

The Spire



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The First Baptist Church in Needham

The Year of a Field Ed Student

Since September, the First Baptist Church in Needham has served as a Teaching Parish for Minister Kyle Larginha, Master of Divinity (MDiv), Field Education student at Andover Newton Theological School. Serving 15 hours per week over this nine-month period, Kyle has participated in the work of this church in order to learn ministry from a hands-on perspective. So what exactly does a Field Education student do?



Each spring, students who have reached the middle point of their MDiv programs seek placement in a church, Non-Government or Non-Profit Organization through which they can perform tasks and accomplish objectives that are in keeping with their learning goals and the call that God has placed on their lives. A traditional placement is that of a student serving in a church and frequently, the student is asked to serve in youth ministry. Our church has worked to balance the needs of the church with the desires of the student.

When Kyle came in September, he too voiced several desires regarding learning objectives. Kyle was interested in fostering a sense of hospitality as ministry that included meals, fellowshiping opportunities and visiting. He also wanted to meaningfully engage and study the Bible by participating in and leading Bible studies. Thirdly, Kyle hoped to structure a meaningful worship experience for

younger adults, ages 20 to 40. Finally, Kyle hoped to learn to lead and conduct worship as a leader. For this objective, Kyle had the opportunity to preach every six to eight weeks, provide leadership in worship and be responsible for submitting weekly sermon outlines.

To accomplish these tasks, a Field Education Student meets weekly with a Supervisor, who provides guidance and feedback. Pastor Debora serves as Kyle's supervisor. For those weekly meetings, the student writes what are called reflection papers on some aspect of the ministry in which he or she has recently engaged in order to consider the theological meanings related to that experience. The supervisor's role is that of reflection partner, lifting up insights during the weekly meetings.

An additional support to the student is the Teaching Parish Committee (TPC). The TPC meets monthly with the student and an serves as a

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From the Desk of the Pastor

When my father-in-law, Lee Wayne Thomas, passed on April 16, my husband asked me if I would participate in the service. You would think that this would be a simple request, but there was a hitch. My in-laws belong to a Primitive Baptist Church. The name Primitive Baptist became popular in the early 1800s and denoted “originality”. Thus these Baptists were ones who attempted to reclaim the original doctrines and practices of the New Testament Church, believing

that the New Testament Church was Baptist Church. Given these original practices, I was not recognized as a minister. Moreover, as a woman, I was not allowed to enter the pulpit.

For me, this was a great lesson and reminder of pride. I was rife with indignation, “What do you mean that I can’t be in the pulpit? Why did I have to stand at a lectern to pray and read scripture?” To suggest that I was a bit incensed would have been an understatement.

But Jesus reminds us that he did not come to be served but to serve. Moreover, Jesus said that if anyone wanted to be great, he

or she must be a servant and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. What was my role? Was it to be a help to my husband and family or was it to look like some big shot preacher from the north? More than that, was my role to get glory for myself or give God glory so that others might see him through me?

In the end, we had a wonderful home-going service for my father-in-law. I offered a prayer of invocation from the floor and then proceeded to read the Old Testament scripture as we opened the service. I did not enter the pulpit and it was alright. God got the glory.

The Year of a Field Ed Student (continued)

sounding board and advocate for the student. Kyle’s TPC includes Ken Gullotti, chairperson, Sandra Evans, Dianna List and John List.

This has been quite a busy year for Kyle, but one filled with many highlights and successes. Early on in this internship, Kyle led the “Bread and Broth” Bible study over simple meals of soup and bread. Kyle has taken our online ministry to new levels helping to populate the church’s YouTube channel with sermon clips. He also administered the church’s Facebook page. Kyle was also successful with his Lenten study for Young Adults. Initially envisioned as a home-based study group, Kyle shifted the location of the study to a dorm room at BC and watched this ministry flourish.

Kyle has also grown tremendously in his preaching. He has preached on a wide variety of top-

ics, some very challenging. Kyle has preached without a manuscript. He preached Ash Wednesday and even utilized our multimedia capabilities to help crystallize the meaning of a message on stewardship. For his last sermon as a Field Education Student, Kyle will lead us in Interfaith worship.

