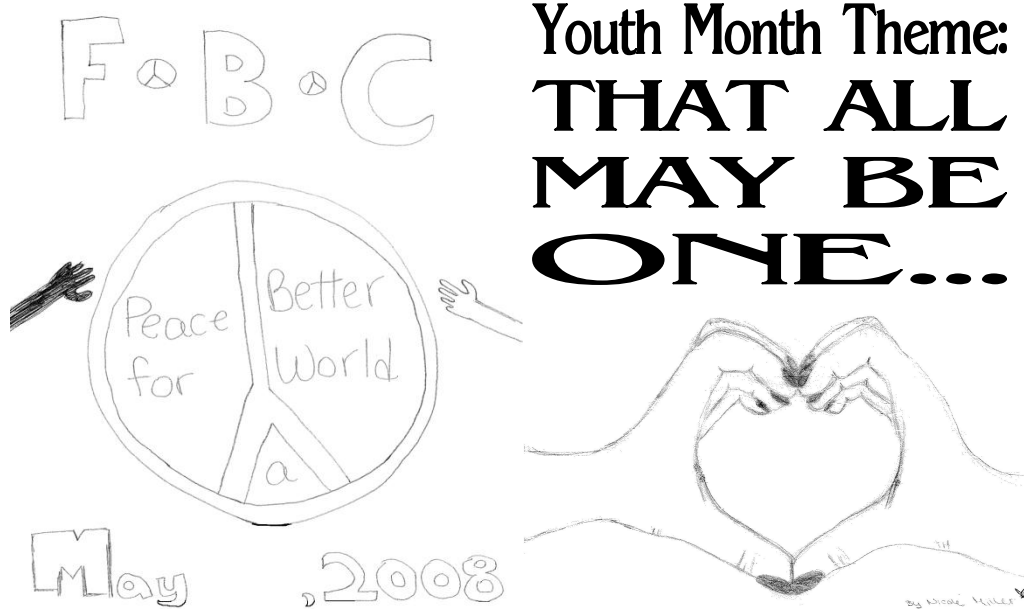


First Baptist Church

May 25, 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

◆◆ Youth Month - Memorial Day Weekend ◆◆

May 25, 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 Elegy George Thalben-Ball
1896-1987

***HYMN 48** Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise St. Denio

***CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 49)** Thomas R. McKibbens

Leader: From the north and south, the east and the west:

People: Sing to the Lord!

Leader: Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth!

People: Break forth, O mountains, into song!

Leader: For the Lord has comforted God's people and has compassion on those who suffer.

People: Neither heat nor sun shall strike them.

Leader: Can a woman forget her nursing child, or ignore the child in her womb?

People: Neither can God forget us.

Leader: Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth!

ALL: Break forth, O mountains, into song!

***INVOCATION (based on Psalm 131)**

God of mystery, calm our minds and quiet our souls. Return us to that quiet center, where trust resides and worries fade away. Like a weaned child with his mother, wrap us tightly in your love and care. Grant us your peace, that we might understand what is important and seek your will in all things. We pray as Jesus taught: Our Father... (debts)

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITANY FOR MEMORIAL DAY (see insert)

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Call to Giving

Offertory Look at the WorldJohn Rutter
b. 1945

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRIPTURE Psalm 131 (p. 500)Stephanie Harvey

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE..... Lynne Carroll
(After which, the children ages 4 years old through 4th grade may depart to attend Junior Worship.)

***HYMN 80** He’s Got the Whole World in His HandsSpiritual

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 49:8-16 (p. 592)

SERMON *God’s Tattoo!*..... Thomas R. McKibbens

HYMN 549 I Love Your Kingdom, Lord.....St. Thomas

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Requiem, Op. 182.....Charles Stanford
1852-1924

**Those who are able may stand.*

*Chancel Choir
William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts*

*We appreciate the participation of the following Veterans
in this morning’s service:*

Charles Sibley
Dean Stevens
Dominique Stovall
Kimball Woodbury



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 arrangement is donated in memory of Mrs. Hazel Frechette, by Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Barry.

