

The Spire



The First Baptist Church in Needham

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Relevant and Engaging for All

The Christian Youth Conference (CYC) is holding a Worship Event on November 13th, from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the First Baptist Church in Needham. In promoting the event, CYC organizers ask a provocative question: "Ever wonder if traditional worship can be evolved to be relevant and engaging to all generations?"

It is a great question. However in its phrasing, we immediately see an issue. The supposition of the question is that traditional worship is not relevant and engaging to certain generations. Sadly, this is true. We need only to observe attendance patterns in many of our churches, void of people under 40, to see the truth in this statement. So then what is it that makes traditional worship less than relevant and engaging to some?

Consider traditional worship. We begin with an organ prelude. Ask yourself, other than church where do you hear the organ played? From the very beginning of the worship, we see a disconnect with younger generations. Organ music holds no resonance for them. Then consider the hymnody. In our traditional worship, the favorite hymns may be 100 to 200 years old. That is another disconnect.

Then there is the sermon. It is delivered from an elevated platform denoting the authority of the preacher. The sermonic moment is traditionally held as uninterrupted sacred time. There should be nothing that distracts our attention. Regardless of the length of the sermon, all worshippers should remain focused on the preacher.

This may be the biggest disconnect of all. In this instantaneous, multi-tasking society, coupled with the pop and flash of the post MTV generation, it is irrational to believe that younger generations might be engaged by the traditional sermon. Consider the average collegiate: they listen to an iPod during studying, while simultaneously responding to an instant message on the computer and a text message on their cell phone. Gone are the days where we are solely and singly focused on one thing. So is it unreasonable to ask younger generations to sit and remain focused during a 20 minute sermon? My bias says that it is not; however, when they do not pay that kind of focused attention to anything else in life, why would they give their undivided attention to a sermon?



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From the Desk of the Pastor



I recently had the job of helping to clear an apartment. It was an intensely personal and humbling experience. Imagine sorting and sifting through someone's life. What do you keep? What do you discard? How do you determine that what someone kept for years is now unworthy of preservation? How might it be when the same thing happens to you? Will someone know that the crumpled note tucked in a folder was a poem that your child wrote to you when in second grade or will they simply cast that into the recycle bin as one more piece of trash? It was an exercise that

gave me great pause and reason for reflection.

I am reminded of one of the favorite solos from the church of my youth. The lyrics simply said:

You may build great cathedrals large or small. You can build skyscrapers grand and tall. You may conquer all the failures of your past, but only what you do for Christ will last.

These words had new meaning for me this week. So often in our lives, we don't have the choices and the freedoms that we celebrate. We grow old and our capacity to go and do for ourselves is impacted. As Jesus said to Peter, "Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out

your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." This was my experience of this week. Individual freedom was not exercised. As a result of old age, decisions were made, and now I was emptying an apartment, discarding a lifetime of memories.

Stuff and things do not last. What is important to me might be rubbish to you. Moreover, as Benjamin Franklin said, "If you desire many things, many things will seem few." Instead, we need to focus on things eternal. Truly only what we do for Christ will last. Only what we do for him will be counted and kept at the end.



Relevant and Engaging for All (continued)

So what is engaging for younger generations? When we look at the churches that are thriving, the answers seem to be found in several areas. First is the casual nature of worship where all are equals and worshipers are encouraged to come as they are. Furthermore, preachers do not preach to them, but rather engage them in conversation.

Secondly, is the music. Rather than hearing from instruments of bygone centuries, younger generations appreciate hearing voice, guitar, keyboards and drums with a message in the music that is not high and lofty, but demonstrates personal relationship with God.

Thirdly, younger generations appreciate sensory stimulation. Video, lights, music, color and art

all need to be a part of the worship experience so that the mind, body and soul can be engaged.

Fourth, younger generations want community. They want to come together to be energized for a purpose. They want a sense of mission and involvement. They want to be meaningfully engaged. It is not enough to just gather on a Sunday, hear the preached word and sip a cup of coffee during the fellowship.

So here is the challenge. We know enough about what engages younger generations and what it would take to evolve traditional worship into something that is relevant for them. The question is whether we are interested in making the changes necessary. We say that we are, but deep change

is hard to do. Not everyone is happy with change and often, especially in our churches, we cater to the loudest voices of dissent. The result is that we either revert back to how things were or neuter our efforts such that the changes become ineffective.

