

The Spire



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The First Baptist Church in Needham

Navigating the Summer Downshift

June is fast approaching which means that we ready ourselves for “hot fun in the summertime”. In response, churches all over the country brace for the summertime slow down. People take the seasonal hiatus from church because of vacations, the upswing in competing activities or simply because it is too nice outside to be stuck inside—particularly when inside is a “stuffy” worship service.

Given the decline in congregants, some churches close during the summer months. Others move their services one hour earlier in hopes of enticing congregants to come. The thought of course is that it is a plus to “get out early”. Other churches move their worship from the main sanctuary to a chapel or fellowship hall because the numbers are so depressed.

Rather than lament these realities, my hope is to provide some encouragements for the season. In this way, we will all be better positioned to navigate the summer downshift.

First, as the writer of Hebrews says, we should not neglect to meet together (Hebrews 10:25). This means that we should continue to gather for public worship. While many might say, “Oh, I can pray and study my bible at home,” we were meant to be in community for worship, so that we might praise God together and encourage one another in our gathering.

If you are out of town, attend worship services where you are. Take

notes and bring ideas back to your home church for consideration.

If you are home and thinking, “Oh what a nice day; I think I’ll skip church,” bite your tongue! Seriously, “Bedside Baptist” is alright every once in a while, but as Marvin Gaye and Tammy Terrell once sang, “Ain’t nothin’ like the real thing, baby.” Get up and go to church.

Secondly, consider inviting a friend to come along to church with you. One good thing about the summer hiatus is that people are open to visiting churches and church shopping. We are not encouraging “sheep stealing”, that is to entice a congregant to leave his or her church. However, if someone does not have a church home, they might be more inclined to visit during the summer. The truth is, summer worship is more casual. People are more inclined to “come as you are” during the summer months. That casual nature can make a new church seem less intimidating for a visitor.

Thirdly, if you are away, do take time for personal worship and study every day. There are many, many things in which you can engage. One idea is daily meditation. Sit or recline comfortably, close your eyes and



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From the Desk of the Pastor

Recently, I had the privilege of attending the retirement ceremony of Colonel Janice Johnson. I have known Janice for over 20 years, but given assignments that took her from coast to coast, I lost touch. Nevertheless, when the invitations went out for the retirement, I was on the list of invited guests.

As I reflected on this, a couple of thoughts came to mind. First, I could not help thinking about making an impact in someone's life. As Christians, we are called to make an impact and make a difference. There should be some

evidence of the path that we trod—evidence for good, for growth, and for life-changing outcomes. I was grateful for the fact that even after years of separation, my friend thought of me, and remembering the impact that I had made on her life, invited me to her celebration as she retired from the army.

But of course, that thought brought on a sense of conviction. I am not good at keeping in touch with my friends. I am not the one who thinks of picking up a phone to call or emailing a note saying, "thinking of you". In the grand scheme of things, I am a miserable friend. Most of my friends have to come searching for me. The invitation was just one more

example of someone having to search me out, because I was not the one keeping in touch.

God thought of us when he formed the world. Jesus thought of us when he died on the cross. They knew our potential for impact. And wanting us to have impact, God ordered our steps that we might do well.

How do we respond to our God for what he has done for us? Do we stay in touch? Do we think to pray, study or meditate in order to maintain a close and personal relationship with our God through Jesus Christ or do we rarely call?

God calls us to be in relationship. Jesus calls us friends. To be good friends, we need to make sure that we are staying in touch.

Navigating the Summer Downshift (continued)

meditate on one word or short phrase allowing all other thoughts to fall away. That phrase might be "Lord, have mercy," "God is love", or one of my favorites, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want". Sit or lie breathing in and out while softly reciting your chosen phrase. This is a wonderful exercise of renewal.

If you are away, you could also read a devotional every day. The church carries "The Secret Place" and "The Upper Room" as devotionals. They are pocket sized, making them a convenient travel companion. If you need a devotional, stop by the office.

If you are a Smart phone user, load a bible study or devotional app. I have 365 Devotions on my iPhone. I have made this reading part of my daily practice.

Also for the tech savvy, you can follow me on Twitter as part of your daily devotional routine. Yes, I bit the bullet and created a Twitter account so that I might "tweet" pearls of wisdom. You too can follow me at DeboraJackson1 via your Twitter account.