Sunday, May 15, marks Kyle’s last Sunday as a Field Education student. While we will undoubtedly see Kyle beyond May 15th, it is important for us to mark the end of this aspect of our relationship and celebrate with him a job well done. Thank you Minister Kyle for your ministry here with us.

As for our church, our hope is that we would continue to serve as a Teaching Parish. The First Baptist Church in Needham has had a long history and relationship with Andover Newton Theological School in securing semi-

nary students to serve the church. We experienced a long hiatus in the practice of engaging students until 2002 when we engaged a then-MDiv student to serve as our Youth Minister. Perhaps you know her...

In hopes that we do identify a student for next year, we also need to staff a new Teaching Parish Committee. This is rewarding work, where you avail yourself to meet with the student and provide nurture and guidance for two hours per month. Please speak to the pastor if you are interested in serving.

We are proud of the fact that we are a recognized Teaching Parish that welcomes Field education students to First Baptist Church in Needham. As we prepare ourselves for the 2011-2012 academic year, we hope that we can continue this legacy.

Annual Meeting

The church will hold its Annual meeting on Wednesday May 18th at 7:30 PM in the Coombs Lounge to act on the following business:

To receive and vote on the reports from all Officers, Boards, and Committees or take any action relating thereto.

To receive and vote on a report from the Pastor and the Nominating Committee concerning the future governance of the church or take any action relating thereto.

To see if the church will vote to “set aside” portions of the current by-laws which effect the election of Boards and Committees or take any action relating thereto.

To see if the church will vote to change specific language in the by-laws which will effect the election and numbers of specific Committees or take any action relating thereto.

To receive the report of the Nominating Committee and vote on the ballot as presented by that committee or take any action relating thereto.

To act on any other business that properly comes before the meeting and take any action relating thereto.

Cynthia Toto
Church Clerk

John List Sr.
Moderator

Thank you!

Our Bread of Life program relies on donations from many sources, including our wonderful restaurant partners, in order to provide a nourishing meal to those in need. We are so pleased that the following restaurant partners have continually supported this program. Please consider visiting these establishments and thanking them for their support!

Not Your Average Joe's
Sudbury Farms
Village Fish
Bertucci's
Starbuck's
(Newton St. and Highland Ave. locations)

Thank you so much!
Bread of Life Volunteers
Carter Memorial Methodist Church
The First Baptist Church in Needham



Save the Date!

On Sunday, June 26th, we will celebrate
MISSIONS SUNDAY

Our guest speakers this year are
Jim and Jean Morehead
Of Needham
Please be sure to attend!!!

Board Updates

Board of Missions

Your Board of Missions continues to do it's best to do God's work locally, nationally and internationally. When you think about it, that's quite a statement about our little committee. Remember, it wasn't too long ago that our Missions Board solicited donations and wrote checks. That's pretty much all we did. And yes, we still do a lot of that, but we also "get out there" and do, which is even better, don't you think?

For example, volunteers from our board, and from our church, assist each week in the Bread of Life ministry. To this date, we have served over **five hundred** meals—and that's only since last Fall!

We have supported the Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee, Oklahoma both with our monetary gifts and with our visits to physically help them.

And this year we have "adopted" one of the residents, Julee, as our "God-child" and will assist in her needs until she graduates from high school.

You may already know that we're sponsoring a Missions Trip to Haiti next November. Eleven people from Needham will be going to help at the Hope for the Children of Haiti (HFC) orphanage for eight days! Many fundraising activities have been planned between now and November to help defray the cost, so stay tuned to continue to see what we're up to. :)

We continue to show movies (and more) each month at Chambers Street and Seabed's Way. These are simply outreach activities that show our neighbors that we care. And isn't that what it's all about anyway?

So, the next time you make a contribution to your Mis-

sions Ministry, know that you give us the spark to do—in our neighborhood, for our friends in Muskogee, and for those in need in Haiti! And we do it all in His name!

Board of Deacons

We had a very successful Discipleship class recently which was attended by quite a few of our church membership. This series was particularly important for our newest member, **Annette Fenton**, who was here for each class and then was baptized on Easter Sunday! We would like to thank everyone who came to church on Easter Sunday to support her!

The Deacons continue to provide communion, prayer, and fellowship to our sick and homebound members each month.

