

# The Spire



## The First Baptist Church in Needham

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### A Case for History

February is Black History Month. I share that with some level of trepidation. Last year I overheard mutterings as to why we needed to observe black history month in church. Why the objection? I am not fully sure, but I found it hurtful, nonetheless. I have spent a lifetime learning the history and stories of others out of educational requirement or necessity or out of genuine love of and interest in others. Is it so much to ask that someone might take the time to learn my history or my story?

Personal feelings aside, there is a case for history and a reason that we should engage in its study. And I was recently reminded of that fact.

On January 15, I incorporated Rosa Parks' story into my sermon. While the historical facts portrayed were accurate, it was impossible not to gloss over the details, which inadvertently served to make light of some of the issues. But in watching a TV movie of the Rosa Parks story, I was dramatically reminded of how frightening it had to have been to be arrested, to have your life threatened, to have been fired from your job and your entire way of life come under siege because you dared to stand up for that in which you believed. Most of us cannot relate, but these are the things that happened to Rosa Parks and hundreds like her who dared to challenge the status quo.

It is one of reasons to learn his-

story. We cannot forget the sacrifices others have made for the freedoms that we enjoy. And I do not necessarily mean the big things. There was a scene in the movie where a black mother gave a salesclerk the outline of a shoe in a store because black children were not allowed to try on shoes. Can you imagine having to purchase items without being able to ensure that they fit and being unable to return them because of the color of your skin? That never happened to me, but I can be grateful that someone stood up against such unjust practices so that I can try on clothes and shoes to my heart's content.

History also helps us to see how interconnected we truly are. The League of Women Voters of Needham hosted the showing of the movie "Iron Jawed Angels" on January 19. It was the little known true story of Women Suffragettes in the early 20th century. In the story, these women were arrested, brutally mistreated in prison, and even force fed because they participated in picket lines at the White House. I could not help but remember that the first public service act of my sorority was to march on Washington in support of suffragettes. Moreover, I could not help to recognize the paral-



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## From the Desk of the Pastor

Well, I guess it was only a matter of time. I saw my first commercial advertising a sale for MLK day. I was horrified. A national leader, a man of historic and heroic prominence, gave his life so that we could get 20% off of our purchases at a store? I don't know if Rev. Dr. King was rolling in his grave, but I was most certainly shifting in my seat. How cheapening it is to believe that a life's work and sacrifice can be so easily commercialized.

Now I suppose that my indignation results from King being more of a contemporary. When I stand back, I recognize that I

could make the same arguments about George Washington or Abraham Lincoln. Did Washington shape a nation, or Lincoln save a nation just so that we could get a rebate on a new automobile? It's a preposterous idea, and yet I recommend that you stay away from the "Route 1 Auto Mile" Presidents' Day weekend, unless of course you need a car.

So what should we be doing to commemorate individuals who have left their mark on our nation? I think we should take more time to learn our history, and take time to meaningfully live into that history. For example, visit a historical museum, or read historical literature about a specific figure. We always hear stories in the news about how our children

don't know history or geography, but we struggle with it ourselves. Do you know where Valley Forge is? Do you know the speech that Lincoln gave that precipitated his assassination? We need to know our history.

Then we need to make that history come alive in our lives. Rev. Dr. King gave his entire life to action, but in so many places, we have turned MLK commemoration observances into variety shows. Through his legacy, we are called to serve and to make life better for others. We cannot do that in a comfy auditorium seat.

Learn from history and use that learning make a difference for others. That is the greatest tribute that we can pay to our heroes.

## A Case for History (continued)

els between the young in the movie and the thousands of occupiers in the Occupy Wall Street movement. Feeling as though "justice delayed was justice denied," they pushed their cause. We are not dissimilar. The issues of women in the 1910s are like the issues of African Americans in the 1950s are like the issues of the economically oppressed right now. By learning our history, we can learn the stories and offer greater compassion and help to those who are striving to gain the things we take for granted.

A final reason in making this case for history is a perspective of faith. John said, "How can you love God whom you cannot see, but hate your brother whom you see every day?" We are called and

compelled to love others as Christ loved us. I would contend that part of loving someone is getting to know them. When we take the time to hear someone's story, we show love. This is not always easy to do. Too often, the stories are painful—particularly the stories of the minority voices that are left out of the standard history texts. We don't want to hear of the Native Americans who were largely swindled and forced from their lands in the forming of this nation. We don't want to hear of new immigrants who could only be employed in the most degrading and menial tasks as they came yearning to be free. We don't want to hear of African American enslavement, Japanese Internment or now, Latinos forced to show

proper documentation to be in the country. We do not want to hear these stories because we are reminded of our own culpability: that our action or inaction was what made the difference between oppression and liberation. But how are we to learn unless we are willing to face the painful truths of the past? How are we to show love unless we can share pain? To me, this is a case for history.