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



BIBLE & BAGELS!

A new Bible Study for Adults



WHEN: Sundays, June 1—July 20, 2008 (starts NEXT Sunday morning!)

TIME: 9:00 AM

WHERE: The Roy Room (unless we are at capacity!)

TOPIC: The Gospel of Mark with "TD²"

LEADERS: Tom & Donna Grisso AND Tom & Donna McKibbens (TD²)

Come as early as 8:45 to enjoy coffee and bagels...really!



Murals From Mark



A NEW AND EXCITING ACTIVITY FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF FBC!
The children and youth will create murals coinciding with the stories from the Gospel of Mark that “TD²” will be using during their “Bible & Bagels” study. We’ll be using different types of paints and pastels, so be sure to bring an old t-shirt or paint smock so that your clothes are protected!

WHEN: Sundays, June 1—July 20, 2008 (starts NEXT Sunday, so mark your calendars!)

TIME: 9:00 AM

WHERE: The Green Room (classroom near Stoddard Hall used for Children’s Worship)

YOUTH GROUP AND JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP...will meet *separately* NEXT Sunday, June 1, at 12:30 PM! YOUTH GROUP will begin plans on painting the Youth Lounge—so start thinking of ideas! Also, in case the painting actually begins, bring an old t-shirt or paint smock. JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP will be going to



Green Hill Park’s picnic grove! Be sure to bring a bagged lunch, picnic basket, and anything else you see fit. Also, INVITE A FRIEND to come along. Hope to see you there!

SCROGIN FORUM...Next Sunday, June 1, 2008 will be the final Forum of the program year, meeting to select the books for 2008 — 2009, so join us and rally for your favorites!

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE...meeting scheduled for June 2 has been moved to **June 9, 2008** at 5:45 PM. Committee members should make note in their calendars. Thank you!

MEN’S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP...meets on Saturday, June 7, 2008—8:00 AM at the Bickford’s on Lincoln Street. This will be our final fellowship of the program year, so please plan to join us! Contact Tom Ward for additional information [tward@oxps.org].



EDUCATION SUNDAY & CHURCH PICNIC...is on Sunday, June 8, 2008! Please join us in recognizing and celebrating all those who have been such a great help with our many programs and activities! The picnic will be held out on our church front lawn, and will have games and activities for all to enjoy. Good food, good conversation, good people. What more could you ask for?



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS...begin on Monday, June 9, 2008. Office hours during the summer months will be 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

(Continued)

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL...will begin on Sunday, June 15, 2008. It will be held during the regular morning Worship service.

FOR ALL AGES—SIGN-UP FOR VACATION BIBLE CAMP! Vacation Bible Camp takes place **Monday through Thursday, June 23 through June 26, 2008 6:00 PM—8:00 PM** at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 114 Main Street in Worcester. This year's theme, "BEACH Party—Surfin' Through the Scriptures" will take you seaside, where you will learn the basics of surfing, ride the wave of God's love, and go home with a new "Beach Be-Attitude." Sign up on the Bulletin Board outside the Youth Office across from Gordon Hall TODAY!



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR THE JULY ISSUE...is Friday, June 6, 2008. Please submit all items to **Cindy Johnson** via e-mail OR fax [cindyj@fbc-worc.org/508-797-3313], regular mail addressed to Cindy's attention at the Church Office, or a hard copy placed in her mail slot in the Church Office. Thank you!



SPECIAL INVITATION FROM THE WORCESTER ISLAMIC CENTER...Imam Abdulkarim Hassan of the Worcester Islamic Center has extended a warm invitation to our members who would like to participate in an Elderhostel on June 14 entitled, "Building Bridges to Islam at the Worcester Islamic Center." The program highlights informative, interactive presentations by practicing Muslims, followed by question-and-answer sessions. There will be an opportunity to observe prayer and worship and to enjoy a taste of traditional Middle Eastern cuisine. You will learn about Islamic aesthetics as you take in an impressive display of Islamic art and architecture. For more detailed information about registration and the program schedule, please refer to the web site:

[<http://www.elderhostel.org/programs/programdetail.asp?RowId=1%2D40YBN9>]

Or, you may call the Worcester Islamic Center at 508-595-0298.