In all, I recognize that the summer months mean the opportunity to take a break from the norm. But the effect is that church attendance and the work of the church suffers as a result. More than that, this drifting away during the summer can also lead to a permanent drifting away as it becomes comfortable to just stay at home and do whatever it is that you want to do on Sundays.

However, I contend that this is not what God wants for us. We serve a God who neither slumbers

nor sleeps. God is always there with us and for us. God is always there to bless us and keep us. Our praise and worship to God as a gathered community is one of the ways we give back and show our love to God.

Moreover, we are called into community in order that we might build up the body of Christ. All of the members are needed for us to effectively do all that God is calling us to do. When our members drift away, we suffer. No only do we miss the fellowship, we also miss the hands of those who could labor with us in our work to win souls for Jesus Christ.

So, with that said, bring on the summer. Enjoy your vacations and well-deserved time away. But don't forget your church. We are open every Sunday!

Board Updates

Editor's note:

At the First Baptist Church Annual Meeting held on May 18, 2011, it was voted to "put aside" certain by-laws edicts that pertain to Boards and Committees. For a period of one year, as a trial, we have initiated "Ministry Leadership" whereby this leadership may solicit assistance from any member of the church, thus eliminating boards and committees as we have previously known them.

It is anticipated that by our next issue, September, we will print updates from each of these leadership committees.

As this is a new concept, we are pleased to present the first of these updates here.

K. Gullotti

MISSIONS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

On behalf of the MOC I want to extend a warm welcome to Ms. Enid MacGray. I want to thank Deacon Ken for his generous time as co-chair this past year. The seat is now filled by Deacon Sandra. The summer will keep us busy, starting with another skype opportunity with our Godchild, Julee, June 1st; an afternoon of movie and tea at Chambers Community Room on June 26th; Missions Sunday with this year's guests and preachers and Dump Day on August 6th to support the Haiti mission trip. The MOC thanks our church family for their continued support to all the mission activities.

Minister Sandra Dorsainvil

BREAD OF LIFE ~ ONE YEAR LATER

A partnership was started two years ago between Carter Memorial Methodist Church and First Baptist Church. A few members from both churches met for months to plan the Bread Of Life community table ministry and how it may respond to a specific need in Needham. The goal was to serve free meals to families who might be in need of fellowship, prayer and nourishment. The Bread Of Life, located at Carter Memorial, served its first meals to twenty five strangers on August 3, 2010, whose average age was 60 years old. Twenty volunteers signed up right away to help be God's servants and bring a little bit of joy, laughter and Christian love for a couple of hours on Tuesday nights. Some of the volunteers are new residents of Needham and are eager to be part of this ministry. Since last year, the numbers of volunteer servers has risen to thirty. Friendships have developed amongst the guests. New lawn signs advertising BOL have been a catalyst to more foot traffic. By its first year anniversary BOL will have served close to eight hundred meals. Stone Hearth Pizza, Bertucci's, Not Your Average Joe's, Sudbury Farms, Village Fish, Tuyo and Starbuck's in Newton have been the loyal restaurants that have donated food throughout the year.

BOL has been a blessing to all involved, and God has made sure that all his children have had enough to eat, even when a family of five walks through the doors of the parlor twenty minutes before all is put away. Everyone is warmly welcomed on Tuesday nights. Some guests have at times taken advantage of one on one prayer in the chapel. Many spiritual needs are being met through this new ministry. Please keep BOL in prayers, as we hope to move down to the fellowship hall and prepare meals in the new kitchen in the very near future.

Minister Sandra Dorsainvil

Office Hours
our SUMMER hours

Starting **July 5th**

Monday through Thursday: 9 AM to 5 PM
CLOSED FRIDAYS

THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God stuck U in the name of His Son..

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true,
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.
You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.
He traveled the hillsides healing and teaching.
For U, he shared his ministry, proclaiming and preaching.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.
Beaten and bruised, taking the sins of the world
He did this for U, absorbing all that was hurled.

And Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
And this word resUrrrection is spelled with a U.
He is risen from the dead, he is risen indeed
With U in his sights, death had to recede.

For 40 days he stayed and shared the gospel message
From the beginning of time U were part of the presage.

When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Go into the world and tell them it's true
That I love them all - Just like I love U."

