

# The Spire



## *The First Baptist Church in Needham*

**Special points of interest:**

- “P” is for Pray p4
- World Missions month p5
- Needham Night at the Pops p6
- Introducing our new Student Minister p9

### Radical Hospitality?

The Holman Bible Dictionary defines hospitality as the practice of entertaining or receiving a stranger into one’s home as an honored guest and to provide the guest with food, shelter, and protection. Hospitality was commended as a sacred duty in Biblical writing. A commonly cited example of hospitality in the Old Testament was Abraham receiving the three visitors (Genesis 18:1-8). Not only did Abraham run to meet the visitors, he offered them water to wash their feet, a place to rest, and ordered a large meal to be prepared in their honor.

Hospitality was also commended by other ancient cultures. The Greeks and Romans regarded hospitality as a sacred obligation. The Egyptians claimed it as a meritorious deed in life. Bedouins saw hospitality as an expression of righteousness.

Then of course, we know that hospitality is emphasized in the New Testament as well. It is a characteristic of our duty as Christians. It is an expression of the love of Christ. It is an outward focus that demonstrates our willingness to be open and adaptive in order to meet the needs of others. We are commanded to practice hospitality.

In recent years, a modifier has been added to the word hospitality in order to create the phrase “Radical Hospitality”. What does it mean to be radically hospitable? To answer the

question, consider our standard practice of hospitality, particularly in the church. In the days of “owned” pew boxes, it is hard to imagine hospitality being practiced. Everyone had their box and people largely kept to themselves in those pew boxes. It would have been egregiously outrageous to even dare sit in someone else’s pew box. Thankfully, we have moved from that inhospitable place, but not far enough. More commonly, churches utilize greeters, for example, to welcome guests to the church. However, beyond saying good morning and pointing someone to the sanctuary, what are we doing that demonstrates hospitality? The answer is very little.

Offering a new definition for consideration, Robert Schnase in the book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* suggests that we practice radical hospitality by drastically altering our ordinary practices so that we exceed expectations. More practically and theologically, it means going the extra mile or giving of your cloak and tunic. It means that we offer the absolute utmost of ourselves, our creativity, our abilities, and our energy to extend the gracious invitation and reception of Christ to others.

For some of us, that definition is a huge departure from what we would see ourselves doing as the church. For some, saying hello to a visitor after worship is the extent of our hospitable act—not only the extent, but also

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## From the Desk of the Pastor



I preached a revival service at Zion Baptist Church in Lynn recently. The theme came from Lamentations 5:21 in which the writer implored, “Take us back, O Lord, to yourself, and let us come back; renew our days as of old.” In my sermon, I asserted that the onus is not on God to take us back. Rather, it is on us to come back, because God did not change or move on us. We changed and moved on God. It occurs to me that this word is beneficial for us too.

It is difficult to be the church at this point in our society, time and culture. The church has lost its status and prominence such that people do not view church attendance as necessary or even desirable. That fact is well demonstrated in the decline of the church.

For those who do continue to participate, the level of effort afforded to church work is reduced and often inadequate. Rather than demonstrating innovation and excellence, our ministry efforts are often lacking and ill-planned. However, we shy away from providing honest feedback on that which is inadequate for fear of offending or alienating. Sadly, we are so afraid that we will lose one more member by demanding excellence that our ministry efforts limp along unable to garner intended results.

So what do we do as the church? Sure we have an opportunity to look at new innovations in church ministry. Sure, we could benefit from honest feedback and letting people know that what they are doing isn’t “up to snuff”.

But, I think the real need is to return to God and acknowledge our own shortcomings and failings. God said in 2 Chronicles 7:14, “...If my people who are called by my name would humble themselves and pray, seek my face, turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and heal their land.” If we make that first move, God will take us back. More than that, God will restore and renew us so that we are prepared to handle the challenges of even this societal age.

## Radical Hospitality (continued)

the only expectation. Traditionally, the average lay person would not have seen it as his or her responsibility to do more than simply greet. However, radical hospitality says that we must do more than that. Radical hospitality says that it is everyone’s job to extend the very best of themselves in order to make the stranger feel welcomed.

How does that play practically in our congregation? First, it is a “no brainer” to suggest that we should greet those who come to the church. Greeters need to be stationed at **every** entrance of the church so everyone is welcomed upon entry. Secondly, members should sit with visitors so that people feel connected in the worship.

