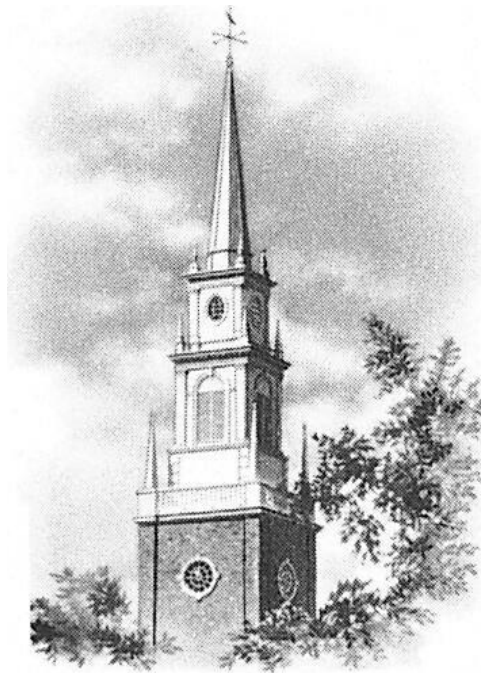


First Baptist Church

June 15, 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

Happy Father's Day!

June 15, 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 Air.....Gerre Hancock
b. 1934

***HYMN 1** God Is Here! Abbot's Leigh

***CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 116)**

Leader: I love the Lord, because God has heard my voice and my supplications.

People: Because God's ear is inclined toward me, therefore I will call on God as long as I live.

Leader: What shall I return to the Lord for all God's bounty to me?

People: I will lift up the cup salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

***INVOCATION**

Gracious God, your presence among us is our strength, and your strength is our hope. Thus we pray that we may quiet our worrisome minds, still our anxious hearts, and find our confidence in you. Anchor our souls in your deep and abiding love. Warm our hearts with compassion; awaken our spirits to a lively sensitivity for your word and your will. And allow us to trust in your grace to be sufficient for our needs. In the spirit of Christ we pray the prayer he taught: Our Father...(debts)

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Ashley Ward

SOLO The Heavens Sing Praises Ludwig van Beethoven
1770-1827

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Thomas R. McKibbens

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Call to Giving

Offertory Variations on *Kum Ba Yah* Philip Jones
b. 1949

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

(Children who would like to participate in Summer Sunday School are invited to join the group in the Lee Room following the Message.)

***HYMN 606** As Your Family, Lord, Meet Us Here..... Kum Ba Yah

SCRIPTURE Genesis 18:1-15 (p. 12)

SERMON *God’s Outrageous Sense of Humor*..... Thomas R. McKibbens

***HYMN 72** Great Is Thy Faithfulness..... Faithfulness

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Sortie in B flat Major Louis James Lefébère Wély
1817-1870

**Those who are able may stand.*

*Michelle Williams, soprano
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 arrangement is dedicated by Dr. Robin McFee in remembrance of her father, Mr. Willard "Mac" McFee.



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

BIBLE & BAGELS...CONTINUES on Sunday mornings throughout June in the Lee Room at 9:00 AM. Join "TD²" [Tom & Donna Grisso AND Tom & Donna McKibbens] as they lead a study of the Gospel of Mark. Please join us as early as 8:45 AM to enjoy coffee and BAGELS!

MURALS FROM MARK...Also continues, creating murals coinciding with the stories from the Gospel of Mark that "TD²" will be using during their "Bible & Bagels" study. Be sure to bring an old t-shirt or paint smock so that your clothes are protected! See you each Sunday in June, 9:00 AM, in the Green Room.

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." Be sure to sign-up in the Church Office.



FOUND...Two small children's bracelets (not identical). Inquire and describe at the Reception Desk in the Church Office.

KEN PENNINGS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AWAB TO VISIT FBC...Ken Pennings is the Executive Director of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, the organization composed of churches and individuals who go on record as welcoming and affirming all persons without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. You can find out more about the association on their web site [www.wabaptists.org]. Ken will visit AWAB churches located in Massachusetts in late June, and he will be here at The First Baptist Church on Sunday evening, June 22, for dessert and discussion at 6:00 PM. If you would like to meet Ken and find out more about AWAB, please join us. We will meet in the Lee Room.

