



# THE BEACONLIGHT

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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## Back to tile Beginning: Genesis 35:1-3

"Then God said to Jacob, 'Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau.' So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, 'Get rid of tile foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes. Then come, let us go up to Bethel, where ! will build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone.' "

Beginnings are always exciting. I've enjoyed the comments and photos this last month of all the kids off to the start of school with new backpacks, new clothes, new hopes. From the littlest pre-schooler to the not-so-little college student, there is a newness of hope and expectation. Their excitement brings joy to all of us who watch them step out to meet new challenges. My wife and I check Facebook each day to see who posted new photos and it's a pleasure to be able to share in the excitement.

I have taught some type of bible study or summer program each year, over the past few years and the transition from one to the next requires some considerable preparation. The materials from the last series must be boxed up and put away, often part of it is shared with others and gets mailed, part gets filed and reference books go back to the shelf to collect dust. The new material is then brought out with all the accompanying support text and reference books and the writing, researching and studying begins. By the time it is finished I am almost giddy, (if that's a word anyone uses anymore!) with excitement ready to both teach and learn at the same time.

So it is with me upon receiving your invitation to serve you as your interim Pastor. There is a lot of preparation, a change in schedules and a review of available resources. There has been more than one sleepless night where I have gotten up to send an email or add a thought to a sermon in

progress. I have spoken and met quite often with Senior and retired pastors who offer advice and guidance to me.

This brought to mind the story of Jacob returning to that place where he had the famous dream of angels descending and ascending into heaven, what we often refer to as Jacob's ladder. You will recall his words upon waking "surely the Lord is in this place!" He had taken an oath that if God would bring him back to this place He would be Jacob's God forever. God was faithful to that request and not only did Jacob return there he did so with a multitude of children and livestock. More than he could possibly even count.

I invite you to join with me as we prepare to bring First Baptist Church of Fitchburg to a new beginning. Let's put away those things that would distract us and true to Jacob's words "change your clothes"! (I've taken this literally and ordered a new suit)  
Let us prepare to worship God together who has been with us wherever we have gone, who has brought us together, to go, with him wherever he will send us?

Pastor  
Ken Whitson



## 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.



***Open House!***  
***Monday October 12<sup>th</sup>***  
***9am to 1pm***

*Come see what's available here at FBC Fitchburg.  
Tour the building, meet the Pastor, see what's in store for  
the new programs, classes and special worship services.*

***Free Coffee and Donuts***  
***Free gifts for the kids.***

# MISSION NEWS

## July Mission Pledges

Monthly income pledged for Missions is \$335.25. We received \$153.00. Also \$20.00 was given for One Great Hour of Sharing. When the quarterly report is given in September's meeting you will see we are well behind the budget due to vacations and not holding services at our church. Please do your very best to bring your Mission giving up to date in September so I may meet the items that have been budgeted. Thanks for the your dedicated devotion for our mission ministry.

**MISSIONworks Conference October 16 and 17** at Double Tree Hilton in Leominster. **FOR FLYER (See second page)**. For questions, Reservation form, and/or financial aid. See Chet.

## Mission Opportunities

### **In September:**

Missionary Cathy Charland Support African Service No date as yet.

Continue collecting can tabs for Schreiners Hospital kids

Collect Campbell coupons for Education for Hopi Mission School

### **In October**

World Mission Offering all month

Jeff Hicks Concert **Saturday** October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30 PM. **Be sure to invite your friends.**

MISSIONworks 2015 at Doubletree Hilton Leominster October 16 and 17

## **International Ministries --- their Mission**

***To glorify God in all the earth by crossing cultural boundaries to help people come to Jesus, grow in their relationship with God and change their worlds through the power of the spirit.***

*by Joe Gonzales*

# *How to Forgive*

One day a while back, a man, his heart heavy with grief, was walking in the woods. As he thought about his life this day, he knew many things were not right. He thought about those who had lied about him back when he had a job.

His thoughts turned to those who had stolen his things and cheated him.

He remembered family that had passed on. His mind turned to the illness he had that no one could cure. His very soul was filled with anger, resentment and frustration.