Third, we should all make it our responsibility to observe who is absent in our congregation and reach out to them. If you noticed that someone is missing, it should not suffice to simply ask the pastor, “What ever happened to Mrs. Smith.” We must personally extend ourselves to Mrs. Smith.

Likewise, when visitors come, we should make it our personal responsibility to extend ourselves to them. If, during the conversation, you recognize a spark of commonality, exchange contact information so that you can be in touch. A personal contact may very well make the difference between that visitor returning or not.

Finally, we need to make preparations for a visitor’s return. Someone once shared her experi-

ence in visiting a church and introducing herself to the pastor after worship. When she returned the next week, she found waiting for her a name badge, typed and laminated, in the same form as that of the members of the congregation. In that instant, she was hooked. She affiliated with the church and has been active ever since. How do we emulate such a practice? How do we prepare to welcome someone who returns?

In some regards, these ideas are not radical, but they do point to a need for intentionality in our outreach and welcome. We need to practice hospitality, but this is not new. God has commanded that we be hospitable, welcoming the stranger, since the beginning.

## Board Updates

### Board of Missions

October is World Missions Offering month and on Sunday, October 24th, there will be a video presentation and speaker after Worship at our fellowship hour.



During our Missions Moment at the Worship Service on October 10th, we'll mention many of the things that we are currently working on.

We are delighted to announce our plans for a missions trip to Haiti and you will hear more of that in the coming months. Minister Sandra has hosted a presentation about this effort at fellowship on September 26th and will reprise her presentation on Sunday, October 3rd.

In addition, we're still doing our best to show a presence in Needham. On Sunday, September 26th, we hosted a movie afternoon at Seabed's Way (see page 11) and we're still going strong with the **Bread of Life** program with Carter Memorial Church (we're always looking for more volunteers, hint hint!). In addition, we'll be running a bake sale on October 16th to help the **Bread of Life** effort.

We're asking for help in the bake sale. If you'd like to donate baked good, bring them to the copy room at Carter Memorial no later than Friday morning, October 15th. And if you'd like to help out during the day, please call Ken at the church office or see Minister Sandra on any Sunday prior to that date.

Stay tuned—we've got more in store next month and throughout the holidays!!

Ken Gullotti

### Board of Deacons

Who was it that said the only constant in life is change? Well, the Deacons are certainly making changes lately. Within the board, Ken Gullotti has assumed the duties of Secretary while Cindi Toto is now the Treasurer.

The Deacons had a lively discussion at their most recent meeting with regard to the duties that the Deacons are responsible for— we'll see many things announced in the coming months. One of the first things we'll see is a documented job description for Greeters and the possible establishment of a Hospitality Ministry. That's coming out this month.

In addition, we'll also see directives with regard to the family ministry, which began this past summer.

Our focus remains on the spiritual direction of the church and, as always, there will be more to come.

Ken Gullotti

## Needham Community Blood Drive

Friday, October 22nd, 2010  
1:00 PM—6:00 PM  
The Village Club  
83 Morton Street

*For an appointment, please call  
1-800-RED Cross  
Or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)*

Let's go to the movies...

Our Next Movie Night  
Is scheduled for  
November 12th

*Save the date!*

*See your November  
SPIRE for  
Movie details!!!*



### P is for Pray

Sunday came with the cool dampness of a September morning, when the days are too short to keep the alpine grasses green. We gathered at our church, with its white spire crowned by a cross, with its hand-carved doorway, with its shingled roof. Beside the church, a little at the back under spreading trees, was the graveyard. The graves were marked by weathered crosses, marking the resting places of pioneers who first settled this place called Climax. The wooded hill rose behind these graves and stretched away towards the vast, unexplored wilderness.

All at once we struck the mountain trace that climbed upward towards the cathedral in the pines. Reverend Baker walked ahead, bible in hand, then Deacon Garrett; and lastly Robert Hale watched for stragglers among our spiritual family—the universal church. The dawn was dark and foreboding, with rain showers from time to time. And when we spoke, we talked softly.

The woods rose in rough glory, every light lending its hues of color. Ancient-looking trees teemed in damp gullies and on stream-banks, forming the wild forest. Here are true temples with tree-shafts pointed and aspiring. The mists weighed heavily on the evergreens of the slopes and hid the ridges. It was dead-calm; every feature mirrored perfectly in the small glacial lake on whose shore we sat, as if in an amphitheater.

