



# THE BEACONLIGHT

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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## From the Pastor: Zechariah 13:1,2

*“On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity. On that day I will banish the names of the idols from the land, and they will be remembered no more, declares the Lord Almighty. I will remove both the prophets and the spirit of impurity from the land.”*

I have recently been involved in several discussions about names of the Christian Holidays. Maundy Thursday, Tenebrae, Easter, Pentecost, First Fruits just to name a few. It always seems that there is at least one person who can take the name and turn it into some form of Satanic ritual or idol worship and try to throw a wet blanket on the whole event.

Then there are those who hope to change the name of the holiday to be less offensive, to remove the “religiousness” of it. Each Christian holiday now seems to come with cries of protest from both sides of the battlefield. Do we keep “Christ” in Christmas or now should we call it “Xmas”. Some Christians now defend keeping it as Xmas! As Shakespeare would ask “What’s in a name?”

God had a different plan though. All of those idols everyone had been praying to and giving offerings and sacrifices would soon be forgotten. A new day was coming, a new fountain that would wash away, that would cleanse us from sin and impurity.

I wonder how many of us could draw a picture of the god Mars? Even though a month of the year is named after him. Who could tell us the story of Maia, goddess of growth and plants? How many days of the week have the names of gods and goddesses, idols that we no longer remember?

Many claim that the Christian holidays of today are the pagan holidays that were secretly brought into the early church. Its true!

But in “A History of Christianity” Kenneth Scott Latourette noted this:

*“While here and there some transfer from Greek and Roman polytheism may have occurred, as in the cults of some of the saints and in a few of the festivals, all of these contributions were profoundly altered to conform with Christian convictions.”*

It may be that the general public is not really trying to steal our holiday as much as they are trying to take back their holiday that we took in the first place!

Nonetheless whether its gathering eggs left behind by an imaginary rabbit, praying at sunrise on Resurrection Morning next to someone honoring Ishtar or arguing whether Easter is Syrian or German we know who we worship, who we honor, who we glorify. The one who's name is not forgotten.

The Psalmist tells us “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

” Can you tell me the name of the idol who was god of the sky?

God Bless

# MARCH MISSION NEWS

*This missed the March BL edition*

## **Mission Pledges**

The monthly income for 2016 pledged for Missions is \$310,000. We gave in January \$219.00

## **Thank You - from The TABCOM Family**

Dear Church Family, You are one of 121 Churches making a difference in the TABCOM family. Your support and Mass Mission Fund enable us to attend to pastoral needs in the region. We are also attending to mediation and conflict resolution, training new Mission Advocates, leading missional and stewardship workshops, and much more. Thank you for all your support. You help in Faith Raising. Peace, Rev. Sandra Dorsanvil

## **Friends of the Region**

Dear Friends, this letter comes to thank your church for supporting TABCOM and Grotonwood /Oceanwood through the Friends of the Regional Ministries. Our gratitude is multiplied many times by the individuals who were helped by your generosity.

- A Cambodian child who came to Grotonwood on a scholarship you provided.
- A war veteran whose marriage was saved when he attended a weekend for veterans at Oceanwood
- A pastor whose ministry skills were expanded by attending TABCOM'S School of Ministry
- An adult with special needs who enjoyed her first independent vacation at camp
- A mission committee chair person who had her enthusiasm rekindled at Missionworks
- A camp program director who had the confidence to introduce an innovative program
- A maintenance supervisor who finally had the material to do his job right

And so many more.

We would welcome the opportunity to visit your church and share our gratitude more personally. We also hope you will attend our regional events, or visit one of our camps to see for yourselves why your support means so much to us.

Ed Guerard, Coordinator, Friends of Regional Ministries, and behalf of the staff of TABCOM and Grotonwood/ Oceanwood

## **AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING**

**The AFC offering** will be taken during the month of March.

OUR GOAL is \$400.00 Please give after thoughtful prayer in the AFC envelope.

**STEWARDSHIP LIFE GIVING POWER**

# MISSION NEWS

## **March Mission Pledges**

Monthly income for needed Missions is \$310-. We received \$208.00. As of 3/27/16. We are behind, as you can see, in our pledged giving.

## **America for Christ Offering**

Your America for Christ offering provides life changing ministries and resources that impact neighborhoods and communities across the United States and Puerto with the love and hope of Jesus Christ. You have given as of 3/27/16 **\$406.00**. To make these ministries possible. ***Praise God!!***

## **Missionary Partnership Rovaughna Richardson - Ghana**

In partnership with the Ghana Baptist Convention, Rovaughna will be working at the Baptist Vocational Training Center (BVTC) in a ministry rescuing, rehabilitating and educating women who had been victims of the trokosi slavery system. With her background in social work, Rovaughna feels particularly called to mission work in Ghana. Previously, she spent time in Africa using her counseling skills to rehabilitate young adults battling substance and physical abuse, human trafficking, gang violence and issues of grief, depression and poor self-image. It was upon returning from this journey that Rovaughna felt God's call to make such work her life's mission.