Clearly we need to find a way to bridge the gap. We need to find a way to change our methods so that all generations would be engaged in worship, while never compromising on our message. We preach Christ crucified. That is our hope of salvation and redemption and that message remains unaltered. But like our God who will do a new thing in our midst, we need to be just as willing to do that new thing as well.

?

Update from Samuel Stillman Association

The Samuel Stillman Association held its Fall Gathering on Sunday, October 21st at the First Baptist Church in Boston. The churches of the association gathered for worship, a business meeting and a fellowship meal. The First Baptist Church in Needham was represented by Pastor Debora and Minister Sandra Dorsainvil as a delegate.

Pastor Debora was the preacher for the worship. Her sermon title was "They Had All Things in Common", which was inspired by the scriptures found in Acts 2:44-47. In her sermon, Pastor Debora noted that like the first century church, we as churches ought to have all things in common, but we do not. As a result, our churches are languishing independently rather than thriving collectively. However, we have the opportunity to come together as the body of Christ and by doing so, we will

thrive, grow and increase, just as God desired us to do.

For the business meeting, delegates ratified the membership of International Community Church of Allston, a church whose active status had lapsed in recent years.

The second item of business was to welcome Rev. Frank Armstrong as the new Samuel Stillman Association Coordinator. He was formerly of First Baptist Church in Watertown. In this new role, Rev. Armstrong will work with churches who seek renewal.

Thirdly, we heard appeals for volunteers. A new initiative called Links is seeking volunteers for missions, camps and conferences and family life. If there is interest in serving, please contact Pastor Debora.

The business meeting concluded with updates and announcements. Rev. Mikel Satcher, Association Moderator,

appointed Pastor Debora to lead a new initiative on Leadership. The organist of Tremont Temple announced that they are hosting a Messiah Sing on December 12th with a full orchestra. They would like to assemble a combined choir from the association churches. Contact Pastor Debora if you are interested in singing. Trinity Baptist Church of Arlington announced that they are hosting a Missionorama on November 6th. They will also lead a gathering for Social Justice on January 11th. Old Cambridge will have a brunch featuring a talk by a veterans from the conflict in Afghanistan on November 14th.

Our meeting ended with special presentations from Scott Ridlon, First Baptist Church of Lexington, talking about Mission Explosion in Tibet and a History of the First Baptist Church in Boston by Earl Norman.

Update from the Needham Clergy Association

The Needham Clergy Association held its monthly meeting on October 26th at Christ Episcopal Church. The agenda was full with much accomplished.

We heard from Amy Kennedy of Baby Basics. Her non-profit organization has recently begun operations in the Congregational Church. They distribute diapers to families who need assistance. If you know anyone who has need, please contact the church.

We also heard from Joanne Allen Willoughby, METCO Director of Needham Schools regarding the MLK program. The clergy agreed that sponsorship and

ownership for an MLK Day observance must come from the Needham Clergy. Ramin Abrishman, Baha'i representative, will lead our efforts. We hope to initiate a year of programming focused on improving race relations in our community.

Holly Hartman of Christ Episcopal shared the Haitian mission of the church. She and her husband have been serving in Haiti for the last seven years. The church is offering Creole language classes starting in January for people traveling to Haiti.

Grace Lutheran shared information about the Needham

Empty Bowls Project, which will be held on Thursday, March 10, 2011. The program brings awareness to the issue of hunger in Needham and raises money for the Needham Community Council. We will continue share information about this important program.

We also discussed the Interfaith Dialogue Dinner that the clergy will be sponsoring. We agreed that we will begin this event in February as an opportunity to share our faiths over a fellowship meal.

* * *

BOARD UPDATES

Missions Board

Walk into the First Baptist Church during the month of October and there was evidence – almost everywhere you look – that your Missions Board has been very busy. And that’s a good thing!

One look at the table in the Vestry, and you see all the things we have been involved in lately: our own church cookbook, sales of items from the Murrow Children’s Home, our Bread of Life ministry with Carter Memorial Methodist Church, our support of local Massachusetts Missionaries, and especially our support for and involvement with our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

And speaking of Haiti, we now have 10 people who have volunteered to go as missionaries to Haiti in November of 2011.

We are very excited about this as it has only been a few weeks since Minister Sandra presented her video presenta-

tion on our desire to go “in person” to help our brothers and sisters in dire need since the earthquake. The first meeting of our missionaries has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 20th.

We also want to take a moment to thank every one who made donations to our bake sale that was held at Carter Memorial on October 16. It was a great success. And a special THANK YOU to **Dorothy Kinne** and **Sande Lafaver** for their telephone brigade!!!