And so we came to our place of worship.

Rev. Baker stood on an immense white boulder and began his sermon, which was called “Prayer—A Spiritual Communion with God.” Davy took mental notes. It seemed to him that there are four facets to prayer.

Daily Prayer: The secret of a close relationship with God is to pray to him earnestly each morning, when our minds are freer from problems and then

we can commit the whole day to God. Regular communication helps any friendship. Davy wondered if he truly had set aside a regular time to pray.

Discipline: Pray every day, no matter what, for prayer is your lifeline to God. Don’t let your prayer time be interrupted by the pressure of your schedule or by threats.

Spontaneity: Daily prayer establishes an intimate relationship with God. If we want to reach God with our emergency prayers, we need to take time to cultivate a strong relationship with God through times of in-depth prayer.

Finding Time to Pray: Take Jesus’ attitude of regular communion with the Father. Seek the Lord before your busy schedule takes over your thoughts. Determine to pray on a more regular basis, even if you have to get up very early in the morning to do it. And withdraw from noise and demands so you can focus on God, which is exactly why Church of Christ members came to this wilderness cathedral.

Yes, thought Davy, building a strong relationship with God through daily prayer is important. But what about building them with other Christians? And then Rev. Baker spoke, as if to answer, “Gather others around you by giving yourself away to them: sharing and caring, sorrowing, rejoicing, and praying together.”

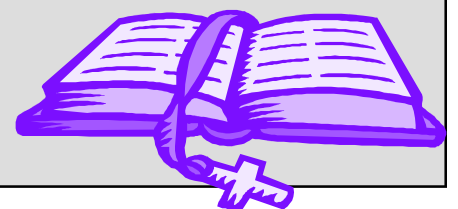
Strong relationships are brought together through worship, seeded through outreach, explained through bible reading, enhanced through church service, built with others through hospitality, nurtured through talent and treasures investment, and built with God through daily prayer. So, W-O-R-S-H-I-P the Lord and express your praise and devotion.

P is for pray: Pray daily.

by Andrew Thoresen

# Join Us! The People's Bible Study

Sunday Mornings at 9:00 AM  
In the Coombs Lounge



# October is World Missions Month

## At the First Baptist church in Needham

Please use the envelopes provided in the pews starting on October 10th to give your gift to International Ministries! Stay at church on October 24th after Worship to see the presentation that our own Missions Board will give regarding Missions efforts in the world today!

IN HAITI AND IN THE WORLD



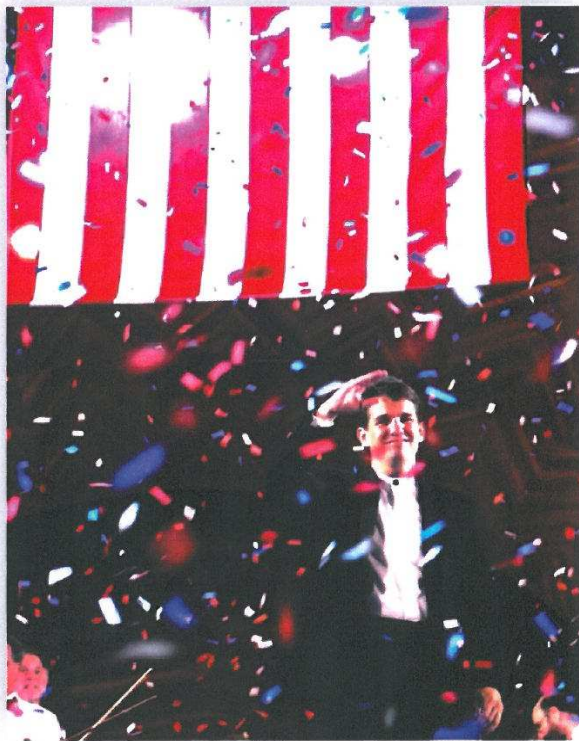
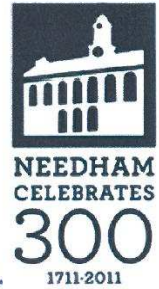
We have coin boxes for children to make donations to the missions effort, too. Find them on the table in the Vestry!



[www.worldmissionoffering.org](http://www.worldmissionoffering.org)



# Needham's Night at the Pops



Keith Lockhart and the  
Boston Pops celebrate  
Needham's  
300th Birthday  
with a  
special performance at  
Boston Symphony Hall.