As always, we appreciate your continued support.

Ken Gullotti

From our friend, Tracy Gee...



To My Church Family —
 I am adjusting to life in Tucson and continue to seek the Lord for guidance, love and companionship. I miss you all and continue to pray for each of you. My new information is above. I will be sure to come to worship when I get back home (not sure when yet) Your sister in Christ, Tracy

* Call the church office for Tracy's new address and phone #

From Minister Kyle

Much has happened in the life of this church and the blossoming of my ministry in the last few months. Since January, I have preached my first sermon without any notes, helped our youtube ministry to reach people both in Needham and half way around the world, and facilitated a well received off-site Bible study. I also wrote the Ash Wednesday service, which gave me the confidence to write a service with my Havruta partner, Marcie, which we are leading together May 1st. My final project as the student minister here will be a pot-luck dinner/Bible Study on how we can use hospitality in all aspects of our ministries—that it can go beyond the sharing of a meal together. Did I mention that I found the *right* to put a robe on? Yes...it has been a fruitful few months.

Sermon writing and delivery was something I came into this year believing that I knew how it was done—then I learned. I grew to have a relationship with the Word I hadn't known before, because I was forced to dig deeper into my own theological understanding of how things are, and how I reach such conclusions from the scripture we have before us. When Pastor Debora had mentioned that she wanted to see me do a sermon without notes by February in September, I thought she was crazy—there was no way I would ever be able to deliver a message without it written before me. With Minister Sandra and Pastor Debora working at me like sandpaper on a



freshly carved stool, I was able to smooth out anxiety and focus on that which is most important—Jesus. In February, I did it—gave my first sermon without notes. While I found that I do like to have notes in front of me, I was able to realize that I can rely on my notes much less than I had thought, so it becomes much more like a conversation with the congregation. This alone is something I would say is worthwhile about my time at FBC Needham, but there is much more.

In January, we multiplied our online ministries, revamping the youtube page and creating a facebook group page. We have gotten so much traffic on our youtube page, with people all over the nation and world viewing our sermons and music ministries, that we have been given the privilege of posting videos longer than 15 minutes, so we don't have to cut our sermons into separate parts anymore. People are being moved by the Word delivered through our church, and are starting conversations about what is preached, and asking questions of clarification—it has been wonderful.

On facebook, we are able to post Bible verses, words of encouragement, and information on people's walls, which enables us to be active via the way of today—social networking. It's very important that others take these ministries under their wings as their own, so we don't lose the momentum that has begun; you can bring the Good News of Jesus to people

you will never see face to face—that's amazing.

During Lent, I facilitated a Bible Study with students at BC which went better than I could have ever anticipated. The first week, I slacked off and fell asleep on the couch in the Upper Room, leaving Pastor Debora and Jadon at the house we were having the study in. Luckily, just as I had not shown up to the study, neither had anyone else, so I didn't feel as bad for sleeping through. The second week, we had a one-on-one session which lasted 6 hours. For the rest of Lent, we met in dorm rooms at BC, sharing mac and cheese and hot dogs (in different forms), the Word, and each other's understandings of Jesus' parables. Our attendance was phenomenal; 15, 35, 20, 24. At our last session on Palm Sunday, we met outside and the group had pointed out something I had not noticed—while most of the students hadn't owned a Bible when we first began meeting together, every one of the 24 present at our last session had bought a Bible for their continued reading. Praise Jesus for this wonderful outcome to studying His mighty Word. We are planning to meet up again next year for Lenten Study part two.

Ash Wednesday marked a new endeavor for me—writing the service. A prayer here, a reading there; this I was accustomed to. Writing a service was something I wasn't sure I was able to do, but with Jesus as the guide, Ash Wednesday went very well. Deacon Sandra and I had not lead in either capacity that we were juggling, and yet by the Grace of God, we were able to



bring the Holy among us in worship. On May 1st, we will see my second version of writing a service, this time co-lead by my Havruta partner from Hebrew College, Marcie. In our interfaith studies, we have become students together, and in the process, also friends. She and I are hoping to use this worship service to help us to understand our shared past with our sister religion, Judaism, and how we should be interacting with one another today. We are searching for our shared Hokma (wisdom), and in looking together, through our separate lenses of faith, we are able to grasp a broader picture of what that Hokma really is.