February is Black History Month. It is the time when we remember the contributions of Americans to our American way of life. Because we value the sacrifice, because we recognize our interconnectedness, and because we love, let us learn from one another.

## MINISTRY UPDATES

### ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY

Have you seen the vestry lately? The Administration group has initiated an effort spearheaded by Clif Holbrook to revitalize one of the most important areas of our church. Formerly dark and outdated, we have attempted to bring a lighter, more comfortable touch to the space. The floors have been refinished (as well as the stairways up to the narthex) and the difference is amazing. Repainting and new light fixtures are on the agenda. We hope the revitalized space makes for a more enjoyable after-church fellowship time!

**Jon Kingsbury**

### HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

During the Christmas Season, the Hospitality Ministry sponsored a light supper after a group from the church went Christmas Caroling. It was a fun and rewarding afternoon.

Also, recently, we've started using

the 5 ministries in rotation to be responsible for the coffee hour on a regular basis. This schedule seems to be working. We are very grateful that Elaine Pipes has been very good about sending cards and visiting members of the church.

Soon, we are planning to assist in scheduling members to help the Diaconate bring communion to our shut ins on a monthly basis. And stay tuned! We're planning a movie night soon, so watch the bulletin and regular announcements!

**Dianna List**

### WORSHIP MINISTRY

Considering that our ministry participation has declined, we're still meeting on a semi-regular basis. We continue to provide and serve communion, ensure the scheduling of Worship Leaders and Lay Readers, and maintain a minimum of visiting to our household folks.

We support the Pastor in her programs and enhancements to our worship experience and continue to support the Hospitality Ministry for Sunday to Sunday fellowship time and other events. We assisted with the luncheon on Nov. 27th and spearheaded the decorating of our sanctuary for Christmas.

We've been working closely with our Music staff, which presented a beautiful Cantata on December 18th. We thank our pastor who sang with us. We are blessed with Sean Lair as our Music Director and hope to move forward in our musical efforts.

The Choir will miss our dear sister and friend, Sandra Evans who has retired and moved to Florida. In all of our efforts, we continue to seek God's leading and trust that He will bless our work in this church.

**John List**

*(continued on page 5)*

# Get on the BUS!!

*Yes, it's really going to happen!*

*The First Baptist Church in Needham announces  
the commencement of our Sunday Morning Pick-up service.*

*Call the church office to register now!*

*And watch your mailbox for our special announcements.*

**LEAVE YOUR CAR AT HOME ...**

# **"...and leave the driving to us!"**

No More Weather Worries!  
No more warming up the car!  
Door to Door service!

### A Love Letter to God

Dear God, My Savior;

Your banner over me is enduring and abounding love. So great is your unfailing love that it is better than life itself. Devout, strong and immeasurable, your love sparked my genesis and was my first true love. Your love is sent from heaven and is infinitely greater than mine.

Lord, I am faint with your love for me. Your love touches my heart, calls to me, and gives me hope. I love your holy house where your love reaches to the heavens and surpasses all knowledge. Your love keeps and guides me, covering over all wrongs. By kindling a flame in my heart, your love spreads like fire.

I will maintain my love to you forever, O God, because your love is priceless and redeeming to me. Your love is perfect, genuine, and pure. It is also continuous, total and complete. Your love is your gift to me—the greatest gift because of your great love.

How amazing is the love you have

for me, Father. It protects me wherever I am; I should fear no evil for you are always with me. Your love follows me all the days of my life. Your love fills the earth and will stand firm for me forever. Your love is not withheld. It is constant and welcoming and permanent.

I love because you first loved me. Your love is human love's source. Poured out into my heart by the Holy Spirit, your love trusts and perseveres so that I can be more like Jesus. Your love is always with your Son, and it is always with me. I strive to be patient and kind in reflection of what your love is.

Lord, I am witness to your wide and long and high and deep love. Your love is bigger than any problem I face. Your love is divine and sincere. It is quieting and honest. But more important, your love is saving; showing to all peoples; and extremely contagious. Your love changed my life's outcome. Your love satisfies.

So great is your unfailing love, dear Lord, that you love me de-

spite what you know about me. All praise to you!

**-Your faithful, hopeful and loving servant**

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

**1 Corinthians 13:13.**

Faith is the foundation and content of God's message; hope is the attitude and focus; love is action and involves unselfish service to others. When faith and hope are in line, you are free to love completely because you understand God's love.