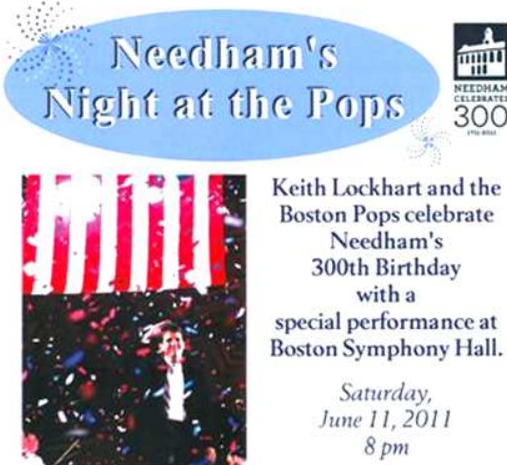
So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know him,
But it all starts with U.

Going to the Pops?

If you were fortunate to get tickets to see and hear the Boston Pops on June 11 along with your many friends from First Baptist, you'll be happy to know that the bus will arrive here on Saturday at 6:30 PM and will leave promptly at 6:45 PM in time to comfortably get us to Symphony Hall for the performance.

Many thanks to all who made this event possible! Enjoy!!!

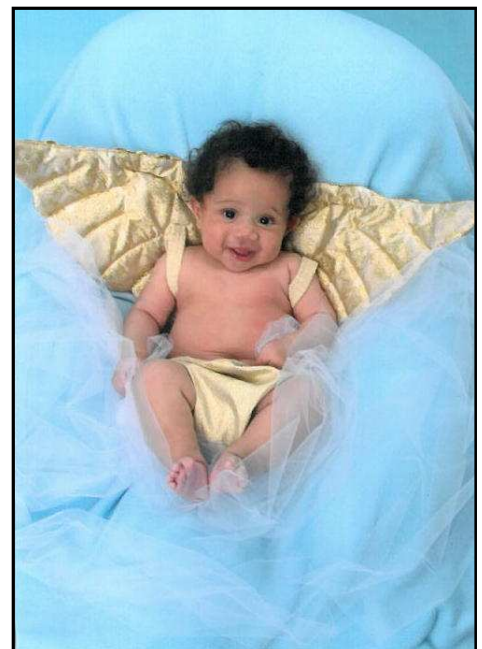


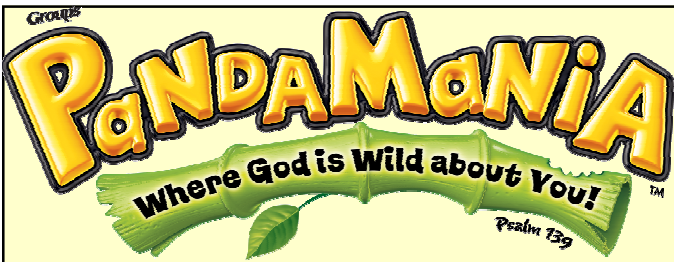
**Needham's
Night at the Pops**

NEEDHAM
CELEBRATES
300
YEARS

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





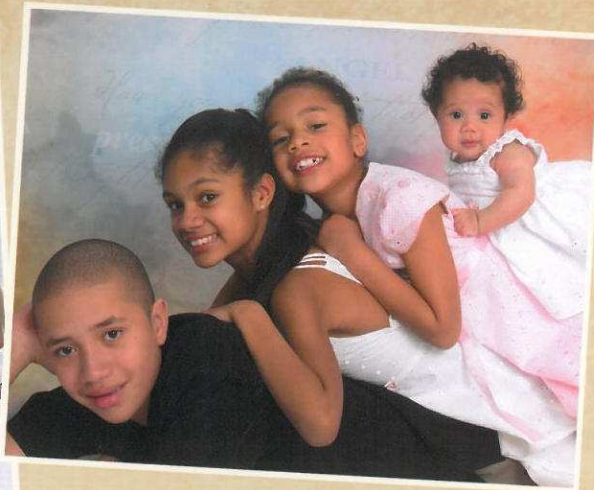
What happens when a pack of fun-loving Panda bears invades our church for a week???

A wild celebration of God's unconditional love! At PandaMania VBS, kids will discover that God has a purpose and a plan for everyone and that he crafted each of us with his own loving hands.

