



THE BEACONLIGHT



Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

1400 John Fitch Highway - Fitchburg, MA 01420

Telephone: 978-345-5622 - E Mail: fbcbeaconlight@comcast.net

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From the Pastor

“What you have heard from the beginning must remain in you. If what you have heard from the beginning remains in you, then you will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He Himself made to us: eternal life” I John 2:24-25

I was treated to a very special fashion show this past week. I pass through several towns on my way to work and it was a joy to see kids at the end of nearly every drive way dressed in fresh brightly color new clothes waiting for the school bus for that first day of school. Meanwhile Mom or Dad lingered nearby camera at the ready. Its a big day and must be recorded. One of my daughters is a middle school teacher and gets just as excited for her first day of school. I am fairly certain she also has back to school clothes as well!

While each year holds new adventures and expectations, before the school year can really begin, the first few days are back to the basics. Back to understanding schedules, grades, homework, safety procedures and if its a new school where are the restrooms, the lunchroom, my homeroom!! Once we are familiar again with the basics then we can begin to learn.

The same holds true for our Christian walk. We can dive into deep scripture and work on complex theological questions and often times forget the basics. We can get wrapped up in our good works and missions, our fellowship and our music and begin to think we are really good at doing “church” but miss the reasons we are here. Things like the gospel.

John reminds his readers that what we have heard from the beginning must remain: A God who loves us so much that He gave His only son for us. That is the foundation for our faith. In Revelation Jesus praised the Church in Ephesus for their deeds, their hard work, their refusal to tolerate wicked men and their testing of those who claimed to be apostles. But he also warned them-they had forsaken their first love and warned them to repent and “do the things they did at first”.

As fall approaches our shift within FBCF will be back to the basics. To review our first love, to understand our foundation in Jesus Christ so that we continue to build our Church and our Fellowship on the solid rock so that what we heard at the beginning will remain in us. We can then move onward to spread that message of hope, of love and of eternal life.

God Bless!

Pastor Ken

September 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2	3	
				SMART Recovery Meeting 7 P.M.		
4 VOM Torchlighters video series 9 AM Sifting Straw (A study on the Letter of James) 11:15 AM	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10 Fitchburg Youth Haven 5:30 to 8:00 P.M.
				SMART Recovery Meeting 7 P.M.		
11 VOM Torchlighters video series 9 AM Deacons Meeting 11:15 AM	12	13	14	15	16	17
				SMART Recovery Meeting 7 P.M.		
18 VOM Torchlighters video series 9 AM Sifting Straw (A study on the Letter of James) 11:15 AM	19	20 SMART Recovery Friends & Family Event 7 P.M.	21	22	23	24
				SMART Recovery Meeting 7 P.M.		
25 VOM Torchlighters video series 9 AM Sifting Straw (A study on the Letter of James) 11:15 AM	26	27	28	29	30	C.M.B.A. Fall Meeting 10:30 AM
				SMART Recovery Meeting 7 P.M.		

NOTES

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



We will be presenting to the congregation in the near future a proposal to have needed repairs and or replacement of the church building roof.

No cost or timetable available at this time as we are in the beginning stages of this major project.

If anyone would like to give to the roofing fund, please place donation in the offering plate or mail to First Baptist Church, 1400 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, MA 01420 and mark it roofing fund.

Church History Notes

As you might remember Bette Adams, Linda Gosselin and myself have been looking over some of the annual reports and other memorabilia. So to let you know our church has had regular services for many years, so I have made some notes to share with you. This is the first of 2 or 3 to let you know of the happenings in the 1960's period.

As you probably know our church was located on Main St in the center of Fitchburg. The city wanted to enhance the public library so our building was torn down. At that time of course we needed to build somewhere else, hence we are now located on John Fitch Highway on property owned at the time by the West family.

During those years we had a very attentive secretary, Mrs. George Tenney. She worked diligently to keep our congregation up to date as to services, visitor attendance as well as printing weekly bulletins and placing ads and write up's in the Fitchburg Sentinel to keep the community informed . Each week the Deaconesses were to register our visitors, telling names and where they were from. These ladies were to warmly greet and make them feel welcome.