Standing there this day, searching for answers he could not find, knowing all else had failed him, he knelt at the base of an old oak tree to seek the one he knew would always be there. And with tears in his eyes, he prayed:

“Lord- You have done wonderful things for me in this life. You have told me to do many things for you, and I happily obeyed. Today, you have told me to forgive. I am sad, Lord, because I cannot. I don’t know how. It is not fair Lord. I didn’t deserve these wrongs that were done against me and I shouldn’t have to forgive. As perfect as your way is Lord, this one thing I cannot do, for I don’t know how to forgive. My anger is so deep Lord, I fear I may not hear you, but I pray that you teach me to do this one thing I cannot do – Teach me To Forgive.”

As he knelt there in the quiet shade of that old oak tree, he felt something fall onto his shoulder. He opened his eyes. Out of the corner of one eye, he saw something red on his shirt.

He could not turn to see what it was because where the oak tree had been was a large square piece of wood in the ground. He raised his head and saw two feet held to the wood with a large spike through them.

He raised his head more, and tears came to his eyes as he saw Jesus hanging on a cross. He saw spikes in His hands, a gash in His side, a torn and battered body, deep thorns sunk into His head. Finally he saw the suffering and pain on His precious face. As their eyes met, the man’s tears turned to sobbing, and Jesus began to speak.

“Have you ever told a lie?” He asked? The man answered – “yes, Lord.”

“Have you ever been given too much change and kept it?” The man answered – “yes, Lord.” And the man sobbed more and more.

“Have you ever taken something from work that wasn’t yours?” Jesus asked? And the man answered – “yes, Lord.”

“Have you ever sworn, using my Father’s name in vain?” The man, crying now, answered – “yes, Lord.”

As Jesus asked many more times, “Have you ever”? The man’s crying became uncontrollable, for he could only answer – “yes, Lord.”

Then Jesus turned His head from one side to the other, and the man felt something fall on his other shoulder. He looked and saw that it was the blood of Jesus. When he looked back up, his eyes met those of Jesus, and there was a look of love the man had never seen or known before.

Jesus said, “I didn’t deserve this either, but I forgive you.”

It may be hard to see how you’re going to get through something, but when you look back in life, you realize how true this statement is. Read the following first line slowly and let it sink in.

If God brings you to it – He will bring you through it. Lord I love You and I need You, come into my heart, today. For without You I can do nothing .

# MISSIONWORKS 2015 CONFERENCE OCTOBER 16 & 17



“Transformation Through the  
Mission Journey Around Your  
Corner,  
Around the World.”

Held at:  
99 Erdman Way, Leominster, MA

## *GREETINGS*

The MISSIONworks planning team is excited about this year’s conference and theme: “Transformation Through the Mission Journey-Around Your Corner, Around the World.” It is based on Matthew 28:18-20

make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son

and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.”

We are instructed to go forth and spread the good news. This year, we will find out how we can be better equipped to go on the journey, identify what, who is around the corner and how to support those in ministry.

City Mission Society of Boston will open the conference Friday night by reminding

us to set our eyes on the “un-invited guests”

the so called marginalized.

Rev. Jim Bell, Director of Recruitment at

shed light into the process of discernment and preparation needed before leaving for missionary assignment.

Katie and Taku Longkumer, will offer insights into how they support and meet challenges faced by missionaries in North East India.

Ann and Bill Clemmer will close the conference on Saturday by reminding us to keep our eyes on Jesus who strengthens us

Sudan, Lebanon or Providence.

The youth in grades 7-12 will have an opportunity to brainstorm about life on the mission field, fundraising options, missional opportunities available to them. This track has a special registration rate and will be co-led by Chris P. our first teenage Mission Advocate in Massachusetts.

A special mission project will take place during the conference. You will have an opportunity to visit many of the exhibitor’s tables, like Equal Exchange and Church World Service.