*Join us August 22nd through August 26th
Call the church office for information and registrations!*

We love pictures!

Thank you, Laurie Whitten and Clarence Scott, for sending us these wonderful pictures of their beautiful angels!



*Spring
Time
Greetings!*

Love, Malik, Khadijah,
Anisah & Imani 2011



AB Women's Ministries of MA

~ and ~

AB GIRLS of MA

Spring Conference

Saturday, June 18th

10am - 4pm

First Baptist Church - North Adams

THE CHALK LADY

JENN RUTLEDGE
GOSPEL CHALK ARTIST



Come experience the unique ministry of The Chalk Lady. She uses the medium of drawing to bring a Gospel truth to life.

Also, Installation of new officers
Workshops, Information Tables, Exhibits
Buffet Lunch & Fellowship

Updated information and suggestion of accommodations will be posted on our website at www.abwmofma.org

remember...

We're always looking for canned or dry goods for the Needham Food Pantry. Next time you're at church, please place your donations in the box in our Vestry.

And thank you so much for your generosity!



Hope for the Children of Haiti



Donate to our Mission Trip to Haiti and you could be rewarded with the opportunity to be at Fenway Park on July 23rd to see the Red Sox vs. the Seattle Mariners. Drawing will be held on June 25th during "An Evening with Geoffrey Dana Hicks" concert at the First Baptist Church in Needham!



Opportunities: \$2
(\$5 for book of 3)

Sponsored by:

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN NEEDHAM
855 Great Plain Ave, Needham
(781) 400-5367

Take This Cup

As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. When the others had sung a hymn, they walked to the Mount of Olives on the east end of Jerusalem.

They went to a small, secluded garden called Gethsemane. Enclosed by a wall and containing several olive trees, it was a haven of tranquility and offered hospitable shade. Jesus frequently visited this delightful spot with his disciples to meditate and pray. It was their place of sanctuary.

Jesus said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He took Peter along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. He said to them, "Stay here and keep watch."

Prayer and petition is a devout appeal made to God for something desired. When we pray we may ask for God's presence, for the desire to do God's will in everything, for help with each day's need, for the desire and ability to obey God's decrees and commands, and for the spread of God's kingdom to the entire world.

Knowing that he would soon leave them, Jesus predicted that the disciples would be tempted to run away, to deny their relationship with Je-

sus—their Messiah, and to think that they had been deceived. But he knew that their faith, although it would falter, would not be destroyed.

The stronger our belief, the more likely our prayers and petitions will be in line with God's will, and then God will be happy to grant them.

Jesus withdrew a short distance, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." And then, an angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.

Asking for anything is allowed with the understanding that God's answers come from God's perspective. God's answers are not always in harmony with our expectations, for only he knows the whole story.

We may ask God to remove our problems, and he may choose to do so. But recognize that often he will leave the problem in place and give us the strength and courage to deal with it.

When Jesus rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from grief. "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

Do you talk to God at all? When you do, do you ask only to satisfy

your desires? Do you seek God's approval for what you already plan to do? The most common problems in prayer are not asking, asking for wrong things, and asking for the wrong reasons. Remember that in times of great stress, you are vulnerable to temptation. Jesus teaches us how to resist: Be watchful, pray to God, seek support from friends and family, and focus on the purpose God has given you.

And then Jesus said to them, "Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

How often do you pour out your heart to God? How often do you give him a specific request to answer? Prayer includes praise, confession, thanksgiving, and petition and requires your personal commitment.

Andrew Thoresen

Read *Jesus Agonizes in the Garden* in Mark 14:32 – 42 or Luke 22:39 – 46.

Did you know...?


You are *always* welcome to join us at our our monthly Worship Service at *Briarwood!*

If you missed our June experience on June 8th, feel free to join us on Wednesday, July 13th!

See you there!

