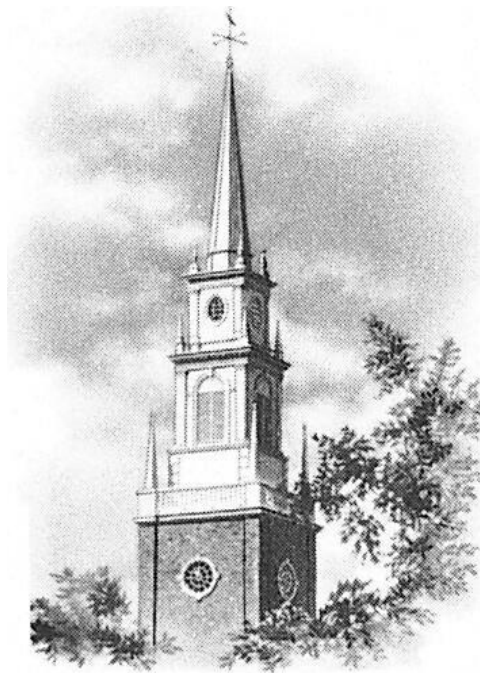


First Baptist Church

May 4, 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
Music & Arts Weekend

May 4, 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 Prelude and Fugue in G minorHealey Willan
1880-1968

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 604** Great God, as We Are Gathering.....Morning Song

***CALL TO WORSHIP**..... Thomas R. McKibbens

Leader: As a deer longs for flowing streams so my soul longs for you, O God.

People: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

Leader: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

ALL: Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

***INVOCATION**

Loving God, you have made us one in our need for you, and one in our desire for your presence and strength. We ask you now to unite us in the holy communion of worship. We give you thanks, O Lord, for this day of prayer, and for this place of quiet, set amid our hurrying life, hallowed by memories of days gone by, and dedicated to prayer and promises, praise and faithful service. So reveal yourself to us that all that is best in us may be called forth to praise you. In the spirit of Christ we pray: Our Father...(debts)

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLERuth Richards

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Call to Giving

Offertory Anthem Thou, Who art the Light BJ Brooks
b. 1975

PREMIERE OF PRIZE WINNER FROM THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL ANTHEM COMPETITION
TEXT FROM THE GELASIAN SACRAMENTARY

*Light, life, strength, love.
Thou, who art the Light of the minds that know thee,
the Life of the souls that love thee,
and the Strength of the thoughts that seek thee: help us to know thee.
Seek thee. Love thee. Serve thee. Know thee. Seek thee. Love thee.
Lord. Love. Light. Life.
Know thee. Seek thee. Love thee.
Lord, help us so to know thee, that we may truly love thee,
so to love thee, that we may fully serve thee, whose service is perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

***Doxology 34**.....Old Hundredth
***Prayer of Dedication**

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRIPTURE John 6:35 (p. 868) Rose Pierce

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

SCRIPTURE Galatians 3:23-29 (p. 947)

COMMUNION SERMON *Equal Partners*Thomas R. McKibbens

***COMMUNION HYMN 706** I Come with Joy Dove of Peace

A SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

We welcome the following new members into the fellowship of the church:

Edla Bloom Sally Gore

Prayer of Thanksgiving

SanctusHealey Willan

The Passing of the Bread and Wine

Agnus Dei.....Healey Willan

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

***HYMN** Christ's Partners All Are We (insert) Madrid

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Nachspiel (1831) Felix Mendelssohn
1809-1847

**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.

CHANCEL FLOWERS...Today's arrangements are donated by Lois and David Sawin, in remembrance of James and Gertrude Wooten, Robert Chapman, and Evelyn and Henry Sawin.