Our church had an Executive board, a Moderator, Deacons & Deaconesses, Clerk, Treasurer, Finance secretary, Sunday School Superintendent & Music committee at that time. The Sunday morning service had up to 300 in attendance and as low as 63. There was a weekly Sunday evening service with 30 or so in attendance. Also a Wednesday evening service with average of 20 or so in attendance. Each of these events had an offering, times were not easy in those days.

Other groups in the church were the Double Ringers, Sr. & Jr. Baptist Youth Fellowship (BYF) and a Boys & Girls scout troop. Sunday school for children, A ladies group, the Trotie Vex and a basket ball team. A league which involved several local churches. Chet Carter played on the Leominster Baptist church team as a teenager. Yes that's right Chet was a teenager!!

A few more notes about the church, Rev. Gifford was an interim for a short period and then Rev. Fredrick Hanley became our minister.

Submitted by Marilyn Carter

P.S There was also a S.O.S box offering as you left the sanctuary. It is not clear to me what this was all about. Does anyone know?

You are invited to attend:

Central Massachusetts Baptist Association

“Annual Fall Meeting”



Saturday, October 1, 2016

At:

First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

1400 John Fitch Highway

Fitchburg, MA 01420-2035



Registration begins at 10:00 A.M. Program begins at 10:30 A.M.

Lunch will be available at \$10.00 per person



For any questions please contact Mark Bigelow, Treasurer at 978-342-5337 or email at Msb080456@aol.com

Local News

The First Baptist Church of Fitchburg recently discovered a plaque dedicated to several members who served in WW1 that had initially been displayed at the original church in the center of Fitchburg. Working with a local scout troop a memorial is being built and a re-dedication is being planned. In order to further honor those on the plaque we are seeking information anyone might have regarding them or their relatives. The names: Milton H. Abell, James W. Asquith, Alfred Bothner, Harlan K. Brooks, Marion R. Brooks, James S. Broome, John L. Broome, John R. Caldow, Gerald B. Coane, Raymond J. Cosseboom, Eugene G. Cote, Morton H. Cutler, George E. Daniels, John W. Davis, Henry R. Dean, William E. Dean, John M. Dow, Louis E. Dushuttle, Ralph H. Fales, Frank M. Ferguson, Walter S. Ferguson, H. Wesley Hall, Roger W. Forbes, Marion C.M. Shanks, Ralph O. Hutchins, Charles A. Leach, William T. Logan, James W. Manning, L. Lloyd Marshall, Robert M. McGregor, William McKay, Henry A.H. Osgood, Alexander M. Pollock, Arthur G. Proctor, Cecil S. Proctor, Frederick Proctor, Frederick G. Rice, Herman M. Rice, Alexander Robertson, Robert F. Sands, Thomas Sayers Jr, Clarence H. Sherrin, Guy E. Smith, Warren C. Wilder, Nelson Willis, J. Murray Wilcox, Robert Walker Jr, Charles C. Wellington. Anyone with any information is asked to contact the church office at 978 345 5622 and speak to Pastor Ken.

Thanks and God Bless!
Pastor Ken Whitson

Careful Planning Makes a Difference

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ATTORNEY AT LAW

114 Merriam Ave - Suite 204
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978-466-5011

Elder and Disability Law
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Do you have something to say?

Comments, Suggestions, Complaints

~ ~ ~

Corrections, Additions or Submissions

Please email... fbcb Beaconlight@comcast.net
or leave information in the envelope on the
church office door.



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

Please consider signing up for...

*Worship Leader
Usher*

*Door Greeter
or Coffee Hour*

We all enjoy these services!

Family and Friends Resource Event for those affected by the addictive behavior of a loved one