*Saturday,  
June 11, 2011  
8 pm*

Tickets on sale now.

Order forms located at [www.Needham300.org](http://www.Needham300.org)  
or available at

Roche Brothers, Sudbury Farms, Needham Town Offices or  
The Needham Bank.

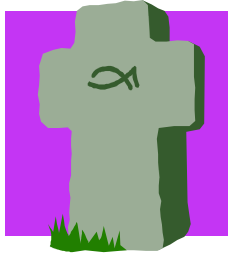
**or pick up your order  
forms from the  
church office!**

A signature event of

**Needham's Tercentennial Celebration**



# Caring and Calling



During the month of September, we prayed for **Margaret Nichols** and her family after the

passing of her husband, **Paul**.

We prayed for **Martine Taylor's** friend **Larry** whose tumors are getting worse and treatments don't seem to be working.

We prayed for **Karina Fontanez** who is struggling with bad symptoms because of post cancer treatments and for **Sandra Evans' sister Denise Alves** who has been struggling with dialysis and contracted a staff infection and pneumonia.

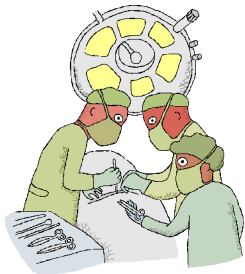
We also prayed for **Lee Wayne Thomas** who returned to the hospital this month, and for travelling mercies for **James Thomas** when he went to visit him.

We prayed for **Elsie Kent** who was in the hospital this month, and for **Cindi Toto** who had a brief hospital stay also.



We prayed for **Mark Morehead, Jean and Jim Morehead's** son, who because of a fall required surgery—and we prayed again in thanksgiving when we heard he was doing better.

We prayed for **Martine Taylor's** friend **Lance Eskelund**



who had triple bypass surgery and we are grateful that he is on the road to recovery.

We prayed for our sister, **Annette Fenton**, who had surgery this month and we continue to pray for **Jeannette Tanner** who has respiratory problems and now requires oxygen.

We prayed for **Jeff Kinne**, who threw his back out.

We prayed for **Jean and Jim Morehead** as they return to the mission field.



We continued to pray for **Connie Marsland**, and for **Myrtle Jennings**, that God will give her all that she needs.

We prayed for **Reverend Jack Fassett**, who is at home and for **Olive Molter** who is at Briarwood.

We prayed for **Minister Sandra's** father, **Polynice Dorsainvil** who continues to struggle every day, and for her mother, **Paulette**, who travelled here to visit with **Minister Sandra**.

We prayed in celebration with **Karen Campanella**, whose new grandson, **Logan Anthony Tripician** was born to **Wendy and Nick Tripician** and we prayed in celebration with **Ken Gullotti**, whose



daughter **Rebecca** and her husband **Steve** will be making him a grandfather for the third time in the spring.

We also prayed for **Tracy Gee**, although it is with sadness that we see her being transferred to Arizona, we are grateful that she is going with God.



We also prayed for all who needed God's strength and love and we continue to pray in thanksgiving for all our blessings, large and small, even when we feel we are undeserving.



## October Birthdays

Marilyn Blake	October 11
Sandra Evans	October 11
Ed Boyd	October 11
Jon Kingsbury	October 13
Sande Lafaver	October 15
Jeff Kinne	October 19
Clifford Kurker	October 19
Marty Fassett	October 25
Elsie Kent	October 26

NEEDHAM BUSINESS

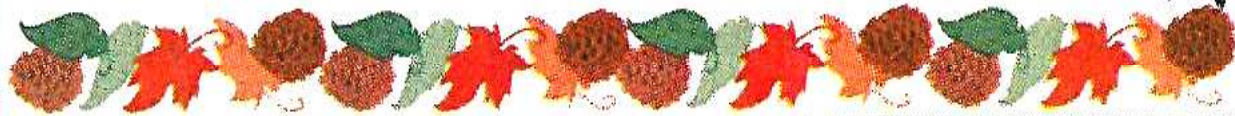
**NBA**  
ASSOCIATION

*Save  
the  
Date!*

# 2010 Harvest Fair

Saturday, Oct. 2nd, 10–3pm  
Memorial Field

*Rain Date  
Oct. 3rd  
12–5pm*



- Live Entertainment
- DPW Touch the Trucks
- 100+ Vendors
- Give-Away Items
- Pony Rides
- Souper Bowl Contest
- Kids Crafts & Games
- Trolley Rides
- Food Court
- Pumpkin Patch