COFFEE AND...Join your friends, and perhaps make a few new friends following the service in Gordon Hall, where **our Music & Arts celebration continues with a display of TABLE ART in the Whitney Room!**

ADULT FORUM...Magic, juggling, and other strangeness with Scott "Dezrah" Blinn, a magician, juggler, and entertainer based in Central Massachusetts. Join us in the Lee Room at 11:15 for a performance of *Magic, Mystery, and the Search for Truth*, a 30-45 minute demonstration of "psychic" abilities that encourages critical thinking and healthy skepticism when dealing with claims of the "paranormal".

Note: The Scrogin Forum's discussion of Pathologies of Power is rescheduled for Sunday, May 11.

Mendelssohn's St. Paul oratorio today at 3:00 PM

A wonderful musical event will occur at First Baptist Church on May 4 at 3:00 PM, with the performance of *St. Paul*, by Felix Mendelssohn by our Chancel Choir and the Choir of Memorial Congregational Church of Sudbury. The Sudbury Festival Orchestra will accompany this oratorio, under the direction of Dr. Marjorie Ness, Director of Music at Memorial. Both choirs have spent several months in rehearsal on the rarely heard work. Our soloists for this performance are Rebecca Grimes, soprano, Dianna Betit, mezzo soprano, Jason McStoots, tenor, and Bülent Güneralp, bass. **Please inform your friends of this wonderful event that will be performed by over 80 singers, instrumentalists and soloists, in our Sanctuary on May 4, 3:00 PM. Admission free of charge.**



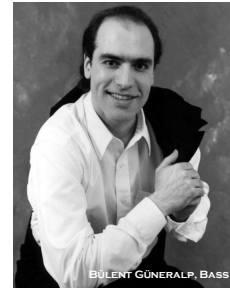
REBECCA GRIMES, SOPRANO



JASON MCSTOOTS, TENOR



DIANNA BETIT, MEZZO SOPRANO



BÜLENT GÜNERALP, BASS

A display of table art will be located in the Whitney Room, open during the weekend's performances.

NEXT SUNDAY...is Pentecost Sunday in the liturgical calendar, and it is Mother's Day in the secular calendar. We will recognize both! The sermon will be preached by our Field Education Intern, Ruth Richards. This will be the next-to-the-last Sunday she will be with us, and the reception, led by the Teaching Parish Committee, will be in Ruth's honor. It will be an occasion to thank Ruth for her year with us and to wish her well in the remainder of her seminary studies.

YOUTH & FAMILY OUTING...Maple & Monadnock! Those who are planning on joining us for the Youth & Family Outing on May 10 need to let the Pastor or Ruth Richards know by today. We plan to leave the church parking lot at 7:00 AM for the trip to New Hampshire, where we will enjoy a wonderful breakfast at **Parker's Maple Sugar Farm**, followed by a hike up Mount Monadnock. We should be back at the church between 4:00 and 5:00 PM.



MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY...will not meet until further notice. Keep your eyes open for an announcement in the fall!

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S SUNDAY...is May 18! The entire service is being planned and conducted by the youth and older children in consultation with the ministers of the church. The theme will be **"THAT ALL MAY BE ONE"**, taken from the great prayer of Jesus in John 17. Youth and children will be involved in every aspect of the service. A reception in their honor will be held after the service in Gordon Hall.

SPRING CLEANING TIME IS HERE...There are SEVERAL plates, bowls, casseroles, etc., which have been left behind in our kitchens following various events. The Kitchen Administrator will have these items on display during the Coffee Hour following Worship on May 11 and May 18. PLEASE stop by on either of those dates to check if any items are calling out for you to take them home!

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY...Please consider donating for one of the following available Sundays: May 25 (1 Urn), June 1 (2 Urns), June 15 (1 Urn), June 22 (1 Urn), or June 29 (2 Urns). Simply complete the form located by the floral sign-up sheet outside the Church Office, and return it with your payment. Thank you!

