



THE BEACONLIGHT

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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It Should Be an Interesting Summer!

The late composer George Gershwin wrote a very popular song some 75 years ago. The song was “Summertime,” one of several hit songs that came out of his musical “Porgy and Bess.” The song begins like this:

“Summertime...and the living is easy...”

Many of us do shift into lower gear in the summer, taking vacations, having cook-outs, going to the beach, and so on. After the winter we just lived through, the warmth of the sun is especially welcome!

However, these next months are very important to the future of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg. The challenge is to come up with a functional model of the church that we can still afford. Finding a tenant is only a part of the solution. As was discussed at our meeting last Sunday, the FBC congregation needs to increase our giving; Chet Carter asked for everyone to consider at least a 10% increase now, and not wait to the late fall Pledge Drive. For many of us, finances are tight, but regardless of your own personal situation, please consider doing so. The three major utility bills that the church has – oil, plowing, and building insurance – total over \$30,000 annually, the approximate same amount you pay your pastor.

Since I am that pastor, I have deliberately withdrawn myself from all future financial discussions and decision-making. I believe the congregation needs to make these decisions, and not just the Church Board and the pastor. All adult members of the church need to be involved, and this decision-making process cannot and should not be tabled until the fall. I wish you all the best as you discern God’s leadership in this issue. Please do pray and work together, as I will also be praying.

Please also keep up with your pledges and donations this summer, as cash-flow can be a major problem during the vacation months.

My thanks to everyone and may the Lord bless us all in this season of discernment and cooperation with one another!

Pastor Becky

MISSION NEWS

April Mission Pledges

Monthly income for needed Missions is \$335.25. We received 364.00. Thanks to all. We also received \$50 for the America for Christ Offering a total of \$399.00.

International Missionary of the Month-Carol Syndor-NEPAL

Carole serves in two different roles in the work God is doing around the world through International Ministries (IM). She is a part time staff member of the IM home staff, helping with the coordination and logistics of special events. In her other role, Carole maintains the partnering relationship of IM with two primary organizations: Nepal Baptist Church Council and the Human Development and Community Services. Serving non-residentially she carries out her duties by correspondence and at least once-yearly visits to Nepal. Her ministry focuses on these two partner organizations are promoting their special projects, including White Cross, and working to seek full-time service placement of their personnel needs.

“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ” This is the way walk in it.” Isaiah 30:21

Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network

Marilyn and Chet delivered the collection box that you have faithfully filled to MIHN.. While there we were told the MIHN has purchased a house on Main St in North Leominster. Extensive renovations will be required. It will be a few months before they can open. Thanks for your prayers.

2015 World Mission Offering Theme - Stretch Forward!

“One thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind,
and stretching forward
to the things which are before. I press on toward the goal.”

Philippians

3:13-14a ASV

Sounds like a good theme for us as we face the decisions needed for our church's future.

Mission Opportunities

Please remember to save to pop tops from the soda cans for the Shriner's Hospitals and the Box Tops for Education coupons from Campbell soup products. Missions we can all do with little or no expense. They make things better for those who receive the care.

Please keep the Lord's church here in Fitchburg in your daily prayers.

EASTER FLOWERS GIVEN IN
MEMORY & IN HONOR OF:

Chet & Marilyn Carter **given in memory** of Rich Cozzens and the parents of Chet and Marilyn.

Pam Chapman **given in honor** of her family, living and in Heaven.

Heidi Daigle **given in honor** of all her 3 grand-daughters: Kylie, Eva, and Nellie.

Jordan & Natasha Daigle **given in honor** of their daughters and both of their parents.

Glen & June Dawson **given in memory** of Glenn's brother, Bill Dawson.

Betty Giordano **given in memory** of Paul and Michael Giordano.
Also **given in honor** of Amanda, Brady, and Caitlin Blake & Valencia Giordano.

Donna Knight **given in memory** of Robert Knight.

Greg Mitchell **given in memory** of her Mom, Dad, Barbara.

Nancy Peters **given in honor** of family and friends.

Holly Rose Primeau **given in memory** of Edwin & Dorothy Leader.

Lynne Ruschioni **given in honor** of Olivia, Colin, Chloe, Mason, and Maxwell.