Friday, May 6th will be my last official activity as the student minister, aside from acting as Worship Leader on May 15th; 2+ hours of Bible Study to try to gain a deeper understanding of how we are able to use hospitality in all aspects of our ministries. Hospitality is not just about serving, which is something people automatically think of when *Hospitality* is mentioned; there is another aspect of hospitality—the ability to be served by another, which is just as necessary as serving. “It is better to give than to receive” should tell you that everyone needs a chance to give—to give of themselves for the furthering of God’s Kingdom. If you see your-

self using hospitality as a means of ministry, I encourage you to come and take part in our sharing, study, and discussion.

Purchasing a robe was something I never pictured myself doing; I had always told myself I would not robe because it was too *traditional*. I’m fresh out of college, always being a bit more on the rebellious side of things, so wearing a robe did not seem like something I wanted/needed to do. I felt that I had no more authority than anyone else; we’re all called to be ministers after all.



Let’s also be totally honest—I did not want to be looked at in something that looked like a garbage bag over my head with holes for my arms on a weekly basis. Finding out that we can take robes from any tradition, since we don’t have a “set” robe, I was actually able to find a robe that was made for my body type. I now have a robe that I not only feel okay in, but I also have a physical symbol of enveloping myself with Jesus. I didn’t feel like I had any right to claim authority when I began field education—as I am preparing to depart, I am fully feeling a right to claim authority, not because I am going to school, but because it

was indeed given to me by the Spirit.

In this short time we have had together, much has been accomplished. You have helped me to mature into a shepherd for God’s people, and helped to deepen my need to be Jesus’ fisher of man. I look forward to continuing our growing and learning together over the next few weeks, as we prepare to say good-bye



on May 15th. I wasn’t sure I would get much out of field education—you have given me more in this 9 month process than in all my years of schooling combined. God planted a ministry on my heart and then planted me in the womb that is His wife, FBC Needham. You have helped me to grow within the safe space that is your church; nine months later, you have given birth to a minister who is ready to serve his Lord with everything he has. I’m ready to go out into the world, much more confident on my call from the Lord, and my ability to lead others to hear Jesus calling them. Congratulations church, you should be proud; I am.

Sim Shalom
Minister Kyle

Thank You!

For your cards
For your calls
For your cares
For you concerns
We thank God especially for you.

The family of Lee Wayne Thomas thanks you for all that you did to provide comfort to us during this time of mourning.

Help beautify our chancel

Would you like to donate flowers in memory of or honor of a loved one or an event, or something special?

Simply call the church office or fill out a flower request form from the office. The fee for flower donations is \$35.

Thank you!



It's a *PARTY* and

You're Invited!



When: Sunday, May 29th
Where: The Coombs Lounge
Time: 2:00 - 4:00 PM

In celebration of
Enid MacGray's
90th birthday!



The family has requested that no gifts be given. However, a gift to the First Baptist Church in Enid's honor

Black Magic

It was May and the Welsh countryside grew white with hawthorn blossoms, cloaking the men who were the source of Owen Harris' power. A giant in the labor movement, he led the Mine Workers Alliance and belligerently challenged mine operators and fellow labor titans, the courts and politicians, and the public. More than anyone else, he tamed the savagery of his miners' lives. As a champion of unionism, he forced his views beyond the MWA to labor at large.

The son of a miner, Owen went only as far as seventh grade in school before becoming a miner himself. At the age of 12, he descended into the mines as a mule driver. He quickly learned the evils of a coal miner's life. To him the pits were "naked and primitive."

Owen planned to become a Baptist minister, but instead became interested in labor problems. He pleased God during those early years. He was elected president of his local union and then president of the Mine Workers Alliance. During his tenure the MWA secured better wages and safer working conditions for workers, promoted political action, and established member banking services and welfare funds. He was remarkably successful, and his achievements brought him fame.

Thankfulness is expressing gratitude. Thankfulness is the proper response to salvation—our gift from God. Thankfulness is remembering what God has

done; telling others about it; showing God's glory to others; and offering our gifts of self, time, and resources. Thankfulness enables us to worship wholeheartedly and opens our hearts to God's peace.