## GRAND SPONSORS

 **BRIARWOOD HEALTHCARE  
REHABILITATION CENTER**  
AT 150 LINCOLN STREET

 **Needham Bank**  
Member FDIC

## GOLD SPONSOR

 **RCN**  
Caring Home Care

## SILVER SPONSOR

 **Roche Bros.**  
Your family deserves the best.

## WATER SPONSORS

 **Dedham Savings**  
Your Bank

 **North Hill**  
LIVE WELL



Heya my brothers and sisters in Jesus!

As you are well aware, I began my field education with you a few weeks ago, and it has been brought to my attention that many of you are interested in getting to know the student minister who will be with you for the next school year. Unfortunately, I

am not the most interesting of people. I went to school in upstate NY (Elmira College) where I studied Psychology and World Religions/Philosophy. In college, I began to realize that my Ultimate Truth may not be the only valid Ultimate Truth, which fascinates me to this day. Because of that, interfaith work is near and dear to my heart, especially working with our Jewish brothers and sisters. Most of my courses this term revolve around Jewish-Christian relations.

What is the Good news? That through Jesus, we are one and are freed from the separation of God and man. Believing the Gospel is great, but living the Gospel, I think, is the ultimate goal we have as Believers. For me, the ministry of Jesus was one of hospitality, which is something I intend to begin to take as my own. God is always preparing us for what He has in store for us. I have worked with Friendly's for a little over 6 years, and while I had no idea when I first began, it has transformed the

way I look at life. In a restaurant, one's sole purpose is to serve the other. This is what Jesus calls us to accomplish in all that we do. Of course, like any other good Baptist, I have learned to live the Good News through food.

I live in Boston (Mission Hill) with my Fiancé, Tim, and our pet tortoise, Raphael. If you were wondering if he is named after the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle, then snaps for you because you are correct. We enjoy going to the park together where he can roam in the grass and I am able to talk with God. Leaving my family and friends back in RI was difficult, but being taken out of my comfort zone has definitely deepened my faith over the past year. I am hoping that you will grow with me over the course of the year as we experience Jesus together.

I realize that this is a very small snap-shot of me as a person because I wouldn't want you to know everything about me in an article. You have a diving board off which we can converse and get to know one another together. Any time you see me, please feel free to stop me; while I enjoy speaking, I am a seasoned listener as well. We can set up a date to meet any time you are free my brothers and sisters, and if you can't seem to get a hold of me, just leave me a message in the church office. I'd love to talk with you about why Jesus is my homeboy, and to learn how He has moved in your life.

Shalom

Kyle Larginha

## ***The First Baptist Church*** ***Women's Retreat***

**"A Time to be Refreshed & Renewed"**

**Friday and Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Ocean Park, Maine**

**Minister Sandra Dorsainvil, facilitator**

**Reserve your spot with \$15.00 payment made out to**

**Jonathan Wright-Gray**

**"..you are God's temple and God's Spirit lives in you" (1 Cor 3:16)**



# October, 2010



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2 Needham Harvest Fair and "Soup-er" Bowl
3 Joyful Noise & Bible Study 9:00; Worship Service 10:00	4	5 Board of Christian Education 7:30 PM	6	7 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	8	9
10 Joyful Noise & Bible Study 9:00; Worship Service 10:00, Music Committee	11	12 Board of Trustees 7:30 PM	13 Worship Service at Briarwood 10:00 AM	14 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	15	16
17 Joyful Noise & Bible Study 9:00; Worship Service 10:00	18	19 Board of Deacons 5:30 PM	20	21 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	22	23
24 Joyful Noise & Bible Study 9:00; Worship Service 10:00 <i>world missions sunday</i>	25	26 Executive Committee 7:30	27	28 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	29	30
31 Joyful Noise & Bible Study 9:00; Worship 10:00 <b>HAPPY HALLOWEEN</b>						

**Sundays**

- Joyful Noise Sunday School (9:00am)
- The People's Bible Study (9:00 am)
- Sunday Worship Service (10:00 am, Sanctuary)
- Music Committee Meeting (2nd Sunday of the month)
- Board of Missions Meeting (Sunday following Board of Trustees meeting)