Filled with God's love, I therefore ask you this question: “Does your faith fully express itself in loving others?”

It should. Love is a by-product of a new life in Christ Jesus!

Those who realize how much they are loved are able to love much in return: to love God and love others as we should.

**Andrew Thoresen**



Do you remember Pastor Debora's wonderful sermon from Christmas Day, sitting in front of the fire? How about the one from New Year's day where everyone had so much fun with noisemakers, top hats and tiaras?

**Remember this?**

Or, how about the lovely Cantata that the choir sang on December 18th?



**Remember that?**

If you'd like to relive any of these church moments, visit our YouTube website for a year's worth of these memorable events!

**[www.youtube.com/fbeneedham](http://www.youtube.com/fbeneedham)**

## MINISTRY UPDATES (continued from p. 3)

### MISSIONS MINISTRY

The Missions ministry continues to sponsor Bread of Life, along with Carter Memorial Methodist Church. We've seen an uptick in patrons recently and are now serving as many as 60 guests on a weekly basis. The need for greater support from both Carter and FBC continues. Recently, Bread of Life committee members met at their first **Bread of Life Retreat** to discuss the two church's commitment to continue serving the community. Over the next several weeks, members of both churches and their pastors will continue to develop a strategy to ensure BOL's existence in the foreseeable future. We will continue our partnership with Carter Memorial Methodist Church as we maintain our "seat at the table of conversation".

We continue to support the Murrow Indian Children's Home, sponsoring our God-child Julee. The Missions Ministry lost two key members in 2011: **Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil** and **Sandra Evans**. We thank them for their hard work, compassion and the many, many key contributions and active participation they each offered to this committee!

We look forward to serving the Needham community on behalf of our church. This ministry will continue to disburse monies every two months to local, national and international organizations which have been designated.

**Betty Mae Mosley**

### MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

Our secretary has acknowledged donations in memory of Allen Moore and Elizabeth D. Rider.

We have also received donations from Langdon J. Towne for the Roy R. Towne Memorial Fund; from Nancy Spanbauer to be used for the Capitol Improvement Fund or to a family or families in need; from Enid MacGray to be used for music; and a bequest from the estate of Elizabeth D. Rider.

**Marilyn A Blake**

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

The Christian Education Ministry continues to organize many new and revitalizing programs and events with the double purpose of creating a time of fellowship and deepening the knowledge of Christian faith in both children and adults.

Since our last report, we have organized the Christian Education supply room (the old counting room) as well as implemented a curriculum for Sunday School which includes Bible Superheroes in our weekly lessons. Children have also gotten a taste of the Hebrew language and learned all the books of the bible in song.

We began a new curriculum in January which will be used for the next few years. It is an eco-friendly alternative to most curriculums in that all the lessons are available online rather than in print. We will be offering a workshop on Teaching Christian Education and using this new curricu-

lum to those who feel a calling to teach; all those with a strong faith who are willing to teach the children the Love that you have found in Jesus the Messiah on a rotating schedule should please see Minister Kyle or Nancy Twombly.

Recently, Christian Education started supplying Children's Worship Bulletins to help the children gain the same lessons as the adults. Since the children are not present during our weekly sermons, we felt it was important to make sure each child had a lesson in a format they could readily understand. This too is eco-friendly in that we only need to print off the amount of bulletins we want to use on any given Sunday.

This past September, while trying to find God in all aspects of life, we sought to find God in secular books. We began a book group at which we discuss a book regarding some aspect of social justice, and try to tease out the many different ways in which God can be seen. We have discussed **The Help**, and **The Child Called It** trilogy and will continue to discuss books regarding social justice—books are recommended by attendees and then agreed upon by the rest of us. Similarly, we will soon be viewing a movie together and discuss the implications the themes and story have with regard to faith. Our first such endeavor will be the movie, "Joyful Noise".

**Minister Kyle Larginha**

**Edward Fitzgerald's translation of the poem *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*, 1859:**

The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,  
 Moves on: nor all thy Piety nor Wit  
 Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,  
 Nor all thy Tears wash out a Word of it.

### THE STORY OF GRACE

Back in the year of 1918, a bearded, saintly, old man, with foot-scrapers to sell, called on Eric Enstrom at his photography studio in the tiny mining town of Bovey, Minnesota.

From this chance encounter a world famous photographic study was created. Today Enstrom's picture "GRACE", showing the elderly peddler with head bowed in a mealtime prayer of thanksgiving, is known and loved throughout the world.

"There was something about the old gentleman's face that immediately impressed me. I saw that he had a kind face... there weren't any harsh lines in it," Enstrom said in recalling the 1918 visit of Charles Wilden to his studio.