Harris was a giant physically, weighing 220 pounds with chiseled facial features and hair that had turned gently white. But contemporaries noted that his brows teemed with anger. His rhetoric bristled with bitterness. He misused union funds. And he was elected to his 15th term as MWA president amidst charges of improprieties.

After God gave Owen prosperity and power, he became proud and corrupt. He overestimated his own importance in bringing about achievements, failing to recognize God's part in those successes. Consuming pride gradually invaded Harris' life, and he turned away from God. Lack of thankfulness to God led to Harris' prideful attitude. God hates pride!

We can be thankful that God answers our prayers, and that God provides for our needs. We can be thankful for God's blessings, for God's character and wondrous works, and for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

To increase your thankfulness:

Take an inventory, counting your relationships, memories, abilities, family, and material possessions—all come from God;

Use the inventory for prayers and gratitude;

Take time to reflect on reasons for thanks;

Celebrate God's goodness to you;

Take great joy when you see another person come to faith in Christ and mature in that faith – likewise, be thankful when you benefit from the ministry of others; and

Be grateful for pastoral leadership and teaching by expressing support and love.

It is normal to feel elation when something is accomplished but remember to give God the credit for what you have. Be grateful for what God has given you—life, food, health, work, friends. Don't let your unfulfilled desires distract you from seeing God's gifts.

Pride produces quarrels and leads to disgrace, punishment, and destruction. Pride ends in downfall: the severe impairment of one's health, fortune, honor, and hopes.

Use your gifts in ways that please God. Make thanksgiving a regular part of your routine. You will become more gracious, loving, and humble. Thank God for answered prayers, too!

Andrew Thoresen

Read the story of Uzziah, king of Judah, in chapter 26 of 2 Chronicles

* * *



We're saving
Pop Tops

For the benefit of the Shriners. Please save your pop tops from soda cans, bring them to the church and place them in the basket in the Vestry! Thank you so much for your help!

Thank you!

from the
Murrow Home

The Murrow Indian Children's home is still collecting Campbell Soup UPC Labels to purchase a van. The UPC code and the point value are the only part of the label that is required. They need 1,600,000 and are grateful for our response!



Clip. Earn. Help Them Learn.™

0 51000 01261 6

1 POINT VALUE

Place your UPC labels in the basket in the Vestry

Thank you!



May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday	2	3 Board of Christian Ed.	4	5 Choir Practice	6	7
8 Music Committee Meeting <u>Happy Mother's Day</u>	9	10 Board of Trustees Meeting.	11 Briarwood Worship Service	12 Choir Practice	13	14
15 Missions Board	16	17 Board of Deacons	18 <u>Annual Meeting</u>	19 Choir Practice	20	21
22	23	24 Executive Committee	25	26 Choir Practice	27	28
29 Enid Mac-Gray's 90th b'day 2-4PM	30 Memorial Day Observance	31				



Regularly Scheduled Events

Sundays

- Sunday School (during worship)
- The People's Bible Study (9:00 AM as scheduled)
- 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)

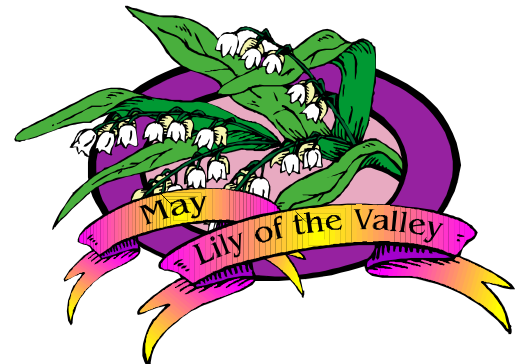
Tuesdays

- Board meetings (most begin at 7:30pm)
- 1st Tuesday —Christian Ed Board
 - 2nd Tuesday — Board of Trustees
 - 3rd Tuesday— Deacons Meeting (5:30 PM)
 - 4th Tuesday — Executive Meeting

Thursdays

- Adult Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm)

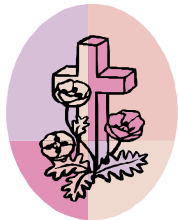
Join us each week at Carter Memorial Methodist Church for our BREAD OF LIFE suppers -Tuesday evenings at 5:30 PM



Caring and Calling

We pray for the family of **Rev. Dr. Donald Morris**, Youth Pastor for the First Baptist Church during the 40's and 50's, who passed away on Easter Sunday and for the family of **Jack Swan**, brother of **Rev. Gordon Swan**, who passed away on April 21st.