September 20, 2016

7pm-830pm

special session from 630-7 regarding opioid
use and Narcan training

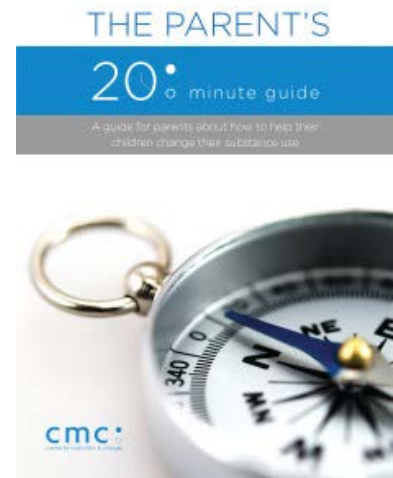
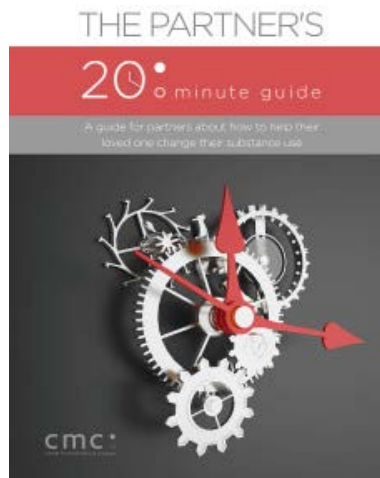
 SMART Recovery®

Family & Friends



Handbook

for people affected by the
addictive behavior of a loved one



**Featuring SMART Recover Family and Friends
and the CENTER for MOTIVATION AND CHANGE
20 minute guide for Parents and Partners.**

**First Baptist Church 1400 John Fitch Highway
Fitchburg Mass 01420**

for additional information please call 978 345 5622



Stewardship Committee Appreciation

We would like to thank all members and friends for keeping their pledges up during the summer months and remind anyone who is behind to try to catch up this month.



Stewardship means more than just giving money every week.....

Stewardship should also include giving of your:

“Time and Talent”

to help our church needs, whether it is serving on a committee; singing in the choir; being a Greeter or an Usher or a Worship Leader; hosting coffee hour; doing minor repairs around the church; mowing the lawn; shoveling snow; the list is endless.

More importantly it is sharing your “time and talent” that God gave you to help our church for today and tomorrow.

The Silent Sermon

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the minister decided to visit him. It was a chilly day. That evening, the minister found the man at home all alone sitting by a blazing fire.

Guessing the reason for his minister's visit, the man welcomed him, and led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The minister made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, he took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead. Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting.

The minister glanced at his watch and chose this time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more, with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the minister reached the door to leave, his host said, with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday".

Recipe of the Month

Grilled Lemon Garlic Shrimp

Ingredients:



1 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined

1/2 cup olive oil

4 cloves garlic, minced

1/4 cup lemon juice

1 tablespoon snipped fresh parsley

Fresh spinach leaves

Grated Parmesan cheese

Preparation:

Combine olive oil, garlic, lemon juice and parsley in a large zippered bag or container with a cover.

Place shrimp in the mixture and let marinate in refrigerator for 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Thread shrimp onto skewers and discard marinade.

Grill over medium heat for about 6 minutes until pink and opaque.

Serve over spinach leaves and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.




June Birthdays

03 Karen Adams
 06 Justin Cross
 18 Nicole Yangsi
 19 James Primeau
 24 Atera Mbunwe
 27 Emma Auger



Happy Anniversary

June Anniversaries




21 Ashley & Ryan Brunt
 27 Tom JR. & Karen Adams

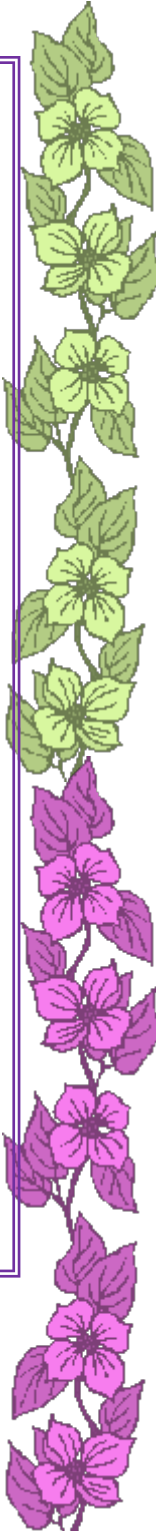


IF YOU'RE BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY IS NOT HERE, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL INCLUDE IT IN THE BEACONLIGHT! REMEMBER TO NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO YOUR ADDRESS OR TO OUR MONTHLY LISTING OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
 CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE
 978-345-5622
 E-MAIL: FBCBEACONLIGHT@COMCAST.NET

PRAYER LIST



Ardath Dewhurst
Bette Adams
Cindy Beck
Connie & Will Gariepy
Daniel Bascomb
Deborah St. George
Elaine Corzine
Graglenn Mitchell
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!**

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

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