



THE BEACONLIGHT

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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From the Pastor

“Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13-14

As many of you know I am no real fan of horses. I regard them as I do circular saws. I can use either but I have seen the damage they both can do! Nonetheless I love people who love horses- more so than I love people who love circular saws.

I will admit its an odd comparison but if you've used a circular saw you know you need to pay close attention to where it is in relation to the line you are following. Look up even for a moment and you will likely go off the mark and cut a crooked line. In other words you need to see where the saw is at all times. The horse rider must have a different perspective. Since a horse responds and anticipates what you are doing you need to keep your head up and your eyes looking to where you want the horse to go! Looking down or in the wrong direction will confuse the horse as to what you are doing.

Churches go through both maintenance and missional phases in their life and I believe both are necessary. Through the “circular saw” maintenance phase we “watch the line”. Making sure our doctrines are in place, checking our spiritual health, teaching and discipling are taking place. But to stay in this phase means we need to realize it will eventually end. You will reach the end of the board so to speak! Maintenance isn't bad- you just can't stay there too long.

The church has to move to a “horse and rider” missional phase and stay in that phase if it wants to experience progress or growth. Your vision, like that of the rider, must be forward and always looking where you want to go! Looking down at where you are or turning to look where others are takes you “off track”.

We are transitioning from maintenance to mission at FBCF. We've been looking at where we are and doing our best to follow the line. Changes are happening that cause us now to lift our heads to look where we want to go. Paul gives us one more important perspective we are often guilty of. “Forgetting what is behind..” Whether circular saws or horses we never look back. We know where we've been! (We were there once! Remember?) When we look back with either the horse or the saw we stop. That is where a church dies.

So “heads up, eyes forward” and (just because I like the wording) from Hebrews:
“...let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds”

Blessings

MISSIONWORKS

connect cultivate communicate



October 13-14, 2017

DoubleTree by Hilton in Leominster

We're very excited about our upcoming MissionWorks planned with our partners in RI and invite you to join with us and experience the excitement of missions. Our keynote speakers are Rev. Morris Stimage-Norwood of the Greater New Life Church in Springfield and Rev. Lisa Harris of AB Home Mission Societies. We're offering an off-site mission opportunity with Habitat on Friday morning and afternoon as well as a mission project at the hotel on Friday for White Cross.

We have a low, group rate of \$90 at the DoubleTree by Hilton at Leominster.. You may book your hotel room now by calling (978) 534-9000. Please specify TABCOM when calling and the code is "TAB." **The deadline to ensure this hotel group rate is by Sept. 30.**

What is it like to be a Christian?

It is like being a pumpkin that is carved into a jack-o-lantern.

God picks us from the pumpkin patch and brings us in from the field. The Bible says He selects us out of the world. We are in the world but no longer of the world. Jesus said, "As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world." (John 15:19)

God washes all the "dirt" off the outside that we received from being around all the other pumpkins. All the outside influences of our former life must be cleaned up.

God carefully removes all the "yucky stuff" called "sin" from the inside. He then changes us from the inside out by the Power of His Word. That's why it is important to meet with the church and learn God's Word.

He carves a new smiling face. Our countenance is changed by the power of His presence in our life. We then become so grateful. It can even show on our face!

Finally, God puts His light inside of us to shine for all the world to see.



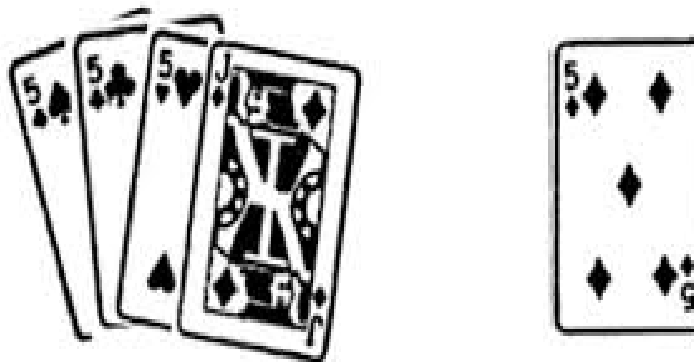


Looking for Anyone Interested In Playing Cribbage

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.

Wishful Hand



Recipe of the Month

TOMATO-MUSHROOM STRATA



Ingredients:

PAM No-Stick Cooking Spray
1 carton (16 oz each) Egg Beaters Original
1/4 cup fat free milk
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
2 cups French bread cubes (1-inch cubes)
1-1/2 cups frozen hash brown potatoes, shredded style
1 can (14.5 oz each) Hunt's Diced Tomatoes with Basil, Garlic and Oregano, drained
1 can (8 oz drained wt each) sliced mushrooms, drained
1/2 cup shredded reduced fat Cheddar cheese

Preparation:

Step one

Preheat oven to 375°F. Spray 8x8-inch glass baking dish with cooking spray; set aside.

Step two

Combine Egg Beaters, milk, salt and pepper in large bowl. Add all remaining ingredients; toss to coat. Place mixture in dish.