June, 2011

Late Calendar Entry
 Effective June 1, Choir rehearsals are no longer held on Thursday evenings – they are now held on Sundays at 9 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Adult Choir 7PM		4
5 Worship Service 10:00	6	7	8 Worship Service at Briarwood 10:00 AM	9 Adult Choir 7PM	10	11
12 Children's Sunday	13	14 flag day 	15	16 Adult Choir 7PM	17	18
19 Father's Day 	20	21	22	23 Adult Choir 7PM	24	25 Geoffrey Dana Hicks Concert 7PM
26 Missions Sunday! - Chambers St. Movie Day!	27	28	29 Service of Remembrance at the Senior Center	30 Adult Choir 7PM		

Sundays

- Sunday School (during worship)
- The People's Bible Study (9:00 AM temporarily suspended)
- Sunday Worship Service (10:00 am, Sanctuary)

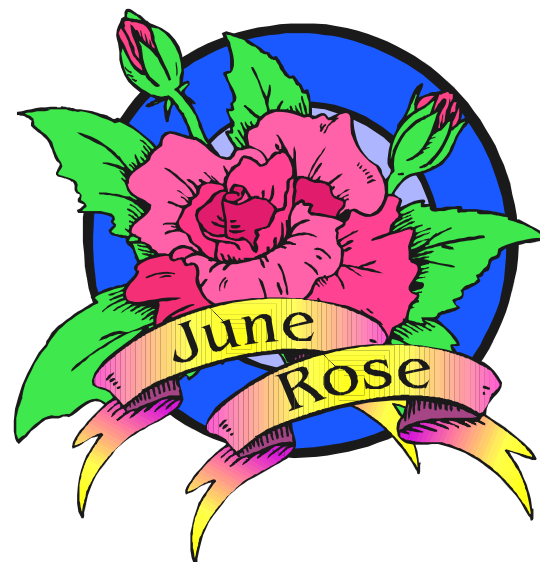
Thursdays

- Adult Choir Rehearsal (7PM)

Weekly Staff Meetings are now held either by conference call or online—the newly appointed Leadership Committee Chairs will meet once monthly, a schedule to be determined soon.

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




**Regularly
 Scheduled
 Events**




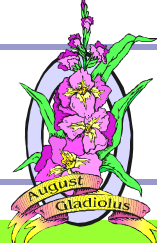



July, 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship Service 10:00	4 Independence Day 	5	6	7 Adult Choir 7PM	8	9
10 Worship Ser- vice 10:00	11	12	13 Worship Service at Briar- wood 10:00 AM	14 Adult Choir 7PM	15	16
17 Worship Service 10:00	18	19	20	21 Adult Choir 7PM	22	23
24 Worship Service 10:00	25	26 	27	28 Adult Choir 7PM	29	30
						

August, 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Adult Choir	5	6
7 Communion Sunday	8	9	10 Worship Service at Briar-	11 Adult Choir 7PM	12 Night	13
14 Worship Ser- vice 10:00	15	16	17	18 Adult Choir 7PM	19 12:30	20
21 Worship Ser- vice 10:00	22 VBS 	23 VBS	24 VBS	25 VBS Adult Choir 7PM	26 VBS	27 Pastor Debora's Vacation
28 Worship Ser- vice 10:00—Pastor Debora's Vacation	29 Pastor Debora's Vac- ation	30 Pastor Debora's Vac- ation				
						

The Waiting ~ Nap tann

As of the first week in June, the Haiti Team will be twenty three weeks away from boarding a flight from Logan airport to Port-au-Prince for an eight day mission trip to Bolosse. Twenty three weeks ago, we were not sure there would be a full team, as God had not finished sending his servants to sign up and be fully engaged in the process. Twenty three weeks ago, fundraising activities had not started. We have now raised 25% of our goal, and we thank all who have supported thus far. Please continue to keep us in prayers and in your giving. The Haiti Team has nine women and two men, representing five different Christian churches ready and willing to be tested out of their comfort zones for eight days in ninety degree weather. It is not a vacation,

nor a respite, but a voluntary decision to be God's servants with construction workers, house parents, teachers, cooks, care takers, babies, teenagers and young adults. We will share our gifts and they will share their talents. We will communicate mostly in Haitian Creole and notice the face of Jesus in the most unlikely places. We hope to learn new songs, new words, new ways of praising our Lord and Savior, but most of all we keep an open heart to being touched and ministered to. We thank the Lord for giving us restless yearnings and to, especially in this time of waiting and preparation, have us become more aware of his laughter, grace and mercy around us. Se pou nou tann lè Bondye.