First Baptist Church is on a roll for welcoming new refugee families and individuals into the Worcester community. It comes at a good time for making good use of things we find when doing our Spring Cleaning! Here is a list of furniture and household goods that you could donate (and receive tax credit if you desire):

- ☛ Table and chairs for kitchen area (for a couple of families in adjoining apartment rooms) to seat ten (10), *OR* a dining room table
- ☛ Dishes, bowls and glasses
- ☛ Dish towels
- ☛ Spoons, knives, forks, etc., including cooking tools
- ☛ Pots and pans
- ☛ Bed mattress (single or double, including air mattresses)
- ☛ Bed frames if available.
- ☛ Pillows, pillowcases, sheets, blankets and other bedcover
- ☛ Chairs for bedrooms



(Continued)



- ☛ Sofas or sofa beds
- ☛ End tables
- ☛ Towels & washcloths
- ☛ Clothing for adults, youths and children
- ☛ Play things for children & youth

Other ways you could be helpful include the following:

- ☛ Drive a refugee family from Providence airport to their Worcester apartment (or host apartment temporarily with other refugees).
- ☛ Help locate an available apartment or temporary host apartment until one can be found.
- ☛ Drive a family to and from a store or on a short tour of the neighborhood.
- ☛ Tutor a refugee mother whose child is too young for daycare. This can be learning functional English (e.g. names of items in the apartment, or neighborhood, store, etc.)
- ☛ Mentor a refugee working mother, who has need for managing her work, family, and maintenance of the domestic needs.
- ☛ Provide transportation to and/or from FBC services and if there is a small child, use FBC child car seat.
- ☛ Provide a welcome hot meal to be delivered to the apartment (using ethnic foods like lentils, beans & rice, or perhaps a fruit and vegetable tray).
- ☛ Help move furniture or household items from a donor's home to the apartment where refugees are to arrive from the airport, or help take to a storage facility.
- ☛ Donate money toward first month's rent, discount mattresses, or low-cost items from used furniture shops.

Thank you on behalf of the FBC Social Action Committee and its growing refugee family friends from various countries in Africa, Iraq, Afghanistan, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, and others. Please contact Warren Jones for an appointment for pick up or a location to take your donations. Warren also has the tax credit form. **If you think you might be able to help in any of the above ways or other ways, please call Warren at 978-368-1310 or 520-907-5385.**

LATE-BREAKING ANNOUNCEMENT: An elderly couple from Bhutan arrives this Wednesday, June 18. We have immediate need of TWO twin-sized beds, and we also need someone who can pick them up from the airport in Providence (TF GREEN). If you would help with these needs please contact Warren Jones (978-368-1310) or Sonja (508-754-1121 x442) Thank you!

Prayer...

Stir our wills to pray and to work until Your will is done in earth, as it is in heaven.

~Jo Petty

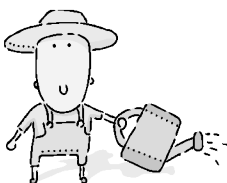
Please include in your prayers...

- * Pastor Thomas McKibbens
- * Minister of Music and Arts William Ness
- * The family of Carroll Parker
- * Donna Grisso on the death of her father; Thomas Grisso on the serious illness of his mother
- * Lois Sawin, Mary Stone, Edwin Bohlin, Cheryl Goff, Willard Rice, Jane Merchant, Marijane Jones, Ella Parker
- * Those suffering from chronic illness
- * The victims of natural disasters
- * Fathers and grandfathers
- * The Board of Christian Education; the Board of Finance
- * Students in search of summer employment
- * Families in need of stability
- * The English Tea & Garden Party at the home of Lynne and Keiron Carroll

DATES AVAILABLE FOR CHANCEL FLOWERS:

July 6, 13, and 20 (all open).

Please stop by the Church Office to pick up a form, fill it out for the date of your choice, then return it to the office with your payment, with **Floral Arts** written on the memo line of your check.



GARDEN FLOWERS FOR THE CHANCEL

Due to fewer donations of Chancel Flowers for the months of July and August, the Floral Arts Committee once again encourages the gardeners among us to consider sharing the beauty of their gardens with us on the Sundays during those months. We welcome any arrangement(s) and ask that you use your own vase for the arrangement and bring it with you on Sunday before worship, to be placed on the Chancel in July or in Gordon Hall in August.

OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

TODAY, June 15 — Father's Day

8:45 AM Bible & Bagels

9:00 AM Murals from Mark

10:00 AM Worship

Summer Sunday School

Blood Pressure Check

Mon., June 16 3:00—5:00 PM *An English Tea (offsite)*

Tue., June 17 8:30 AM First Friends
9:00 AM Literary Volunteers
3:00—5:00 PM *An English Tea (offsite)*

10:00 AM Weekly Staff Meeting

7:00 PM Brd. of Finance; Brd. of Christian Ed.;
Mothers of Twins; Comp. Frnds.

Wed., June 18 9:00 AM Literary Volunteers
3:00—5:00 PM *An English Tea (offsite)*

Thu., June 19 12:30 PM G. Stanley Hall School Graduation
7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous

Sun., June 22 8:45 AM Bible & Bagels
9:00 AM Murals from Mark
10:00 AM Worship
Summer Sunday School
11:30 AM Music & Arts Committee
12:30 PM Youth Group
6:00 PM Dessert with Ken Pennings (AWAB)

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