I hope to see you October 16 & 17 at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Leominster. Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil,

Director Mission & Stewardship /TABCOM  
**Presented & Sponsored By:**  
**American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island**  
[www.abcori.org](http://www.abcori.org)

Canonicus Camp and Conference Center  
54 Exeter Road, Exeter, RI 401-294-6318

**American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts**  
[www.tabcom.org](http://www.tabcom.org)

Grotonwood Camp and Conference Center  
167 Prescott St, Groton, MA Tel: 978-448-5763

**Oceanwood Camp and Conference Center,**  
17 Royal St, Ocean Park, ME Tel: 207-934-9655

Registration Questions? Contact: Wendy  
Maxfield @ 978-448-1445  
[tabcom.missionworks@gmail.com](mailto:tabcom.missionworks@gmail.com)

# Local News

**Adult Getaway Weekend!**  
**November 6-8**  
**at grotonwood**



Come and enjoy a fun and relaxing weekend filled with some of your favorite camp activities such as...

Crafts!      Archery!      Karaoke!  
Gym Games!  
Cookie Decorating!



Contact  
Grotonwood Camp and Conference  
Center to register!  
167 Prescott St.  
Groton, MA 01450  
978-448-5763  
[www.grotonwood.org](http://www.grotonwood.org)



**Habitat for Humanity** | **ReStore**

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!*

*Careful Planning Makes a Difference*

**ANTHONY V. FEROCI, JR.**  
**ATTORNEY AT LAW**

114 Merriam Ave - Suite 204  
Leominster, MA 01453  
978-466-5011

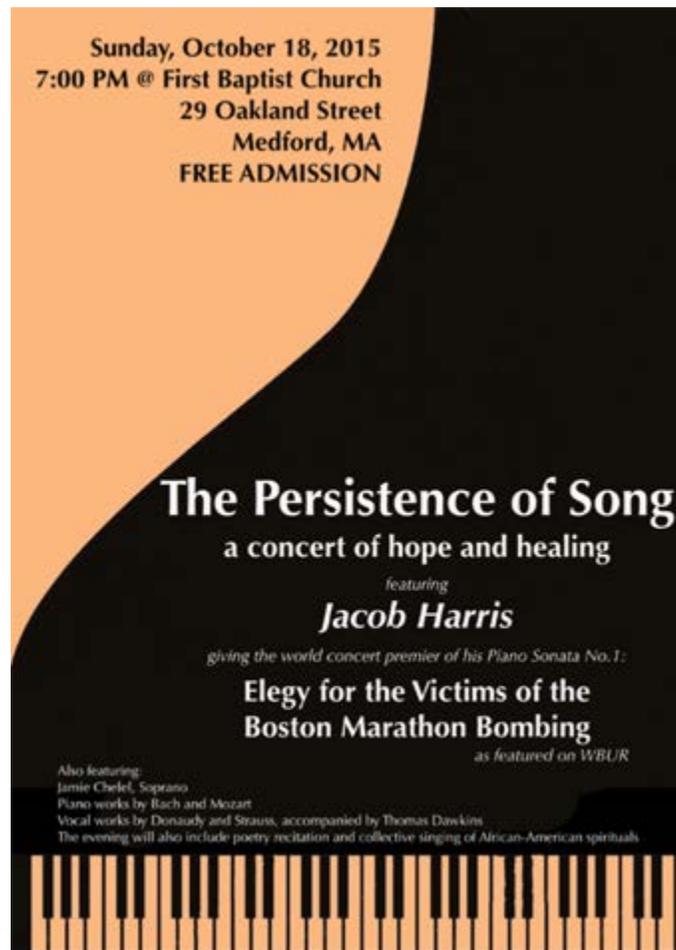
Elder and Disability Law  
Medicaid Planning  
Estate Planning  
Asset Protection  
Probate Avoidance

**Service of Installation for**  
**Rev. Mary Miller**  
**November 21 ~**  
**First Baptist of Worcester ~ 3 p.m.**  
Dr. Molly T. Marshall, president of Central Baptist Theological Seminary, will bring the message.