She has to date received 72.8% of her monthly support. When she receives 90% she will be on her to her assignment in Ghana. We are supporting her with a pledge of \$25.00 per month .

If you can go to <http://www.internationalministries.org/teams/744-richardson> to follow her progress and activities.

***Please keep her in your prayers.***

## **MONTACHUSETT HOPITALITY NETWORK Main St., Leominster**

Do you know that MIHN is among many organizations that provide for homeless families. Interfaith Hospitality Network, aka family Promise founded in 1988 and represented in 41 states with 192 networks and 160,000 volunteers is represented right here in the Fitchburg and Leominster area by the Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network and supported by nine churches in the area. It has provided for 253 families Including 343 adults, 468 children, 64,079 bed-night units with temporary shelter, food, clothing, job and medical counseling, We support MIHN with a monetary donation, collect clothing, and personal . They keep families together. The only shelter in North Central Mass, to do so.

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.

***“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”***

Winston Churchill

# Our Father's House

*presents*

*The Annual Benefit Concert*



Weston Auditorium—Fitchburg State University  
Fitchburg, MA

**SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2016 – 8:00 P.M.**

**100% of the net proceeds benefits Our Father's House, Inc.**

*Tickets:* \$30.00 each (assigned seats)

Available by mail:

**Our Father's House, PO Box 7251, Fitchburg, MA 01420**

Available by phone:

Call Ginnie at 978-345-2256 x 300

Visa & MC accepted

**Now on sale at the following location:**

**Our Father's House, 199 Summer St. Fitchburg, MA**



**Sunday, May 15, 2016**



**Worship Service at 10 A.M.  
Followed by Dedication of**



**The Adams Fellowship Hall  
and Reception**

# Recipe of the Month

## ***Peanut Butter Bars*** with ***Chocolate Glaze***



### ***Ingredients:***

12 tablespoons butter (1 1/2 sticks), softened  
2/3 cup light brown sugar, firmly packed  
1 egg  
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
1/2 cup smooth peanut butter, divided  
1 1/3 cups flour  
1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

### ***Preparation:***

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Grease an 8-inch square baking pan or line with a parchment paper sling (see note) and set aside.

Cream butter and sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy, about 1 minute. Add the egg and vanilla and beat until smooth. Beat in 1/4 cup of peanut butter until smooth. Stir the flour and baking powder together. Add to the butter mixture. Stir until just combined.

Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Use a spatula to make sure it is evenly distributed. Bake 18-20 minutes. The peanut butter brownie is done when a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool the pan on a rack for 10 minutes before adding the glaze.

While the bars are cooling, combine the chocolate chips and remaining 1/4 cup of peanut butter in a small saucepan. Stir over low heat until the chocolate and peanut butter are melted and the glaze is smooth.

Spread the glaze evenly over the top of the bars. Cool for at least 1 hour to allow the glaze to set. Cut into squares and serve.

# Central Mass Baptist Association

**2016 Annual Spring Meeting  
Saturday, April 23, 2016**

**at**



## ***Grotonwood***

Registration begins at 9:30 A.M. (\$15.00 per person..... \$45.00 Max per family)

Program begins at 10:00 A.M. with worship service (lead by Rev. Jackson Oliveira) followed by business meeting at 10:30 A.M. presentation from Grotonwood around 11:15 A.M., lunch will be served 12:30 P.M.. The camp will be open for tours after lunch.

Come see why Summer Camp at Grotonwood and Oceanwood is so much fun!!!

Please let us know a head count for your church by Sunday April 17, 2016 by calling either Rev. Becky Tornblom (774-262-0004) or Mark Bigelow (978-342-5337).

If you prefer email either

[beckytornblom@msn.com](mailto:beckytornblom@msn.com) or [msb080456@aol.com](mailto:msb080456@aol.com)

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE !!!

# Local News

**Information about our church Organ:** The type of organ is a Kook and Hastings which was installed in 1887 and at that time was the second oldest organ in the city. It is a Tracker Type which means the only part that is electrical is the bellows which pushes air thru the pipes to make their sound. There are 27 stops which give the various tones such as flutes or clarinets etc. There are several pedals, 2 octaves and an expression pedal which increases the volume.

