



THE BEACONLIGHT

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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From the Pastor

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him”

2 Corinthians 5:21

In 1974, in anticipation of God's fulfilling of a call to ministry, I had asked for a special Christmas gift. A Scofield Reference Bible. The Scofield Reference Bible in the King James Version was the most prominent translation at the time in the American Baptist Church where I attended. My parents and my mother's two sisters pitched in to purchase a nice thickly leather bound edition. I was 15 years old at the time.

God's pathway to where I am today wasn't a the typical one we would expect. I served various churches in various roles, always teaching Sunday School or leading a Bible Study. I had done VBS more than once and often boasted I have served the church in every capacity except Secretary! But stepping into the role of a pastor didn't take place until I was called by FBCF at the age of 56.

Satisfied that God had fulfilled that calling from so many years ago I looked forward to one day retiring and continuing to serve here for many many years to come. But God wasn't finished yet.

As I prepare to leave FBC Fitchburg for New Ipswich Congregational I have been reflecting on not only the past few years but all the way back to that first call to ministry and all that has transpired, all the opportunities to minister God has given me, satisfied at each point that He has fulfilled that calling. Only to learn there was more.

Through all those changes the one thing that has remained consistent has been the message. A savior, without sin, was made to be sin for us so that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. For this he was born. For this he died. For this he was raised again.

My prayer for all of us as we look to follow God's plan in 2018 is that we are all given greater and greater opportunities to speak, preach and teach that message. To glorify him in all that we do and say. To share that love, that righteousness with everyone. We cannot know what the future holds for any of us. But we can know who has prepared the way. To God be the Glory.

Blessings!



Sunday, January 21, 2018 after church (*weather permitting*)

Items to be discussed and voted on by the membership:

1. Formally accept Pastor Ken Whitson resignation
2. By-Law revisions
3. Annual Reports with the exception of the Treasurer's Report, the Proposed Operating Budget for 2018 and the Nominating Committee Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Proposed Operating Budget for 2018
6. Nominating Committee Report
7. Any other business a member would like to discuss

More details will be available before the meeting along with copies of the By-Law revision and 2017 Annual Reports



Guest Preachers

For January into February

January 7, 2018 Ken Whitson (last Sunday with us)

January 14, 2018 Rev. Michael Harvey

Executive Director Conference of Baptist Ministers in MA

January 21, 2018 Ed Guerad

Friends of Regional Ministries

January 28, 2018 Rev. Phil Goff

Retired pastor Grafton Baptist Church, member First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

February 4, 2018 Rev, Mary Day Miller

Executive Minister TABCOM



Worship Leaders

Children's Sermon Leader

Ushers, Coffee Time Host or Hostess

Visitation to our shut-ins

Please see or call Debi Cross, Deacon of Worship (978-630-0230)

God is at work at International Ministries!

BY Catherine Nold

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES IS BOLDLY advancing the work of the Lord with faith and innovation. We're moving into the future with fresh energy and continuing commitment to God's plan "on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10), while faithfully honoring our rich heritage as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

In the IM Communications and Marketing team, our greatest desire is to honor God by telling the stories, both large and small, of his great work through IM's dynamic,

relational and incarnational global servants and their transformative ministries. We want to bring these stories to life for you in new ways—to inspire you and enrich your faith journey, bringing you closer to Jesus.

You've probably noticed some of what's new already. The changes and improvements start right here with our new brand identity represented in the fresh new look of this On Location.

A Refreshed Brand

In July 2017, at the Luther Rice Society Annual Dinner in Portland, Oregon, IM announced the revitalization of the brand, including a new logo. This new look is the product of many round-table discussions with IM staff and global servants and months of creative work.

In the early discussions, it was quickly agreed that the brand design ought to serve as an effective platform for lifting up the many ministries that are part of IM. We decided on a clean, bright look that would allow these ministries to shine.

The logo's simple design subtly represents several characteristics at the heart of IM's identity. Notice how the IM initials stretch across the entire circle and extend invisibly beyond it. This reminds us that God's work in and through IM is making a difference throughout the entire world and even beyond what the eye can see. The vibrant color reflects IM's passion in responding to God's call to global mission.

If you watch the IM logo animation in any of our new videos or on our website, you will see that the lower-case letter t, repeated three times in "International

Ministries," symbolizes the cross and its fundamental, enduring presence that defines who we are. In the animation, the cross is the last thing that remains on the screen. This shows that we seek to always keep our eyes on the cross, for it is God's great love that compels our call.

A New Website

On the IM website, we have always sought to provide a wealth of information about the work of IM, from IM news and global servant journals to service opportunities and mission projects. Now, that same content is available in a redesigned, mobile-friendly format.

User accounts have also received a major upgrade. When you create an account, you'll be able to view and manage your contact information, email subscriptions, giving history, recurring gifts and more.