A SAVE THE DATE ALERT FROM YOUR SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE...We hope you will join us on Sunday, May 18, at the **WALK FOR THE HOMELESS**. Be a member of our FBC team as we walk to help alleviate homelessness. Beneficiaries this year include *Hope for Housing*, making this a great opportunity to burn off calories acquired from the good food we buy with our *Hope for Housing* grocery cards. We will team up with the **Health Cabinet**, support *Hope for Housing*, and get great exercise—all together in one fun walk! Watch the bulletin boards and the Worship bulletin for more details, or please speak with Jean Perkins.

FOR KIDS...YOUTH...ADULTS...COME TO THE VACATION BIBLE CAMP:



June 23 - 26, 2008

6:00 - 8:00 PM @ Wesley UMC

114 Main St., Worcester

Prayer...

Many reasons have been given why we should not pray, whilst others are given why we should. But in all this very little is said of the reason why we do pray.

The reason why we pray is simply that we cannot help praying

~William James (1842-1910)

Please include in your prayers...

- The Saint Paul Oratorio by the combined FBC Worcester Chancel Choir, the MCC Sudbury Concert Choir, and the Sudbury Festival Orchestra
- Marjorie and William Ness, and our oratorio soloists
- Celebration of FBC Annual Music & Arts Weekend
- Thanksgiving for those who give the Chancel flowers
- The Ghana Baptist Mission Explosion TABCOM Project: its Vocational Training Center, its Sister-to-Sister Church Exchange, its Church Planting, its Low-Interest Loan Fund for GBC church construction
- Persons who are ill, hospitalized, in nursing homes or rehabilitation centers
- Betty Bennett, Cheryl Goff, Cynthia Fischer, Jean Podell, Robert Hohler, Elizabeth Minott
- Our church as it seeks interim staff personnel
- Children and families needing structure, stability, security
- Those having to make decisions for medical reasons
- Shirley and Charles Hodgkins on the passing of their granddaughter, Jessica Dovi

**"Father, I thank you
for having heard me."**

John 11:41 nrsv



FBC IS NOW ADVERTISING ON CABLE TV! If you subscribe to Charter Cable in the Worcester area, watch for our church ad during broadcasts of CNN, ABC Family, Animal Planet, Comedy Central, Discovery, E!, ESPN, Fox News, MSNBC, and USA. The ads should begin this week. Rev. Tom McKibbens is the narrator. Thanks to the Public Relations Committee for this media debut!



OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

TODAY, May 4 — Music & Arts Weekend Concludes

10:00 AM Worship; **Premiere of Thou Who art the Light**
11:15 AM Sunday School; Adult Forum (Lee Room)

Table Art on Display in the Whitney Room all day.

11:30 AM Set up Sanctuary for Concert
1:30 PM Choir warm up

3:00 PM Performance of St. Paul

MON., May 5

5:30 PM Habitat
5:45 PM Buildings & Grounds
7:00 PM Benevolence; Habitat

TUE., May 6

9:00 AM Literacy Volunteers
10:00 AM Full Staff
1:00 PM Salisbury Belles
4:00 PM Children's Choir
4:45 PM Orff Session
7:00 PM Social Action Committee;
Compassionate Friends
7:30 PM Liturgical Dancers

WED., May 7 — Newsletter Deadline for JUNE Issue!

9:00 AM Women's Prayer Fellowship;
Literacy Volunteers
7:30 PM Evening Prayer Fellowship

THU., May 8

10:00 AM First Friends
10:30 AM Interfaith Clergy
12:30 PM The Imam & the Pastor Luncheon
6:15 PM First Handbells
7:30 PM Chancel Choir; Alcoholics Anonymous

SAT., May 10

7:00 AM Youth & Family Outing
Maple & Monadnock (departure time)

SUN., May 11—Pentecost—Mother's Day

10:00 AM Worship
11:15 AM Sunday School; **Scrogin Forum (Change!)**
Reception for Ruth Richards
12:30 PM Youth Group

The First Baptist Church — 111 Park Avenue — Worcester, MA 01609
508-755-6143 www.fbc-worc.org