And don’t forget our movie afternoon at the Chambers Street Community Room on Sunday, November 7th at 2:00 PM. Our Movie Afternoon at Seabed’s Way was such an overwhelming success that we wanted to continue the effort! Please consider joining us. After all, it’s nice to get out with friends and go see a movie!!!

Board of Deacons

Since the changes made by the FCC with regard to wire-

less microphone transmission, Deacons John List and Ken Gullotti have been working with the company that sold us the original wireless microphones 5 years ago. With a proposal being presented to the Memorials and Gifts committee, we hope to have wireless transmitters back in our sanctuary by Thanksgiving.

Regarding Hospitality, the Deacons have decided to try a two greeter process on Sunday mornings on a regular basis starting in November. One, stationed by the front doors, to welcome people into our church before they go up to the Sanctuary, and the second upstairs in the Narthex, to greet people, hand them their FBC badges, and a bulletin. We believe this is one very easy way to assist in making all people feel welcome when we come to church.

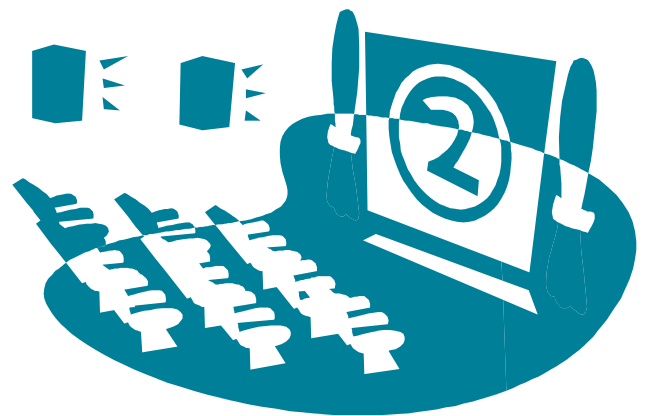
Ken Gullotti

the movies!

Everyone is welcome!



Members from the Missions Ministry turned the function room at Seabed’s Way into a movie theatre on Sunday September 26th!



Well, we’re going to do it again—this time at the Chambers Street Community Room on Sunday, November 7th at 2:00 PM. We’ll be showing the movie, **“The Note”**, a family film good for adults as well as children.

November is Stewardship Month

In Genesis 2:4, we see a second account of the creation narrative. When God created the earth and heavens, no plant or herb of the field had grown. Why, because God had not caused it to rain given that there was no one to till the ground. It was not until God created humanity that the earth flourished. From the beginning, God intended that humanity would care for his creation. God, from the very beginning, intended that humanity would till the earth and keep it, being stewards of what had been given.

That command to be stewards has not changed. God has given us so much: food to eat, shelter for protection, clothing for our bodies, relationships for companionship and countless other blessings. In exchange for what God has given us, there is an expectation that we would be good stewards. In short, we are expected to care for that which we have been given.

But there is more to it than that. In addition to taking care of what we have been given, we have a responsibility to give back because of what we have been

given. Luke made that quite clear in his writings. He said, “From everyone to whom much is given, much is required and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.” Thus we have an imperative to be good stewards of what we have been given and give back generously as a result of the bounty that we have been given.

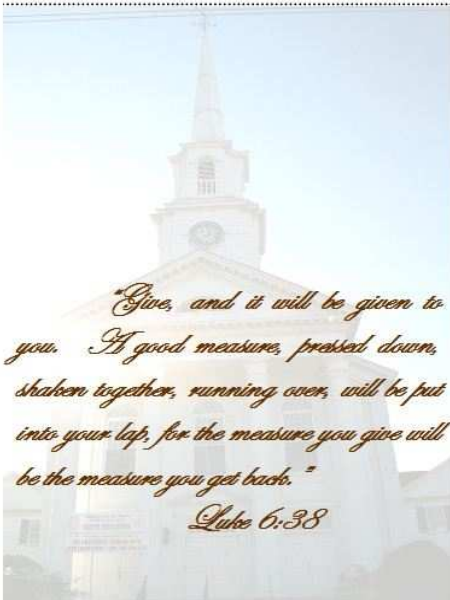
Yet, there is more. Be good stewards, yes. Give back as God has given to you, yes. And do so cheerfully. As Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians, God loves a cheerful giver. In fact, we are supposed to have a spirit of hilarity when we give back to God. Why, because as the old hymn says, “You can’t beat God giving”. The more you give to God, the more God gives to you. That ought to put a smile on your face.