Minister Sandra Dorsainvil



**An Evening with
Geoffrey Dana Hicks**

And his combo

special guest: Debora Jackson



**Saturday - June 25th
7 PM**

The First Baptist Church in Needham
858 Great Plain Avenue
Needham, MA

Proceeds to help our Mission Trip

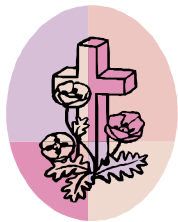


"Hope for the Children of Haiti"

\$20 Donation at the door

Caring and Calling

During the month of May, we prayed for the family of **Jack Swan**, brother of **Rev. Gordon Swan**, who passed away on April 21st. We also prayed for the family of **Rev. Dr. Donald Morris**, Youth Pastor for the First Baptist Church in Needham during the 1940's and 1950's, who passed away on Resurrection Sunday.



We prayed for the family of **Jean Dowd**, a former member of our church, who passed away on April 27th, and for the family of **Randolph Arnold Aufranc**, who passed away on May 12th at the age of 102.

We prayed for **Pastor Debora's friend Col. (Ret.) Janice Johnson**, who is slated to leave for Kabul, Afghanistan to set up an office for Army personnel and for Janice's mother, **Eileen Johnson**, who is ill with terminal cancer.

We prayed for **Carter Memorial Methodist Church Pastor Gary Shaw's father**, who has recently been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.



Louise Mason asked us to pray for her friend **Phyllis Weimert** who is losing her eyesight and will have surgery soon, and for Phyllis' daughter who had a stroke 21 years ago and lives in a nursing home.

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

We also prayed for **Jeff and Anita Kinne's** cousin, who at age 32, has been diagnosed with breast cancer, and for their friend **Dr. Lee Etier**, who was recently diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor.



We prayed for our brother,

Andrew Thoresen, who has been treated for a skin condition, and for our sister, **Cindi Toto**, who had successful knee surgery and is now in rehab.

Sandra Evans asked us to pray for her friend, **Tanya Bryont** who has breast cancer.

We prayed for **Myriam S. Cox**, who asked for prayers via our online website, and for **Bill Ward**, friend of Dianna and John List, who is being treated for DIDP.

We prayed for **Minister Sandra's** colleague **Kathy Anastasia's father**, who is home but still with a severe ulcer in his cornea. And for **Minister Sandra's friend Bill Wass**, who is recovering from surgery to remove blood clots in his legs.

We prayed for all our **Bread of Life Volunteers**, who serve each week with dedication and compassion regardless of their own trials.



We prayed for the **Buckly children** of the **Murrow Home** who will be leaving at the end of the school year.

We prayed for the graduating seniors of **Regis College** and their families, and for **Minister Sandra's son Alexandre** and all who are graduating from **Stonehill College**.

We prayed in celebration for **Martine Taylor's mother, Marie-Andree Brech**, who had successful surgery this month and for **Martine's Dad, Ken Taylor**, to has tested cancer-free (*Praise God!*).

Ken Gullotti asked to pray in celebration of the improved health of his friend **Lois Christie**, for whom we prayed during her hospitalization for congestive heart failure.

We prayed in celebration and thanksgiving for the 2nd anniversary of **Recovering the Promises Ministries**, and **Pastor Charla Kouadio**.

We prayed in celebration

and thanksgiving for **Elizabeth Csaplár**, who graduated from Furman University with a B.S. in health Studies and from the Emergency Medical Technician Basic program at Greenville Technical College.



We pray in Thanksgiving for all our blessings, large and small, even when we feel we are undeserving because God is Good (*all the time!*)

Summer Birthdays

Nancy Twombly	June 2
Phyllis Melick	June 9
Henry Heald	June 10
Anthony Calilung	June 13
Lindsay Toto	June 16
Pastor Debora	June 27
Marion Brown	June 27
Krysta Kingsbury	July 8
Don Blake	July 18
Andrew Thoresen	July 22
Terry Moore	July 25
Beverly Parsons	July 27
Louise Mason	July 30
Margaret Nichols	August 1
Olive Molter	August 6
Dorothy Kinne	August 7
Doris Walsh	August 9
Elaine Pipes	August 9
Eunice Elmer	August 17
Helen Turner	August 19
Evelyn Brown	August 21
Cindi Toto	August 22



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 Larguinha

Minister Emeritus:
The Reverend Gordon C. Swan

Email: 1stbaptistchurchneedham@comcast.net