



THE BEACONLIGHT



Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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VOLUME 64

September 2019

NUMBER 09

Dear Congregation,

It is a beautiful day, as I sit and write this, and I am reminded by the tints of yellow on the leaves that just as with all things, Summer too, shall pass. Many are preparing to return to classes, some have already settled in and perhaps made a new friend, or connected with previous friends neglected over the long summer months. What a beautiful, and difficult time of transition for both creatures and creation.

With thoughts of the previous beginnings of school years, I can relate to the words of C.S. Lewis, in his poem *Scholar's Melancholy*;

*"The mind too has her fossils to record her past,
Cold characters, immobile, of what once was new
And hot with life. Old papers, as we rummage through
Neglected drawers, still show us where the pen, fast, fast,
Ate up the sheets; and wondering, we remember vast
Designs and knowledge gathered, and intend to do
What we were able then to have done...sometime drew
A sponge across that slate. The ferly would not last"*

As Lewis so eloquently described the emotions I once felt, feelings of nervousness at wondering if I had all the supplies I needed or how much information I may have retained, I was always grateful in those first weeks of classes for the review time of going over past material before the new information would be given. Sometimes I just needed to find my footing and recall that I was not alone in that next new step, and that God would honor those who seek to know Him, and His created world better through the sharing of thoughts and ideas, just as another wise man, Solomon, once wrote:

"The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out" (Proverbs 18:15).

I pray in this season, that you may reflect on where you were back in early June, how you thought, what your worldview may have encompassed and how you saw yourself in relationship to your faith in Jesus Christ. May you ask yourself review questions like, "What has changed?" "What has God been telling me?", or "Based on these past experiences, how do I feel led to proceed in my life, family, work and callings?"

If the Holy Spirit is truly working through each of us, as the Bible says, then I have faith that once you find your footing, you will find the confidence to move forward into this new season of learning, celebration and reconnection in confidence as you remember that you are not alone in the classroom of life, and that the God who loves you so, has also supplied all that you need in order to acquire knowledge and wisdom, and a closer relationship with and understanding of Him and others should you be willing to seek it out.

Regards,
Pastor Meredith



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.



On Saturday, September 7, 2019 at 2:00 P.M. an Ordination Council Meeting of the Central Massachusetts Baptist Association has called for by the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg for Meredith H, Christian.

Delegates for our church are: Linda Gosselin and Bette Adams.

Along with them:

Humphrey Mutinda, Moderator of First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

Rev. Phil Goff, Clergy Member of First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

Mark Bigelow, Treasurer and Executive Committee Member of Central Massachusetts Baptist Association

All of the above names will have a vote at the Ordination Council Meeting.

*If you can help with refreshments for after the meeting please see
Diane Hope or Deb Cross*

ABCUSA News

Travelogue Takes American Baptists on the Road with ABHMS Disaster-Relief Ministries

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 9/25/17)—Beginning tomorrow, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) takes American Baptists on the road with ABHMS Disaster-relief Ministries as it assesses the damage and connects with survivors and others on the ground in hurricane-ravaged areas from Louisiana and Texas to Florida and Puerto Rico.

Through photographs and videos as well as written and recorded words, follow along with ABHMS Communications Director Susan Gottshall, as she documents, via an online travelogue and audio journal, the sights and sounds encountered as she travels with Victoria Goff, ABHMS associate director, Mission Advancement and Passionary Movement, through areas severely affected recently by hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

Through daily on-scene reporting, American Baptists will be transported as they see and hear from ABHMS staff and partners interacting with residents, first responders, volunteers and officials in locations that include Lake Charles, La.; Dickinson and Houston, Texas; St. Petersburg and Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and San Juan and other places in Puerto Rico.

Come along with ABHMS as it takes the first step necessary in helping to rebuild, restore and renew communities and lives severely affected by the recent string of hurricanes in the United States and Puerto Rico.

American Baptist Home Mission Societies partners with American Baptists to promote Christian faith, cultivate Christ-centered leaders and disciples, and bring healing and transformation to communities across the United States and Puerto Rico.

American Baptist Churches USA is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with approximately 5,000 congregations comprised of 1.3 million members, across the United States and Puerto Rico, all engaged in God's mission around the world.

<https://www.abc-usa.org/2017/09/travelogue-takes-american-baptists-on-the-road-with-abhms-disaster-relief-ministries/>

My Attorney

After living what I felt was a "decent" life, my time on earth came to the end. The first thing I remember is sitting on a bench in the waiting room of what I thought to be a court house. The doors opened and I was instructed to come in and have a seat by the defense table. As I looked around I saw the "prosecutor." He was a villainous looking gent who snarled as he stared at me. He definitely was the most evil person I have ever seen.

I sat down and looked to my left and there sat My Attorney, a kind and gentle looking man whose appearance seemed so familiar to me, I felt I knew Him.

The corner door flew open and there appeared the Judge in full flowing robes. He commanded an awesome presence as He moved across the room. I couldn't take my eyes off of Him. As He took His seat behind the bench, He said, "Let us begin."

The prosecutor rose and said, "My name is Satan and I am here to show you why this man belongs in hell."

He proceeded to tell of lies that I told, things that I stole, and in the past when I cheated others. Satan told of other horrible perversions that were once in my life and the more he spoke, the further down in my seat I sank. I was so embarrassed that I couldn't look at anyone, even my own Attorney, as the Devil told of sins that even I had completely forgotten about. As upset as I was at Satan for telling all these things about me, I was equally upset at My Attorney who sat there silently not offering any form of defense at all. I know I had been guilty of those things, but I had done some good in my life - couldn't that at least equal out part of the harm I'd done?

Satan finished with a fury and said, "This man belongs in hell, he is guilty of all that I have charged and there is not a person who can prove otherwise."