Now these are important thoughts when we turn our attention to Stewardship. It would be easy to talk about how expensive it is to run the church, but that’s a secular argument. If we approach this from a faith perspective, we recognize that first, God

gave us this church for our care and keeping. And just as the earth was dormant until humanity was there to care for it, so too will our church be dormant if we do not care for it. Secondly, we’ve been given much. In these times, we still have a beautiful church home with a full program of ministry activities. God has given us much, so we must give much back to God. And in our giving, we must do so cheerfully, because God has promised for those who give, they will receive a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.

November is Stewardship Month. We need your pledges in support of this church. Our prayer is that you would pledge your gifts and give generously, just as God has given to you. Please return your pledge cards to the church by US mail or email to the office on or before November 21st. You may also submit your pledge cards during worship on November 21st at our Ingathering.

* * *



The First Baptist Church in Needham

I declare my intention to give my time, talent and treasure to the work of Christ through my Church.

Name: _____

I Pledge:

\$ _____ Per Week for local services and expenses

\$ _____ Per Week for missions of help throughout the world

\$ _____ Per Week for the capital improvement fund

\$ _____ Total Per Week

There's a Meeting Here Tonight!



Starring
Our Own
Jacobs Thomas

March 5, 2011

@ 7:00 PM

At Pollard Middle School Auditorium

Tickets: \$5 adults/ children under 12 free!

This is the story of New England's Hutchinson Family Singers
In Spirituals and Songs of Emancipation, Women's Suffrage
and the Civil War!

Check it out at WWW.revels.org

Ingathering Sunday

Sunday, November 21st

Come on Sunday, November 22nd with your food items. We have been asked to bring

- Potatoes
- Yams
- Squash
- Oranges
- Apples
- Carrots
- Cranberries
- Onions
- Celery
- Nuts
- Gravy

Let's decorate our chancel this year with a shower of blessings for our brothers and sisters in Needham. And for our brothers and

sisters in Haiti, please be generous and include any of the following in your ingathering gifts:

- razors
- Bar soap (full size)
- Washcloth
- Deodorant (full size)
- Toothbrush
- Floss
- Hand sanitizer (travel size)
- Comb
- Band-aides

Thank you so much for your generosity!



Caring and Calling

During the month of November, we prayed for the ABC missionaries and for the hundreds of communities being affected by the flooding and landslides because of the heavy rains in Mexico.



We prayed for our brothers and sisters in Haiti affected by the terrible breakout of Cholera.

We prayed for the miners who were rescued in Chile and for their families as well as their rescuers.

Martine Taylor asked us to pray for her friend Larry whose tumors are getting larger and treatments don't seem to be working.

We prayed for Minister Sandra's friend Karina Fontanez who has been struggling because of post-cancer treatments.

We also prayed for Lee Wayne Thomas who is still in ill health and needs our prayers.



We prayed for travelling mercies for Paulette Dorsainvil, Minister Sandra's mother, and especially for her respite while she was visiting here. We also prayed for Minister Sandra's father, Polynice Dorsainvil all month and in celebration for the new school being built in his honor.

We prayed for Jeannette Tanner who has been struggling with breathing problems and needs the use of oxygen.



We prayed for Peg Reagan's brother, David Beatty in new York who underwent cardiac stent surgery and is now in recovery.

We prayed for Adel Hodeling, who is not well, and for Olive Molter and her sons Gene and Ron, that God will take care of them.

We also prayed for Myrtle Jennings, who was having difficulty with her surroundings.



We prayed for the Bread of Life Ministry and its volunteers, that they will see a new Food Coordinator soon.

We prayed for Shawl and Julie Lobree who are expecting their second child soon. We also prayed for travelling mercies and in celebration for Karen Campanella as she visited her new grandson, Logan Anthony Tripician.



We prayed for Tracy Gee as her job takes her to Arizona for an extended period of time. We'll miss her but we know that God is with her.

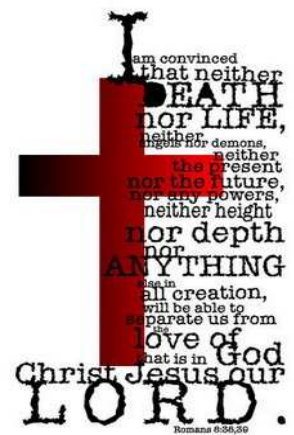
We prayed for Lance Eskalund, Martine Taylor's friend. We glory in the miracle that he is with us and on the long road of recovery after his

bypass surgery.