# The Persistence of Song:

A concert of hope and healing featuring the concert debut of [Jacob Harris](#)'

*Elegy for the Victims of the Boston Marathon Bombing*



[contact First Baptist, Medford for more information or group reservations](#)

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18**

**7:00 P.M.**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

**29 OAKLAND STREET,**

**MEDFORD, MA**

**FREE ADMISSION**

# Recipe of the Month

## *Herb Broiled Tomatoes*



### **Ingredients:**

4 large tomatoes, halved  
crosswise  
3 cloves garlic, thinly sliced  
2 teaspoons dried Italian  
seasoning  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/8 teaspoon freshly ground  
black pepper  
3 tablespoons Fleischmann's  
Original Spread-tub

### **Preparation:**

1. Preheat broiler. Place tomato halves, cut-side-up, in shallow baking pan. Sprinkle tomatoes with garlic, Italian seasoning, salt and pepper. Top tomatoes evenly with Fleischmann's.
2. Broil tomatoes, 4 inches from heat, 10 minutes or until tomatoes are warm, being careful not to brown garlic. Spoon pan juices over tomatoes before serving.

### **Cook's Tips:**

To prepare on outdoor grill, spray cold grate with PAM for Grilling Spray. Prepare grill for medium heat. Place tomatoes, cut-side-down, on grill. Grill 5 minutes. Turnover and sprinkle with garlic, Italian seasoning, salt and pepper. Top tomatoes evenly with Fleischmann's. Grill 10 minutes more covered or until tomatoes are warm.



### October Birthdays

- 2. Craig Poole
- 2. Brady Blake (12)
- 4. Anna Farmer
- 17. Ruth Abell
- 23. Olivia Ruschioni
- 27. Pam Chapman
- 31. Jason Ruschioni



*Happy Anniversary*

### October Anniversaries

- 5. Brian & Christina Jaramillo

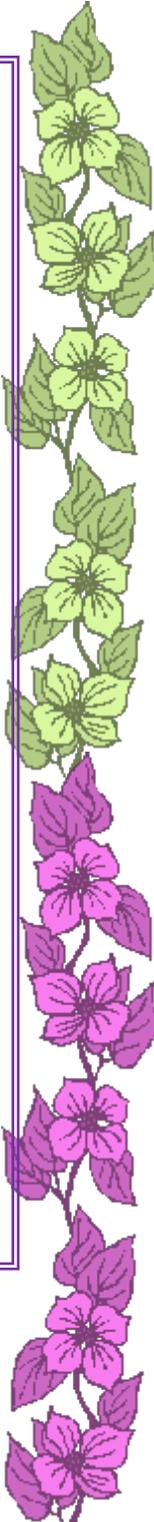


IF YOU'RE BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY IS NOT HERE, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL INCLUDE IT IN THE BEACONLIGHT! REMEMBER TO NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO YOUR ADDRESS OR TO OUR MONTHLY LISTING OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES  
 CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE  
 978-345-5622  
 E-MAIL: [FBCBEACONLIGHT@COMCAST.NET](mailto:FBCBEACONLIGHT@COMCAST.NET)

# PRAYER LIST



Ardath's nephew John  
Anne Ndunda's sister, Jane, in Dubai  
Anne's brother, Michael  
Anne's mother – trying to settle estate  
Amy & Kylie Dresser  
Allen Anderson's Family & Friends  
Bette Adams & Mittens  
Cindy Beck  
Charleston Emmanuel AME Church  
Diane Hope's friend's mother who fell  
Elaine Corzine  
Four-year old girl with cancer  
George and Shirley Saari and family  
Graglenn Mitchell  
Jessica  
Jim Benton  
John Cross – health concerns, feeling good  
John Fasik  
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  
Marsha – return of lung cancer  
Michael – shed collapsed on him



Nancy Peters  
Norman Bigelow & Family  
Pastor Becky – on sabbatical  
Roberta Poole  
Ruth Abell & Family  
Sandra Dorsainville's father in Haiti  
Shirley Webster  
Ted Syphrit  
Tim Primeau and family  
Will's Son-in-Law – had cancer removed

World Mission offering  
Our Missionaries  
Our congregation and the communities  
around us  
People killed, uprooted, and terrorized by  
ISIS  
People of Nepal – still recovering from  
earthquake  
People of western U.S. - storms

## 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.**

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