When it was His turn, My Attorney first asked if He might approach the bench. The Judge allowed this over the strong objection of Satan, and beckoned Him to come forward. As He got up and started walking, I was able to see Him in His full splendor and majesty. I realized why He seemed so familiar; this was Jesus representing me, my Lord and my Savior.

He stopped at the bench and softly said to the Judge, "Hi, Dad," and then He turned to address the court. "Satan was correct in saying that this man had sinned, I won't deny any of these allegations. And, yes, the wage of sin is death, and this man deserves to be punished."

Jesus took a deep breath and turned to His Father with outstretched arms and proclaimed, "However, I died on the cross so that this person might have eternal life and he has accepted Me as his Savior, so he is Mine."

My Lord continued with, "His name is written in the book of life and no one can snatch him from Me. Satan still does not understand yet. This man is not to be given justice, but rather mercy."

As Jesus sat down, He quietly paused, looked at His Father and said, "There is nothing else that needs to be done. I've done it all."

The Judge lifted His mighty hand and slammed the gavel down. The following words bellowed from His lips... "This man is free. The penalty for him has already been paid in full. Case dismissed."

As my Lord led me away, I could hear Satan ranting and having, "I won't give up, I will win the next one."

I asked Jesus as He gave me my instructions where to go next, "Have you ever lost a case?"

Christ lovingly smiled and said, "Everyone that has come to Me and asked Me to represent them has received the same verdict as you, 'Paid in Full.'"

If you do not pass this along to 10 people immediately, absolutely nothing will happen. Passing this on to anyone you consider a friend (as I have done here), will bless you both.

Recipe of the Month

Banana Split Mini Moist Cakes



Ingredients:

Chocolate cake box mix

2 cups of ripe mashed banana

2 egg yolks

1/2 teaspoon of baking soda

1 small package of banana pudding

1 stick of butter, melted (to substitute for the oil in the cake box recipe)

Preparation:

Follow directions on the cake box, but use butter instead of oil.

Stir in the bananas and egg yolks until well blended.

Stir in baking soda, and then mix the batter on medium speed for about 1 minute.

Stir in the pudding mix a little bit at a time until well blended.

Use cooking spray to lightly grease the muffin tin.

Scoop the batter in large muffin tin, about 3/4 full.

Set Advantium's Convection oven temperature to 350 degrees.

Bake for about 20 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.

Let mini moist cakes cool.

Top with whip cream, chocolate syrup, finely chopped nuts and a maraschino cherry.

Local News



Sunday
September 8, 2019
10:00 A.M.



Pot Luck Lunch & Business Meeting
Sunday, September 15, 2019
After Coffee Time

*Let May Goff know your favorite hymn
We will sing one a week as long as they last*



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



*First Baptist Church of Fitchburg
Adams Fellowship Hall*

*Every Monday Night
7:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.*

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

Beautiful

I walk the sandy shore
It's lovely as before
A misty spray, A dreary say
but beautiful

The pounders go on and on and on
The prancers go, they ebb and flo
And beautiful.

The blessings flow on high
As like the endless tide.
Come wave on wave, from
Birth to grave.

They're beautiful!



September Birthdays

- 3. Karen Adams*
- 6. Justin Cross*
- 7. Kathy Gosselin*
- 18. Nicole Yangsi*
- 19. James Primeau*
- 22. Joshia Irfan*
- 24. Atera Mbunwe*



Happy Anniversary
September Anniversaries

- 27. Tom Jr. & Karen Adams*

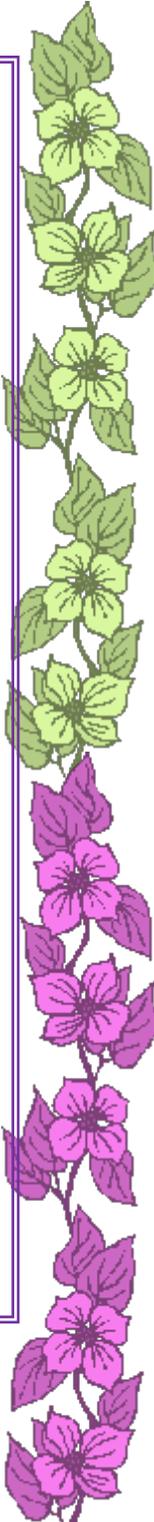


IF YOU'RE BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY IS NOT HERE, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL INCLUDE IT IN THE BEACONLIGHT! REMEMBER TO NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO YOUR ADDRESS OR TO OUR MONTHLY LISTING OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE
978-345-5622
E-MAIL: FBCBEACONLIGHT@COMCAST.NET

PRAYER LIST



Anoura Rose Angelin
Bette Adams
John Mim
Cindy Beck
Connie & Will Gariepy
Daniel Bascomb
Susan Force (Bette Adams daughter)
Kathy Gosselin
Kim & Katie (Bette Adams daughter & granddaughter)
Linda Gosselin
Mark & Diane Bigelow
Marsha – return of lung cancer
Nancy Peters
Roberta Poole
Ed Guerard
Tom and Karen Adams
Karen Simpson
Elaine Corzine
The Blake Family
Renee Brideau - Crohn's Disease
The Steward Family
Roger Abell
Catherine De Barge
Mark & Diane Bigelow
Marsha – return of lung cancer
Marilyn Carter



Pastor Becky
Martha Quinn
Brady, Amy Giordano / Weeks
Pastor Garcia & his ministry

Our Missionaries

Rovaungha Richardson, William Seo
mission trip to Afganistan

Daniel Auguste and the Haitian Missionary Team

Other Concerns

Baptist Church of Grafton
First Baptist Church of Gardner

For those under persecution for their faith.
For our civic leaders- local and national

Prayers for those suffering from acts of violence around the world



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.

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

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