We prayed for Elsie Kent, who celebrated her 96th birthday and for all our members who had October birthdays.

And since October was World Missions Month, we prayed for all our Ministries, that God will always grant us the fortitude to move forward, the knowledge to make the right decisions and the sensitivity to be able to see where our needs are.

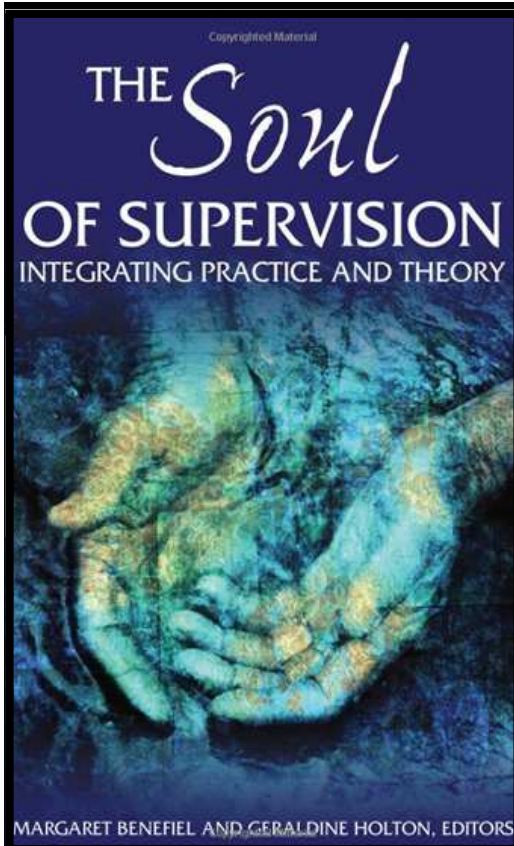
We continue to pray in thanksgiving for all our blessings, large and small, even when we feel we are undeserving.



November Birthdays



Gloria Beall	Nov. 4
Gil Lafaver	Nov. 10
Muriel harris	Nov. 10
Carolyn Jackson	Nov. 11
Roger Brown	Nov. 12



The Soul of Supervision

Congratulations, Pastor Debora, contributing author to the newly released book, *The Soul of Supervision*, edited by Margaret Benefiel and Geraldine Holton.

Pastor Debora authored Chapter 3, “Nurturing Ministerial Leadership through Supervision”. The chapter presents a process by which supervisees might be nurtured into leadership with supervision that is spiritually grounded .

Books can be purchased through Amazon.com through the following link: http://www.amazon.com/Soul-Supervision-Integrating-Practice-Theory/dp/081922376X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1287840613&sr=8-1

Of course Pastor Debora is available to sign copies!!!

Needham 300 Kick Off Weekend!

November 5-7 marks the kick off of the Needham Tercentennial Celebration. Highlights of the kick off festivities include:

Friday

Rockets Football Game screening of 100 Years of Needham Football, 6:00 PM, Memorial Field

Saturday

Rotary Pancake Breakfast, 7:00 AM, Newman
Grand Promenade, 5:15 PM, Greene’s Field
Time Capsule Opening, 8:00 PM, Memorial Park

Sunday

Old Fashion Ice Cream Social, 2:00 PM, North Hill



NEEDHAM
CELEBRATES
300
1711-2011



Calling all Younger Adults

What is it that we are looking for in terms of a worship experience? If you're between the ages of 18 and 40, I would like your input on what we can do as a smaller segment of the congregation to make worship more meaningful for each of us. Worship and service are synonymous, so through acts of service, we can come closer to God. I know that personally, I feel myself communing with God when I'm helping others, whether that is providing a warm meal, helping to build a house, or some other outreach you may be able to think of. This does not mean, however, that this is the route we have to go when thinking about coming together in worshipful service. The goal is to try to create something that would be appealing to our generation of peers, bringing them back to the church with us.

In high school and college, our youth group developed a community coffee house (He-brew's) in the church dining space. It was an intimate place for people to come one Friday per month to share their talents of music, poetry, and comedy with any who might have walked in the doors. More important than that, it was one Friday night per month that we were able to offer a sanctuary from drugs and alcohol that were an issue in my hometown. From six to nine, fellow teenagers and college students would join us for free food and drinks, free entertainment, and free community togetherness. After each coffee house session, we also invited everyone to stay with us for a casual

Bible reading and discussion; usually over half would stay, not to participate, but rather, to hear what others had to say.