GROTONWOOD AND OCEANWOOD...How about a week at camp? There are still openings at both Camp Grotonwood and Oceanwood for this summer, offering a great Christian camping experience. You may access all the information and register online at www.grotonwood.org.



FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY...Please consider donating for one of the following available Sundays: June 1 (2 Urns), June 15 (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!



Prayer...

*O God of the ages, grant that I, who am the heir of all the ages,
may not fail to profit by the heavenly wisdom
which in time past Thou didst grant to Thy servants.*

~The Rev. Dr. John Baillie

Please include in your prayers...

- ☆ Those seated beside you and around you
- ☆ Those unable to be present in worship today
- ☆ The ministry of our various church boards, committees, and fellowships
- ☆ Those who are homebound or in care facilities
- ☆ Our children and youth
- ☆ People awaiting transplanted organs
- ☆ All who are recovering from surgery, medical intervention, illness
- ☆ The victims of earthquakes, cyclones, accidents, wars
- ☆ Families in crisis or conflict
- ☆ People suffering from chronic illness
- ☆ Those in need of basics: food, shelter, healthcare, education, job training, employment
- ☆ Lynn McMillen, Betsy Minott, Edith Richards

NOTICE: The Women's Prayer Fellowship, and the Evening Prayer Fellowship have their final meeting of the program year on May 28. Meetings will resume on Wednesday, September 24, 2008.

An English Tea!

**JUNE 16 OR
JUNE 17 OR
JUNE 18, 2008**

3:00 PM—5:00 PM



In the beautiful garden at the home of Lynne Carroll, 61 Fales Street, Worcester. Delectable delights await you at this lovely event. Please sign up by calling the Church Office at 508-755-6143 by June 13, 2008. A donation of \$20 to benefit the Piano Restoration Fund is requested.

Only 15 people per day, so call to reserve your spot now!

LITANY FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for this land, with all its liberties.
For all the wonder of our country's story:

People: WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

Leader: For leaders in nation and state, and for those who in days past
and in these present times have labored for the commonwealth:

People: WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

Leader: For those who in all times and places have been true and
brave, and in the world's common ways have lived upright
lives and ministered to their fellows:

People: WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

Leader: For those who served their country in its hour of need, and
especially for those who gave their lives in that service:

People: WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

Leader: Loving God, as we remember these your servants, remembering
with gratitude their courage and strength, we hold before you
those who mourn them. Look upon your bereaved servants
with your mercy. As this day brings them memories of those
they have lost awhile, may it also bring your consolation and
the assurance that their loved ones are safe in your eternal care.

People: GRANT THEM YOUR PEACE, O GOD.

Leader: *Wars are being fought today in Afghanistan, Burundi,
Chechnya, Colombia, Congo, India, and Pakistan (over
Kashmir), Iraq, Israel-Palestine, Kosovo, Lebanon, Macedonia,
Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Uganda. As the people of the
United States honor those who have died in the nation's service
this Memorial Day weekend, let us pray in unison for peace for
all peoples and nations of the world.*

(Continued on page 10)

UNISON:

Almighty God, in whom we live, love, and have our being, we take time today to uplift the heavy hearts of those for whom Memorial Day is more than a mere diversion, but is, instead, a painful time of reflection, lamentation, and enduring bereavement. This day, we remember with compassion your children who have lost their lives to war: incline us to honor their memory, dear Lord, with a sincere pledge to seek peace and nonviolent solutions to world conflict.

We pray for the safety of those entering military service, and comfort for the many returning from combat with wounded bodies or minds, sickened by the sight and sounds of war. Our prayers also extend, Great Comforter, to those who still wait and pray day by anxious day for that precious moment of reunion with a distant family member, friend, or loved one.

And to others, whose reunion has been sorrowfully delayed until that Heavenly homecoming with Christ in the fullness of time, we offer the gentle assurance of your promise to all believers, "Blessed are those who mourn: for they shall be comforted." Amen.