DOES GOD EXIST?

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects.

When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: "I don't believe that God exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving a God who would allow all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument. The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt.

The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber: "You know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!"

"No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside."

"Ah, but barbers DO exist! What happens, is, people do not come to me."

"Exactly!"- affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! What happens, is, people don't go to Him and do not look for Him. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."



BOSTON RED SOX BAPTIST NIGHT

BAPTIST NIGHT

Monday, June 15
7:10PM



A great chance to promote fellowship, camaraderie, and church attendance.
Pre-game Ceremony honoring members of the Baptist Community!

Ticket Rate:

Bleacher - \$27
Infield Grandstand - \$50

Group Size:

20 guests or more*

*if you have less we can pair your church with another church coming on the night.

Church Recognition:

"Leader of the Pack" Pre-Game Ceremony
Baptist Choir Performance
Scoreboard Messages

Reserve a place for your Parish members today!

Contact:

Jess Dudek

Boston Red Sox

617-226-6284 | jdudek@redsox.com

Local News

A Note from your church custodian...

Thank you to everyone who has brought in toilet paper, the regular kitchen paper towels, trash bags, Clorox cleaning wipes, containers of Clorox bleach, bottles of Windex, and containers of comet cleaning powder. With your help of these supplies the church now has a very healthy supply of toilet paper to last us a few months and the church has not had to pay any bills for purchasing cleaning supplies so far for 2015 and though these expenses are smaller than expenses like utilities, I am sure that our church treasurer appreciates one less bill to pay. A BIG THANK YOU!

Sincerely,
Natasha Daigle

I would like to thank James Primeau for coming to the church some time ago and removing the several large pine limbs that broke off from the trees near the church sign!

Jordan

We received a very nice letter from M.I.H.N for the donation of \$100 and the several items that were collected and donated to their homeless shelter.

Also from Multi Cultural Ministry for the Ladies donation of several items as well as silver & mugs from our church to go to immigrants who have arrived in the Worcester area with nothing, and I mean nothing.



Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more. HE 10:17

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
Asset Protection
Probate Avoidance

Please consider signing up for...

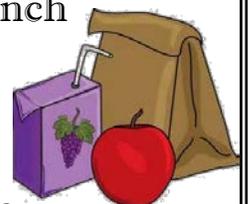
*Worship Leader
Usher
Door Greeter
or Coffee Hour*

*We all enjoy these services!
Help us to continue them.*



637 Lancaster Street (Route 117) - Leominster, MA 01453 - Phone: 978-227-5656
Email: restore@ncmhabitat.org

Brown Bag Lunch
&
Bible Study



Every Wednesday @ 11:30 am

From the Worship Deacon:

1. The two Deacons singed-up to serve communion on Sunday, May 3rd:
Jordan Daigle and **another available Deacon**.
2. The following people have signed-up to be Worship Leader...

Sunday, May 3rd – Jordan Daigle
Sunday, May 10th – Chet Carter
Sunday, May 17th – Linda Gosselin
Sunday, May 31st – Comference M
Sunday, June 21st – Linda Gosselin

3. We are in need for you to be a Worship Leader for...

Sunday, May 24th
Sunday, June 28th

Sunday, June 7th

Sunday, June 14th

Thank you to everyone who has signed-up to lead our worship services! It is helpful to our pastor, you are taking part in creating a more active congregation in worship, and you make it so that it is not only the pastor's voice leading the congregation. Thank you and please continue volunteering your time and voice to lead our services.

4. Will you serve as an Usher for...

Sunday, May 3rd
Sunday, May 24th
Sunday, June 14th

Sunday, May 10th
Sunday, May 31st
Sunday, June 21st

Sunday, May 17th
Sunday, June 7th
Sunday, June 28th

I thank the families who have volunteered to be our ushers so far. It is nice to see the children helping in our worship and also learning from example!

5. Thank you to all those who ordered Easter flowers in memory and/or honor of loved ones for the Easter Sunday Worship. The flowers made the sanctuary especially beautiful and gave us a more spring-like season feeling!