This may not be something that we are interested in here in Needham, but we can find some way to bring our faith to the foreground so others will not only recognize it, but will want to get some of their own. I truly need your help with this endeavor. How do you want people to know that you are a Christian? Do you want them to know? YES! We're proud of our family of believers that we have become an integral part of, and want to bring others into that family. Please let me know any suggestions or ideas you may have pertaining to how we can make worship more meaningful for us, because only when we are intensely passionate about the worship will others begin to be interested in what we are doing.

I look forward to hearing from you in the next few weeks my friends. I hope we can begin to meet to discuss our options and hopes for coming together in a different way to serve God, a way that would open the doors for someone who wasn't raised in the church to feel welcomed into God's kingdom. Our worship service is a great way of communion for believer and God, only to the extent that it remains real to the person. We're a generation of doers...let's service others for God!

Shalom

Minister Kyle

Please email Minister Kyle with any interest:

pklarguinha@gmail.com

Join Us! The People's Bible Study

Sunday Mornings at 9:00 AM
In the Coombs Lounge





November, 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <i>C.E Board Meeting</i>	3 <i>Bread & Broth 6:30 PM</i>	4 <i>Praise Team and Adult Choir rehearsals</i>	5	6
7 <i>Communion Sunday- movie at Chambers St.</i>	8	9 <i>Board of Trustees Meeting.</i>	10 <i>Bread & Broth 6:30 PM</i>	11 <i>Praise Team and Adult Choir rehearsals</i>	12 <i>Movie Night</i>	13 <i>CYC Gathering</i>
14 <i>CYC Worship—Music Committee -</i>	15	16 <i>Board of Deacons 5:30 PM</i>	17 <i>Bread & Broth 6:30 PM</i>	18 <i>Praise Team and Adult Choir rehearsals</i>	19 <i>Missions Board Meeting 12:30</i>	20 <i>Mission Trip Meeting</i>
21 <i>Ingathering Sunday</i>	22	23 <i>Executive Board</i>	24		26 <i>Church office is closed today</i>	27
28	29	30				

Regularly Scheduled Events

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

The First Baptist Church Women's Retreat

On Friday, Oct. 22, a small group of women from FBC traveled to Ocean Park, Maine for a time of retreat. Minister Sandra Dorsainvil led us in prayer, contemplation, discussion, revelation, and fellowship, as we explored a passage from Luke that cautions us not to hide our light beneath a basket. It was a glorious weekend! We stayed in a lovely home belonging to Martine Taylor's friends, surrounded by woods, with the scent of the ocean in the air.

We learned more about each other and about ourselves during fellowship at meals, discussing Scripture, and sharing our insights. And we had fun and lots of laughs, as we bemoaned forgetting the bacon, tripped over our feet as we danced to the Spirit, and tried to keep our feet dry (except for Diane) as we

walked the windy beach. We returned home refreshed and renewed, with plans to go again sometime this winter. We hope more women will take the opportunity to join us.

Anita Kinne



Each Wednesday, since October 20th, FBC has presented an evening bible study to get to know 6 of the great characters of the bible.



We've been sharing a corresponding soup that each character would have eaten during their lifetime on earth.

Come and be fed in body and spirit while we delve into God's Word together from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. We will skip November 24th for the Thanksgiving Holiday and return the following week.

The remaining weeks in this program are:

- November 3rd— Chicken Soup (Ken Gullotti)
- November 10th—Potato Soup (Yolanda Harris)
- November 17th—Beef Barley Soup (Clif Holbrook)
- December 1st—Lamb Stew (Minister Sandra
And Minister Kyle)

Please join us!!!

Let's go to the movies!

Our next MOVIE NIGHT is scheduled for Friday, November 12th at 6:30 PM in our Vestry!

Please join us as we enjoy pizza and chicken wings from Nicolas Pizza and view the movies:

“Temple Grandin” for the adults
And
“The Karate Kid 3” for the kiddies

We always have so much fun at our movie night!
C'mon along and have some fun!

See you there!





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

WE ARE ON THE WEB
WWW.FBCNEEDHAM.ORG

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

Admin. Asst: Ken Gullotti

Music Minister: Matt Harrison

Student Minister: Kyle Larginha

Minister Emeritus:
The Reverend Gordon C. Swan

Email: 1stbaptistchurchneedham@comcast.net