



THE BEACONLIGHT

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

1400 John Fitch Highway - Fitchburg, MA 01420

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From the Pastor

*“What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived – the things God has prepared for those who love Him.” I
Corinthians 1:9*

Happy New Year! Along with that statement comes a lot of different thoughts! There are some who look back over the old year and mourn the loss of someone, occasionally personal, but what seems to be more widespread these days is the list of celebrities who have passed away over the preceding 12 months.

Some of us, as look over the past year will make those necessary donations to better balance our taxes and most of us will begin to slowly take down the Christmas decorations some of which recall memories from both distant and recent pasts. We look back over missed opportunities and friendships that have waned and then promise, as we look forward, to do better, be better and make some much needed changes.

“This year I am going to _____” is a statement many of us will make even if we don't do the traditional New Year Resolution. But of all the plans and goals we will make none compare to what God has prepared for us. Something never seen, heard of or even conceived my the human mind- for those who love Him!.

When Paul wrote those words he was quoting Isaiah 64 a passage that the prophet begins with “Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!” Man's hopelessness was evident and as the prophet looked heavenward his cry is the cry of all of us once we learn of the hopelessness of our situation. We need a savior and He could only come from above.

That savior came and as Atera so eloquently quoted on Christmas Eve, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

The question then remains for you. Do you love Him? Then no matter what our resolutions are or what our plans for 2017 are- none of us can even begin to comprehend what it is that God has in store for us!

May your new year be filled with an overflowing cup of blessings! Amen

January 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 New Year's Day Family Worship 10:00 AM	2	3	4	5 SMART Recovery Meeting 7 P.M.	6	7
8 VOM Torchlighters video series 9 AM Deacons Meeting 11:15 AM Bible Study / Prayer Meeting 6:30 PM	9	10	11	12 SMART Recovery Meeting 7 P.M.	13	14
15 VOM Torchlighters video series 9 AM Sifting Straw (A study on the Letter of James) 11:15 AM Bible Study / Prayer Meeting 6:30 PM	16	17	18	19 SMART Recovery Meeting 7 P.M.	20	21
22 VOM Torchlighters video series 9 AM Sifting Straw (A study on the Letter of James) 11:15 AM Bible Study / Prayer Meeting 6:30 PM	23	24	25	26 SMART Recovery Meeting 7 P.M.	27	28
29 VOM Torchlighters video series 9 AM Sifting Straw (A study on the Letter of James) 11:15 AM Bible Study / Prayer Meeting 6:30 PM	30	31				

NOTES

Sunday Worship at 10 A.M. each week followed by Coffee Hour
Communion first Sunday of month during worship

Report on our Fair

On December 10, we had our Free Photos with Santa Claus and Christmas Fair Event in our Adams Fellowship Hall. The turn-out might not have been as much as we would have liked. The bitter cold, competition from other events in the area, and Christmas shopping may have been a factor, but we made \$450.00 from selling Christmas/Winter items folks no longer needed, a bake sale table of fabulous goodies provided by the great bakers/sweet makers of our church, books, and our kitchen which offered muffins, donuts, coffee, tea, and juice. We also had St. Nicholas posters and the story of him to pass out to each child who came along with a box of crayons to color the poster. There were Christmas ornament crafts for kids to do. And the best event was Santa who greeted the children who came and posed with each one while a photographer we hired took a photo of each child with Santa and printed it for the parents to have free of charge.

Many people pitched in to help our fair be a success. There are just too many to list them all here. Some put up posters, handed out flyers, and advertised in various media to get the word out about our fair. Some helped set up tables and put out/priced items for sale. Some baked/made goods to sell at our bake table. Some provided the breakfast items and made the coffee for our kitchen crew to sell. Some donated books/tapes for our book corner. Some made craft and knitted items. Some manned the tables and kitchen during the fair. Some packed up and put away items not sold so that the hall was ready for the Youth Haven's Christmas party. We all worked as a great team for our fair.

I offer a great big thank you to everyone who helped to make our fair a success. Your help and support were greatly appreciated. Besides making some money, we all had a nice time chatting with each other, having some great goodies with our coffee or tea, and greeting folks from the community who braved the cold and came out to our fair.

Now we look to 2017 with hope for what is in store for us all. I pray it will be a healthful, happy year for each and every one of us!

Blessings to Everyone,
Linda Gosselin, Fair Organizer



Pledged for Current Expenses	\$ 35,630.00
Pledged for Missions	\$ 3,785.00
Pledged for Oil/Snow Removal	\$ 1,355.00
Pledged for Roofing Fund	\$ 2,315.00

A detailed proposed operating budget will be presented to the church at the Annual Meeting

The Christmas Puppy

Many and many a year ago,
In a city bleak and dark,
A Christmas miracle began one night
With a hungry puppy's bark.

He was too careless to mind his mom;
So one day in the chilly fall,
The puppy wandered away from her
And now had no home at all.

Alone he'd lived for weeks gone by
On what little food he found,
And several times he had just escaped
The catcher from the pound.