Thank you,
Jordan Daigle

Recipes of the Month

Sweet Potato Puffs with Apples



Ingredients:

- 1 pkg (20 oz each) Alexia® Crispy Bite-Size Sweet Potato Puffs
- 1 large Granny Smith apple
- 2 tablespoons Parkay® Original Spread-tub
- 1 tablespoon firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg.

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 425°F. Spray large shallow baking pan with cooking spray. Place puffs on pan; bake 25 minutes or to desired color and crispness. Meanwhile, chop apple; place in medium microwave-safe bowl. Add Parkay, brown sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg to apple; stir to combine. Cover and microwave on HIGH 3 minutes or until tender, stirring once halfway. Place puffs in shallow serving bowl. Top evenly with apple mixture; toss gently. Serve immediately.

Berry Smoothie



Ingredients:

- 1 container (4 fl oz each) Healthy Choice Raspberry Greek Frozen Yogurt
- 1/2 small ripe banana, cut into pieces
- 1/4 cup low fat (1%) milk
- 1/4 cup frozen unsweetened mixed berries
- 1/2 cup ice cubes
- Reddi-wip Original Dairy Whipped Topping, (optional)

Preparation:

1. Place all ingredients, except Reddi-wip, in blender container; blend until smooth.
2. Top with Reddi-wip, if desired.



AND

RESALEABLE GOODS

Needed

Coming, Saturday, May 16, 2005: ATTIC TREASURES 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

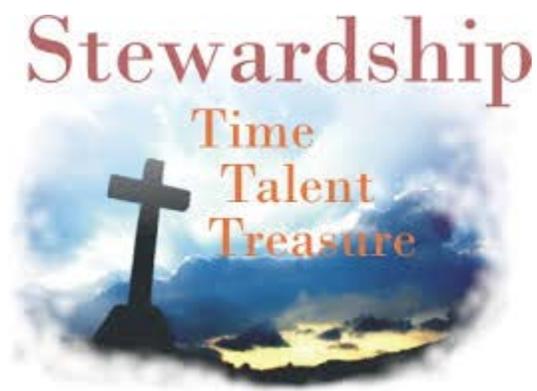
Please bring all goods to the basement area of church, if you need to have goods picked up please call Kristen Primeau (978-342-7363) or Mark Bigelow (978-342-5337)

Lots of baked goods needed.....

Volunteer needed to run snack bar.....

Volunteers needed for set up and pick up.....

Volunteers needed to man the tables on Saturday, May 16, 2005



Let's all put our Time and Talents together to produce more Treasures for our church



May Birthdays

- 2. Rhonda Becotte
- 6. Paulo Gomes
- 9. Christy Vautour
- 10. Peter Sprigg
- 12. Eric Yangsi
- 16. June Dawson
- 16. Betty Rousell
- 21. Kylie Dresser (her 9th)
- 23. Betty Holland
- 25. Kristen Auger
- 27. Connie Gariepy
- 28. Jordan Daigle



May Anniversaries



- 2. Brandon & Kristen Auger
- 5. Armand & Heidi Daigle
- 7. Glenn & June Dawson
- 19. Wilfrid & Connie Gariepy
- 26. David & Amy Brown - NC



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's nephew John
Anne Ndunda's sister, Jane, in Dubai
Anne's brother, Michael
Anne's mother – trying to settle estate
Amy Dresser's father-in-law
Bette Adams & Mittens
Cindy Beck
Elaine Corzine
Four-year old girl with cancer
George and Shirley Saari and family
Glenn Dawson's brother
Graglenn Mitchell
Jessica
Jim Benton
John Cross – health concerns, feeling good
John Fasik
Justin Dresser
Kaitlin Rooney & Kim Rooney
Karen Knowles
Kathy Gosselin
Kristy Engel, in Liberia
Linda Gosselin
Lorna Brown
Madeline, daughter of Linda's
friend, chronic pain due to injury
Mark & Diane Bigelow
Mark Gosselin
Nancy Peters (Broken Wrist)
Norman Bigelow & Family
Roberta Poole
Sandra Dorsainville's father in Haiti
Ruth Abell & Family



Shirley Webster
Ted Syphrit
Tim Primeau and family
World Mission offering
our Missionaries
Our congregation and the communities
around us
People killed, uprooted, and terrorized by
ISIS

IN NURSING HOMES



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

978-345-5622

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