I hope this enlightens and helps us all to enjoy our Organ. Marilyn Carter.

The following was found in past church information.( not sure who wrote this).

If you are impatient, sit quietly and have a talk with Job.

If you are a little strong headed, go to Moses.

If you are getting weak kneed, take a look at Elijah.

IF there is a song in your heart, listen to David.

If you are a policy man, read Daniel.

If your faith is below par, read Paul.

If you are losing sight of the future, cling to revelations and get a glimpse of the Promised Land.

## *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

## *News from the Ladies Circle:*

April meeting will be the first Saturday of April. The 9th is The Central Assoc, Prayer & Breakfast and a number of us would like to attend that event. Also we will have a church Yard Sale in June. Please plan on helping out. Kristen will handle the luncheon etc. If you wish to help plan this event or volunteer to serve on a committee, see Marilyn Carter.



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

*Please consider signing up for...*

**Worship Leader  
Usher  
Door Greeter  
or Coffee Hour**

***We all enjoy these services!***

# *A Child's Ten Commandments To Parents*

1. My hands are small; please don't expect perfection whenever I make a bed, draw a picture, or throw a ball. My legs are short; please slow down so that I can keep up with you.
2. My eyes have not seen the world as your have; please let me explore safely: don't restrict me unnecessarily.
3. Housework will always be there. I'm only little for a short time - please take time to explain things to me about this wonderful world, and do so willingly.
4. My feelings are tender; please be sensitive to my needs; don't nag me all day long. (You wouldn't want to be nagged for your inquisitiveness.) Treat me as you would want to be treated.
5. I am a special gift from God; please treasure me as God intended you to do, holding me accountable for my actions, giving me guidelines to live by, and disciplining me in a loving manner.
6. I need your encouragement, but not your praise, to grow. Please go easy on the criticism; remember, you can criticize the things I do without criticizing me.
7. Please give me the freedom to make decisions concerning myself. Permit me to fail, so that I can learn from my mistakes. Then someday I'll be prepared to make the kind of decisions life requires of me.
8. Please don't do things over for me. Somehow that makes me feel that my efforts didn't quite measure up to your expectations. I know it's hard, but please don't try to compare me with my brother or sister.
9. Please don't be afraid to leave for a weekend together. Kids need vacations from their parents, just as parents need vacations from kids. Besides, it's a great way to show us kids that your marriage is very special.
10. Please take me to Sunday school and church regularly, setting a good example for me to follow. I enjoy learning more about God.

By Dr. Kevin Leman



### April Birthdays

- 1. Kayleigh Force
- 5. Marilyn Carter
- 5. Neville Yangsi
- 5. Susan Force
- 6. Amy Daigle Dresser
- 15. Zachary Rooney
- 17. James Hope, Sr.
- 25. Donna Auger
- 30. Michael Becotte



*Happy Anniversary*

### April Anniversaries



- 4. Carl & Betty Rousell
- 28. Ed & Portia Perkins



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

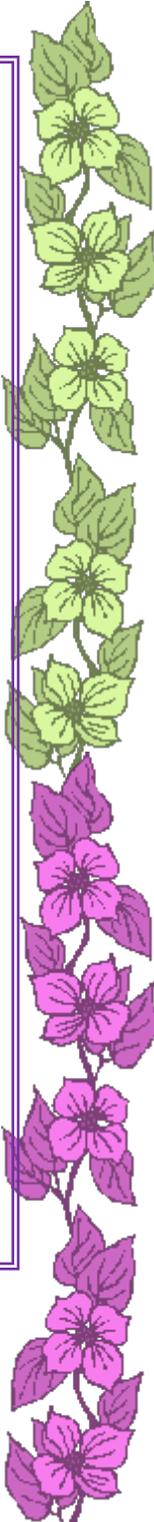
978-345-5622

E-MAIL: [FBCBEACONLIGHT@COMCAST.NET](mailto:FBCBEACONLIGHT@COMCAST.NET)

# PRAYER LIST



Ardath Dewhurst  
Bette Adams  
Cindy Beck  
Connie & Will Gariepy  
Elaine Corzine  
Graglenn Mitchell  
Kathy Gosselin  
Kim & Katie  
Linda Gosselin  
Mark & Diane Bigelow  
Mark Gosselin  
Marsha – return of lung cancer  
Nancy Peters  
Ruth Abell & Family



Sandra Dorsainville's father in Haiti  
Shirley Webster  
World Mission offering  
Our Missionaries  
Our congregation and the communities  
around us  
People killed, uprooted, and terrorized by  
ISIS

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.**

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

978-345-5622

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