**Tuesdays**

- Board meetings (all begin at 7:30pm)
- 1st Tuesday —Christian Ed Board
  - 2nd Tuesday — Board of Trustees
  - 3rd Tuesday- Executive Meeting
  - 4th Tuesday — Deacons Meeting\*



**Thursdays**

- Adult Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm)

Join us each week at Carter Memorial Methodist Church for our BREAD OF LIFE suppers  
Tuesday evenings at 5:30 PM

**Regularly Scheduled Events**

# Calling all bakers!!!

The Missions Board is having a **bake sale** for the benefit of our **BREAD OF LIFE** program.

Held in conjunction with Carter Memorial's pumpkin sale, we'll be selling baked goods on Saturday, October 16th! Bring your baked goods to the copy room at Carter Memorial by Friday, October 15th – We're also looking for volunteers to man the bake sale on Saturday, the 16th!

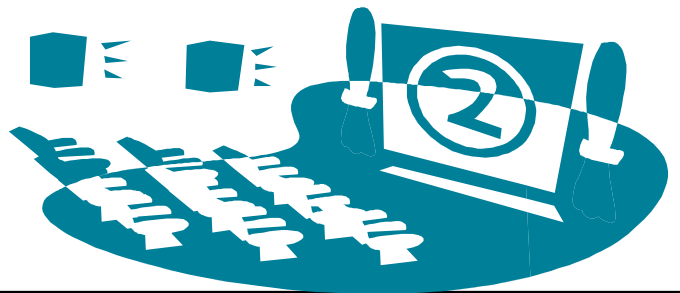
**Call Ken at the church office for more information!**

# the movies!



Members from the Missions Ministry turned the function room at Seabed's Way into a movie theatre on Sunday September 26th! With popcorn and soft drinks, we presented the movie, "Aliens in the Attic" to sixteen elated children. It was an afternoon of laughter, fellowship and local mission activity! Truly, a blessing for all who attended.

Don't miss our next movie event at FBC - on Friday night, November 12th, we'll be bringing our Movie Night back to our Vestry - stay tuned for more details!



# Thank you!

(the following letter was sent to our church in response to the donation made by the children of the 2010 VBS program. -Ed.)

September 8, 2010

Dear Rev. Jackson:

Thank you for your donation to Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research. Our mission is to achieve excellence in the rehabilitation of injured, orphaned, oiled native wild birds, with the goal of returning healthy birds to their natural environment. We have 34 years of experience in providing life saving service to compromised wildlife and being an invaluable resource for people who care about animal welfare.

Your gift will help support our important work, which includes caring for over 3,000 wild birds every year in our clinic, responding to the tragic consequences of oil spills nationally and internationally, and helping us make advances in the field of wildlife

rehabilitation.

While our direct expenses for the current oil spill response on the Gulf Coast will be covered as part of our contract with BP, your donation to Tri-State will help ensure that we can continue our programs for years to come. We were prepared and able to quickly respond to this recent disaster because people like you, who care about wildlife, contribute to us each year.

We appreciate your kindness and look forward to your continued caring and support to keep our native wildlife alive and thriving in an increasingly urbanized world!

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Elzey  
Director of Development





## The First Baptist Church in Needham

858 Great Plain Avenue  
Needham, MA 02492

Phone: 781-400-5867

We are a church that loves, welcomes and seeks the will of God in all that we do

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WE ARE ON THE WEB  
[WWW.FBCNEEDHAM.ORG](http://WWW.FBCNEEDHAM.ORG)

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### Sundays

- 9:00 People’s Bible Study
- 9:00 Joyful Noise Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship Service

### Tuesdays

- 7:30 Board Meetings
- 

### Thursdays

- 7:00 Adult Choir Rehearsal

### Church Office Hours:

Monday thru Thursday - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Friday - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

### Staff

Ministers: All the People of the Church.

Pastor: The Reverend Debora Jackson  
[pastor@fbcneedham.org](mailto:pastor@fbcneedham.org)

Admin. Asst: Ken Gullotti

Music Minister: Matt Harrison

Student Minister: Kyle Larginha

Minister Emeritus:  
The Reverend Gordon C. Swan

Email: [1stbaptistchurchneedham@comcast.net](mailto:1stbaptistchurchneedham@comcast.net)