UPCOMING ADULT/SCROGIN FORUMS:

- September 21—Edla Bloom, Abby's House [TODAY]
- 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.
- October 19 — Linda Jordan: *Healing vs. Curing*. Sponsored by the Health Cabinet.
- October 26 — Candidate's Forum

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.

**The
CEMENT
MIXER
Gala**

- **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/>.

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.



*Make Our Guests
Welcome*

Prayer...

*Think through me, thoughts of God, My Father, quiet me;
Till in Thy holy presence, hushed, I think Thy thoughts with Thee.*

~Amy Carmichael

Please include in your prayers...

- The start-up of programs this fall at FBC
- Our FBC clergy and staff
- The families of Mary Stone and Edith Richards
- Nancy Burgess, Robert Hohler, Spencer Parsons, Gerald Winn, Christian Borglund, Dorothy Butkus
- The Mustard Seed ministry
- The victims of natural disasters
- Those who live in world areas desperately needing peace
- Those who are chronically ill

*Prayer
Works*





The Women's Prayer Fellowship (9:00 AM Wednesdays) and the **Evening Prayer Fellowship** (7:30 PM Wednesdays) **resume this Wednesday, September 24, 2008**. Please plan to come and join with us in the Roy Room, and bring a friend!

The Prayer Shawl Committee meets Tuesday, September 23, 2008 in the Krueger Room from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM.



OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Today, 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
		<i>Blood Pressure Check in the Library</i>
	 Music & Arts Bake Sale! 	
Mon., September 22	6:00 PM	Habitat
Tue., September 23	9:00 AM	Literacy Volunteers
	10:00 AM	Weekly Staff Meeting; Prayer Shawl
	1:00 PM	Salisbury Belles
	4:00 PM	Children's Choir
	4:45 PM	Orff
	7:00 PM	Board of Deacons; Board of Finance
Wed., September 24	9:00 AM	Women's Prayer Fellowship
	6:30 PM	Midweek Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Park UCC
	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer Fellowship
Thu., September 25	9:00 AM	Literacy Volunteers
	9:45 AM	PAK Music
	6:00 PM	Nominating Committee
	6:15 PM	First Handbells
	7:00 PM	Park UCC
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir; Alcoholics Anonymous
Fri., September 26	3:15 PM	Brownies
Sat., September 27	10:00 AM	Youth Chamber Rehearsal
Sun., September 28	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

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