Step three:

Bake 50 minutes uncovered or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from oven; let stand 5 minutes.

Tips :

French bread works best for this strata, but if it is unavailable, try using another firm white bread, dry bread or toasted bread. When a piece of French bread becomes too stale to eat fresh, wrap well and place in freezer to have available the next time you want to make this recipe.

Fitchburg

YOUTH

Haven

Every Sunday at 4:30 P.M.

Adams Fellowship Hall

First Baptist Church

1400 John Fitch Highway

Fitchburg, MA 01420-2035

HISWAY
is the only way.

Sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg and the Haven Church of Fitchburg

For more information please Pastor Tim Roberson at 774-225-3539

Local News

LEOMINSTER---Graglenn "Greg" Marjorie (Gibbs) Mitchell, of Leominster, died Wednesday, September 13, 2017 in HealthAlliance-Leominster Hospital. She was born in Buffalo, NY, daughter of Glenn and Grace (Jones) Gibbs. As they grew her family became separated by distance. Greg's cherished brother Gregg Gibbs lives in Fitchburg. Her much loved first cousins, Glenda Smyers, Bruce Gibbs and Tedd Parshe, live in Carrollton, VA, Gowanda, NY and Boulder Creek, CA respectively. Her niece and nephew Karen Dolifka and David Mitchell both live in Texas.

As a child, Greg had many experiences as her father was transferred. She graduated from Ohio University in Athens, OH with a BA in English and Political Science. Professionally, Greg followed three career choices: first in retail human resources and training, then sales and finally as an educator in the Department of Youth Services, a position she truly loved.

Greg was very lucky to have wonderful friends. Her caregivers at Burbank Cancer Center are special people. Thank you to Dr. Ali and to Greg's wonderful nurse Laura, for your care.

A lover of dogs, Greg hopes to meet her canine buddies at the Rainbow Bridge.



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

Please consider signing up for...

*Worship Leader
Usher*

*Door Greeter
or Coffee Hour*

We all enjoy these services!



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

Local News

No one ever asks me about the hymns I play as a prelude on Sunday morning.

I don't know if you have favorites or are meaningful to you.

But they all are meaningful to me and as I play them sometimes I can recall some of my christen friends who were very special to me. No matter which one I happen to be playing, If Diane Hope is there I can hear her humming softly to each and every one of them. It's so nice to hear.

So I will list some of them:

I am thine o Lord, Living for Jesus, More love to thee O Christ, My faith looks up to thee, Near to the heart of God, Nearer my God to thee, Oh love that will not let me go, Precious Lord, take my hand, Jesus when I think of thee, Savior like a shepherd lead us, Rock of ages cleft for me, What a friend we have in Jesus, When I survey the wondrous cross, Aside with me, Breathe on me breath of God, Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine, Come holy spirit, Great is thy faithfulness, and lastly, one so dear to my heart, Dear Lord and father of mankind. The theme hymn of Ocean park services.

Some hymns I don't play because some remember them as to sentimental.

Blessings: Marilyn Carter

Not really how I imagined the second coming !



Central Massachusetts Baptist Association

presents

“Simple Church”

At the Fall Meeting, Saturday, October 21, 2017

Location:

First Baptist Church of North Oxford

693 Main St. (Route 12)

North Oxford, MA

Registration Begins at 10:30 A.M.

\$10.00 per person (\$30.00 maximum per family)

Program Begins at 11:00 A.M.

For more information please contact:

Rev. Becky Tornblom, Moderator: beckytornblom@msn.com

Or

Mark Bigelow, Treasurer: msb080456@aol.com





October Birthdays

- 02. Craig Poole
- 02. Brady Blake
- 17. Ruth Abell
- 22. Donna Knight
- 23. Olivia Ruschioni
- 25. Timothy Primeau
- 27. Pam Chapman
- 28. Kristen Primeau
- 31. Jason Ruschioni



Happy Anniversary

October Anniversaries



- 30. James & Kristen Primeau




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

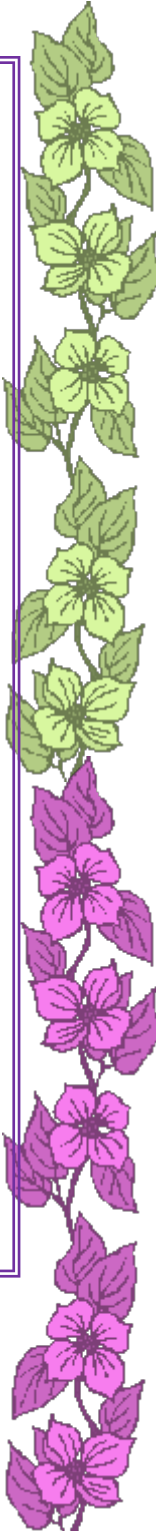
978-345-5622

E-MAIL: FBCBEACONLIGHT@COMCAST.NET

PRAYER LIST



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



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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