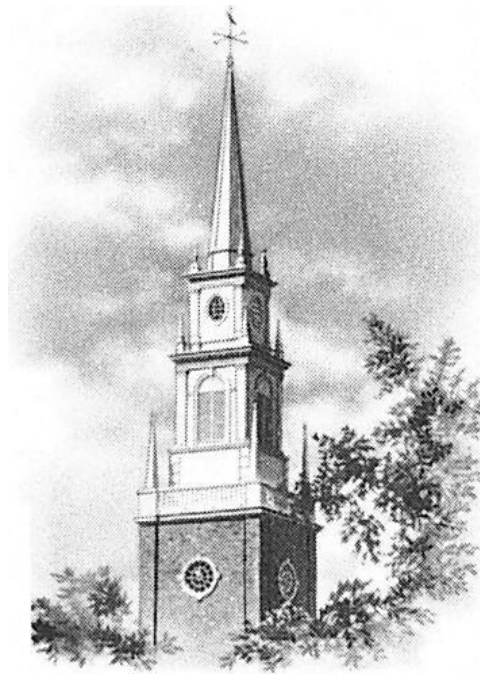


# *First Baptist Church*

*September 28, 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 28, 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** This is My Father's World..... Sandra Eithun  
b. 1963

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 31** I Sing the Almighty Power of God.... Ellacombe

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

Leader: To you, O Lord, I life up my soul; O God, in you I put my trust.

**People: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.**

Leader: Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

**ALL: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from old.**

**\*INVOCATION (Unison)**

**God of Truth, you are the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, and the strength of the thoughts that seek you. Help us so to know you that we may truly love you; so to love you that we may fully serve you, in whose service is perfect freedom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray...Our Father...(depts).**

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

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** ..... Thomas R. McKibbens

**THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE**

**Exodus 1:1-7 (p. 56)**

*God's people began to murmur and complain because Moses had led them out of Egypt to a frightening wilderness.*

**Unison Reading of Psalm 25:1-10 (p. 436)** ..... Brenda Baker

**John 4:7-15 (p. 865)**

*Jesus speaks with a Samaritan women at a well.*

**CHILDREN'S ANTHEM** I Will Give My Heart to the Lord ..... Mark Patterson  
b. 1969

**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** *Fresh Vision and a New Spirit* ..... Thomas R. McKibbens

**\*HYMN 424** How Can I Keep from Singing? .....Endless Song

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

**Call to Giving**

**Offertory Anthem** Father, Thy Holy Spirit Send.....Melchior Franck  
1573-1639

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*HYMN 423** Surely It Is God Who Saves Me ..... In Babilone

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Carillon..... Raymond Weidner  
b. 1947

*\*Those who are able may stand.*

*First Handbells  
Children's Choir  
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 in loving memory of Harry F. Malm, by Helen Malm and her Family.

**COFFEE AND...**Join your friends, and perhaps make a few new friends, following the service in Gordon Hall!

**BIBLE & BAGELS...**Our Sunday Bible Study for "grown-ups" continues! **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) have a bagel, and join us in the Lee Room. The study focus is 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 lead a children's class called, *Caring for God's Creation*.



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!



**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY...**Led by Michael Harvey each Wednesday 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 Adventure*.

**THE GEORGIA GUITAR QUARTET...**will present the E.B. Caswell Memorial Concert this Friday, 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.



**NEXT SUNDAY...**The Rev. Dr. William R. Herzog, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty at Andover Newton Theological School, will be our guest during Sunday Worship, and during the Scrogin Great Issues Book Forum. Bill is widely respected for his Biblical scholarship, his popular teaching style, and his outspoken commitment to justice. He graduated from Harvard University (1966) before receiving his M.Div. at the American Baptist Seminary of the West (1969) and his doctorate at Claremont Graduate School (1976). In addition to his work in New Testament, he is interested in the relationship of baseball, religion and American culture. Working with a faculty colleague, Christopher Evans, he has co-edited a collection of essays entitled *The Faith of Fifty Million: Essays on Baseball, Religion and American Culture* (2002) [a Scrogin Forum selection]. Bill is a life-long member of "Red Sox Nation", and we look forward to his visit next week!



**INFORMATION AND ORIENTATION...** Anyone interested in learning more about membership in The First Baptist Church of Worcester is invited to attend a two-week Information and Orientation Class led by Senior Minister Thomas R. McKibbens on October 12 and 19, immediately following the Sunday Worship service. The class will meet in the Roy Room (on the lower level, near the restrooms) at 11:15 AM.



**UPCOMING ADULT/SCROGIN FORUMS:**

- TODAY—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

**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.

**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].

**The Committee of Ushers and Greeters**



If you would enjoy meeting and greeting our visitors and friends, we have a place for you! There are several vacancies to fill on our very important and enjoyable Committee of Ushers and Greeters. Team members are on duty before and during services every five weeks. If you have a conflict with your assigned date, you may



easily swap dates with someone from a different team. Please consider helping to welcome those who worship with us at The First Baptist Church. We need your help. **For details and other information, contact Eleanor Brockway at 508-753-7827.** We appreciate your participation!

**Prayer...**



i b o w  
m y k n e e s  
b e f o r e t h e  
**F a t h e r** .  
f r o m w h o m  
e v e r y f a m i l y  
i n h e a v e n  
a n d o n e a r t h  
t a k e s i t s  
n a m e .

E p h e s i a n s 3 : 1 4 - 1 5

*Prayer  
Works*



The Women's Prayer Fellowship and the Evening Prayer Fellowship meet on Wednesday at 9:00 AM and 7:30 PM, respectively. Please plan to come and join with us in the Roy Room...and bring a friend!



**Many  
thanks to  
Emily Smith  
for  
volunteering  
at the  
reception  
desk this  
morning!**

## OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Today, 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
Mon., September 29	6:00 PM	Habitat
Tue., September 30	9:00 AM	Literacy Volunteers
	10:00 AM	Weekly Staff Meeting; First Friends
	1:00 PM	Salisbury Belles
	4:00 PM	Children's Choir
	6:30 PM	Habitat <i>Mustard Seed</i>
Wed., October 1	9:00 AM	Women's Prayer Fellowship; Music Guild
	5:00 PM	Worcester Interfaith
	6:30 PM	Midweek Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Park UCC; Overeaters Anonymous
	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer Fellowship
Thu., October 2	9:00 AM	Literacy Volunteers
	9:45 AM	PAK Music
	6:00 PM	Nominating Committee
	6:15 PM	First Handbells
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir; Alcoholics Anonymous
Fri., October 3	3:15 PM	Brownies
	8:00 PM	E.B. Caswell Concert: <i>The Georgia Guitar Quartet</i>
Sat., October 4	8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast Fellowship @ Bickford's
Sun., October 5	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 AM	Music & Arts Committee



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