As we continue to develop the website as a resource for you to stay connected with IM, we would love to hear your feedback so that we can better serve you.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy this vibrant new window into God's work around the world!

A Firm Foundation IM's Strategic Plan: Responding to the Call

All of these changes are products of Responding to the Call, IM's strategic plan for the next five years.

Born in 2016 after 18 months of interviews with mission supporters around the world and prayerful discernment, Responding to the Call is a statement of identity, purpose and priorities that is now guiding IM into its third century of ministry. It builds on what keeps IM true to the gospel, faithfully innovating and sharing God's love through an operational plan for growth and financial stability. To read a summary of Responding to the Call, go to www.internationalministries.org/vision.



I'm proud of you!

Does anyone say it any more? When I heard it the other day, it caught my attention. It was like hearing something oddly familiar but distant and faint in my memory.

You know, like things your grandmother used to say.

I needed to understand why. I mean, it just doesn't seem right that a phrase so powerful would not be heard and used regularly.

"I'm proud of you!"

When was the last time you said that to someone? Not just someone you love, but a neighbor, friend, or co-worker.

To a neighbor...

"You make a difference in the world in everything you do. I watch the people around you, how they react whenever you're there. They smile, laugh often and feel better for having had you in their day, even if ever so briefly. I'm proud of you!"

To a Friend...

"You take on the challenges of life and never give in. You might not always win, but you don't lose for lack of trying. I'm proud of you!"

To a co-worker...

"You care. It shows in the way you do your work. You not only do your job, you care about the details, the goals and the outcome. I'm proud of you!"

To a child...

"You didn't hit a home run, but you played with your heart in every game. You never missed a practice, you tried your very best. That's a home run in my book. I'm proud of you!"

To your spouse or partner...

"We'll get through this together. Yes, you lost your job, but so did many others. I see great determination in your eyes. I love you even more in the difficult times because that's when you shine and the world sees your best. I'm proud of you!"

Now for you, my "friend I've never met"...

"You take time each day to search out and read positive, uplifting messages on the internet. Your love for people shows when you pass along special messages for your friends facing challenges. Your faith is strong and evident when you lift up others, offer spiritual support and encouragement and pray for people you don't even know. You are a part of the world's largest support group giving hope to those whose only connection to others may be the internet.

"I'm proud of you!"

J ~ Bob Perks ~

Recipe of the Month

Mocha-Dark Chocolate Chunk Brownies

Ingredients:

- Cooking spray
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 1/2 tablespoons instant coffee granules
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1 large egg white, lightly beaten
- 2/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 (3-ounce) bar dark chocolate, chopped (such as Ghirardelli)



Preparation:

Step 1

Preheat oven to 350°.

Step 2

Coat bottom of an 8-inch square baking pan with cooking spray.

Step 3

Combine sugar and next 8 ingredients in a bowl.

Step 4

Lightly spoon flour into dry measuring cups; level with a knife. Add flour and dark chocolate to cocoa mixture, stirring just until blended. Spread batter in prepared pan. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Cool on a wire rack.

Local News



Pledged for Current Expenses	\$33,374.00
Pledged for Missions	\$3,861.00
Pledged for Oil/Snow Removal	\$1,720.00
Pledged for Roofing Loan Repayment	\$3,120.00

(All this money will be applied to the principle of the roofing loan)

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

Please remember to mark the outside of your offering envelopes for the moneys can be credited to the proper giving area.

WHEN *life* GETS
TOO HARD TO STAND,
Kneel

Careful Planning Makes a Difference

**ANTHONY V. FEROCI, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW**

114 Merriam Ave - Suite 204
Leominster, MA 01453
978-466-5011

Elder and Disability Law
Medicaid Planning
Estate Planning

Looking for Anyone Interested In Playing Cribbage

Perhaps play once a month or twice a month or even weekly.....

If interested please contact Mark Bigelow at 978-342-5337 or email at: msb080456@aol.com .

Time and place will be at player's convenience and will be announced.



637 Lancaster Street (Route 117) - Leominster, MA 01453 - Phone: 978-227-5556
Email: restore@ncmhabitat.org





January Birthdays

- 2. Elaine Corzine
- 3. Victoria Poole
- 7. Linda Gosselin
- 13 Ed Perkins
- 16 Nancy Peters
- 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
 E-MAIL: FBCBEACONLIGHT@COMCAST.NET

PRAYER LIST



Anoura Rose Angelini
Bette Adams
Cindy Beck
Connie & Will Gariepy
Daniel Bascomb
Elaine Corzine
Kathy Gosselin
Kim & Katie
Linda Gosselin
Mark & Diane Bigelow
Mark Gosselin
Marsha – return of lung cancer
Nancy Peters
Roberta Poole
Ruth Abell & Family



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!**

REMEMBER TO NOTIFY US WITH ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THESE LISTINGS.

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978-345-5622

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