Until one night the shivering pup
Found nothing whatever to eat
As swirling snow began to fall
And settle at his feet.

The fright he felt was only matched
By his feeling of despair
As people stepped right over him
Without a thought or care.

At last the puppy faltered
As he neared a humble home
Where within a woman's tears fell
As she knelt and prayed alone.

Precious little did the woman have
To give her much-loved son;
Her wages barely would buy his food
When each day's work was done.

And now she waited with grieving heart
For the passing of the night,
For she had no gift to give her son
At Christmas morning light.

And as she knelt and prayed and hoped,
She heard a feeble bark;
So she rose and opened up the door
And looked into the dark.

Outside she found a sodden bundle
Of tangled puppy fur

Unable to deny those big sad eyes
That looked at her with trust,
She brought the puppy into the house
Away from the cold wind's gust.

Inside she settled him near the hearth
And warmed a precious cup Of milk and
oats with cooking fat
And watched him lap it up.

And then she brushed his golden fur
And fluffed it as it dried
And knew her prayers were answered
When she brought the pup inside.

Around his neck she tied a bow
(Of ribbon saved for years)
And rejoiced because her son would not
Wake up to grief and tears.

For now he'd have a Christmas puppy
To give him lots of joy,
And he would love the Christmas puppy
More than any Christmas toy.

Betty Killebrew

Recipe of the Month

HOT CHOCOLATE MONKEY



• **Ingredients:**

- Pam Baking Spray
- 5 envelopes (0.73 oz each) Swiss Miss® Milk Chocolate Hot Cocoa Mix, divided
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar, divided
- 1/2 cup Parkay® Original Spread-tub, melted
- 1/4 cup reduced fat (2%) milk
- 2 cans (16 oz each) refrigerated jumbo buttermilk biscuits (8 count), quartered
- Reddi-wip Original Dairy Whipped Topping

1. **Preparation:**

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray 10-cup Bundt or fluted tube pan with baking spray; set aside. Combine 2 envelopes hot cocoa mix and 1/4 cup sugar in large resealable food storage bag. Prepare glaze by combining remaining hot cocoa mix and sugar in small bowl; whisk in Parkay and milk until blended.

2. Place half of biscuit pieces in cocoa mixture in bag; seal and shake to coat. Arrange coated biscuit pieces in bottom of pan; pour half of glaze over biscuits. Repeat with remaining biscuit pieces and glaze.
3. Bake 30 minutes or until brown. Cool in pan 5 minutes. Invert onto serving tray. Pull apart and serve with Reddi-wip.

Cook's Tips

If using the large canister of Swiss Miss® Milk Chocolate Hot Cocoa Mix, 5 envelopes equals about 1 cup. Each envelope contains 3 tablespoons hot cocoa mix.



January Birthdays

- 2. Elaine Corzine
- 3. Victoria Poole
- 7. Linda Gosselin
- 13 Ed Perkins
- 16 Nancy Peters
- 17 Cathy Thompson
- 17 Mike DeMartino, Sr.
- 23 Anna Poole
- 30 Dick Auger



Happy Anniversary

January Anniversaries



No Anniversaries

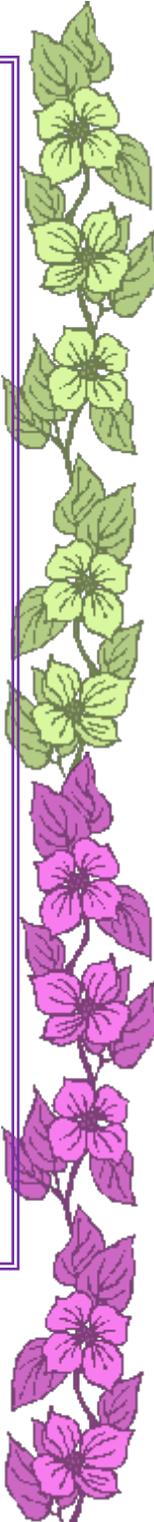


IF YOU'RE BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY IS NOT HERE, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL INCLUDE IT IN THE BEACONLIGHT! REMEMBER TO NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO YOUR ADDRESS OR TO OUR MONTHLY LISTING OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
 CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE
 978-345-5622
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PRAYER LIST



Anoura Rose Angelini
Ardath Dewhurst
Bette Adams
Cindy Beck
Connie & Will Gariepy
Daniel Bascomb
Debi Cross
Deborah St. George
Elaine Corzine
Graglenn Mitchell
Karen Knowles & Family
Kathy Gosselin
Kim & Katie
Linda Gosselin
Mark & Diane Bigelow
Mark Gosselin
Marsha – return of lung cancer
Michelle (Diane Hopes sister in law)
Nancy Peters



Roberta Poole
Ruth Abell & Family
Sandra Dorsainville's father in Haiti
Shirley Webster
World Mission offering
Our Missionaries
Our congregation and the communities
around us

Our Missionaries
Rovaughna Richardson



**IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST, PLEASE, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL INCLUDE IT IN
THE BEACONLIGHT!**

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