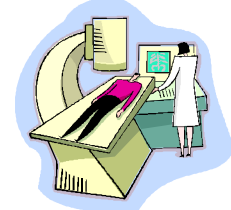
Minister Sandra asked us to pray for the family of **Joe Ianelli** who passed away at the end of March. We also prayed for strength and peace for **Josee Lapointe** whose mother passed away the weekend of April 3rd.



We prayed for the family of **Carrie Eddins**, aunt of **Sandra Evans**, who was 92 and passed away during the week of April 3rd. We prayed for the family of **Elizabeth Rider** as we gathered for her funeral on Tuesday, April 19th.

We prayed for **Pastor Debora** and the family of **James Thomas**, whose father, **Lee Wayne Thomas**, passed away on April 16th. We also prayed for the family of **Rose Jenette**, aunt of **Ken Gullotti**, who also passed away on April 16th.

We prayed for **Melinda Parry** of C.Y.C., whose mother was transitioning, and we prayed for **Jeff and Anita Kinne's** cousin who at the age of 32 has been diagnosed with breast cancer.



We prayed for **Dr. Lee Etier**, a friend of **Jeff and Anita Kinne**, who has recently been diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor, and we prayed for **Bill Ward**, friend of **John and Dianna List**, who was recently diagnosed with C.I.D.P.

We continued to pray for all our brothers and sisters in Japan who are still suffering after the devastating earthquakes and tsunami.

We prayed for **Minister Sandra's** colleague, **Kathy Anastasia**, whose father is in the hospital with a severe ulcer in his cornea.

We prayed for **Alice Perry**, for continued good health after her recent hospitalization and we prayed in thanksgiving for **Allan Scott's** wife **Grace**, whose M.R.I. results came back clear.



Ken Gullotti asked us to pray for the son of a friend at another church who is having great difficulty over the recent suicides in Needham.

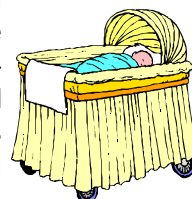
We prayed for **Andrew Thoresen's** friend, **Margaret Gotthardt**, who has been struggling with health problems.

We prayed for **Myriam S. Cox** who asked for prayers via our website.

We prayed in thanksgiving that two new families have found us at Bread of Life and that we were able to minister to them.

We prayed for all those who are unemployed or under-employed and are struggling to make ends meet, and we prayed and asked God's blessings on all those who participated in the Lenten Fast.

Ken Gullotti asked us to pray in celebration and thanksgiving for the birth of his new grandson, **Jeremy David LeBlanc**, who was born on March 28th and for travelling mercies for **Ken** as he visited his family in Houston.



We prayed for travelling mercies for **Jeff and Anita Kinne** as they returned home from their vacation during the first week of April.

We prayed in thanksgiving for the return to church of **Elsie Kent** after a long winter; and for the return of **Doris Walsh** after her minor stroke, and for the return of **Sandy LeMay**. It is good to see our friends come back to church. We prayed also for **Louise Mason**, who has been so helpful to **Sandy and Doris**.



We prayed in gratitude and thanksgiving that **Pastor Debora's** mother, **Mrs. Carolyn Jackson**, came for a visit this month.

Clif Holbrook asked us to pray in praise and thanksgiving to God for all who helped in the outside Spring clean-up effort.



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

May Birthdays

Myrtle Jennings	May 1
Ray Lewis	May 15
John List	May 21
Ruth Long	May 22
Dianna List	May 28
Enid MacGray	May 29





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 (see schedule)
- 10:00 Worship Service
- Sunday School during Worship Service

Tuesdays

- 5:30 Bread of Life at Carter Mem.
- 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

Administrative Assistant: Ken Gullotti

Choir Director and Musician: Matt Harrison

Student Minister: Kyle Larginha

Minister Emeritus:
The Reverend Gordon C. Swan

Email: 1stbaptistchurchneedham@comcast.net