It happened that Enstrom, at that time, was preparing a portfolio of pictures to take with him to a convention of the Minnesota Photographer's Association. "I wanted to take a picture that would show people that even though they had to do without many things be-

cause of the war they still had much to be thankful for," Enstrom said.

On a small table, Enstrom placed a family book, some spectacles, a bowl of gruel, a loaf of bread, and a knife on the table. Then he had Wilden pose in an manner of prayer... praying with folded hands to his brow before partaking of a meager meal.

To bow his head in prayer seemed to be characteristic of the elderly visitor, Enstrom recalled, for he struck the pose very easily and naturally.

As soon as the negative was developed, Enstrom was sure he had something special... a picture that seemed to say, "This man doesn't have much of earthly goods, but he has more than most people because he has a thankful heart." That Enstrom's camera had captured "something special" is an appraisal widely shared.

*"I wanted to make people conscious of the things they had instead of the things which they had to do without."*

Today many "GRACE" pictures hang in homes, restaurants and in churches across America. Prints have also been shipped to mission stations and other places around the world.

The early "GRACE" pictures were printed either in black and white, or in sepia (brown tone). Later, Enstrom's daughter, Mrs. Rhoda Nyberg, of Coleraine, Minnesota, began hand-painting them in oils, and interest in the picture mounted.

Enstrom remembers that his best customers for the picture in the early 1920's were people traveling through Bovey, Minnesota who saw the picture in his studio window. As soon as one framed print was sold, he'd make another to take its place.

After nearly a half-century as a professional photographer, a career dating back to 1900 in Minneapolis and to 1907 at Bovey, Minnesota, Enstrom listed "GRACE" as the best of the thousands of pictures he has taken.



[www.gracebyenstrom.com/](http://www.gracebyenstrom.com/)

### *From "wings of hope" regarding the donation our Haiti missionaries gave to their organization:*

Dear Diane,

Thank you so much for the donation your group made to Wings of Hope. It was just the right amount at just the right time. We used the money to purchase a new projector. Our other one had broken and we were in need of a new one. The education department uses the projector during the day for computer classes. At night, the kids use the projector to watch movies. They were so happy when they knew they were going to be able to have their movie nights again. The picture shows some of the guys with the new projector and the speakers we were also able to purchase. Jozye, the boy sitting on the right, is the "Movie Man" at wings and is responsible for playing the movies for the kids at night.

Peace,



**Send a card**

*To Alice Mutzfeld*

Our Dear Friend and Sister is in rehab at North Hill for the next several weeks. It would wonderful if you could send her a card, or drop in for a visit while she's there.

Her new address is:

Alice Mutzfeld, Room S508-1  
North Hill  
865 Central Avenue  
Needham, MA 02492

**drop in for a visit**

RESPOND NOW!!! SAVE THE DATE!!!

*AB Women's Annual Retreat*

March 8, 9, and 10, 2012

Information & Registration forms available in the Church Office



*IN THE POTTER'S HANDS - PART II*

Nantasket Beach Resort and Conference Center  
45 Hull Shore Drive - Hull, Massachusetts 02045  
(781) 925-4500

The Women's Fellowship Ministry of Emmanuel Baptist church cordially invites all sisters in Christ to attend our...

# Women's Prayer Breakfast

*What Do We Do While We Are in God's Waiting Room?*

- Presenter:** Rev. Debora Jackson (FBC Needham)
- When:** Saturday, February 18, 2012
- Time:** 9AM—12PM
- Where:** Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Hall  
85 willow Street  
Malden, MA 02148
- Cost:** \$15 per person



# Office Hours for Minister Tami

**Mondays and Thursdays  
1-4 PM**

Available for one-on-one Bible Study and Prayer

Call the church office for an appointment



## GROUNDHOG DAY

*The adventures of Punxsutawney Phil, Warton Willie and Pothole Pete*

February 2nd brings the most-watched weather forecast of the year—and the only one led by a rodent. Legend has it that on this morning, if a groundhog can see its shadow, spring is on the way!

### Why the groundhog?

Since a groundhog (or woodchuck, or “whistle pig”) hibernates for the winter, its coming out of the ground is a natural sign of spring. In Europe centuries ago, people watched for other hibernating animals, including badgers, bears, and hedgehogs, as signs of winter’s end. Germans who immigrated to Pennsylvania in the mid-1800’s began keeping an eye on the groundhog. The widespread population of the rodent made it a handy agent for this particular weather superstition.

And a superstition it is. But there’s a grain of truth: the winter days when you can see your shadow clearly are often especially cold, because there

are no clouds overhead to insulate the earth.

### Why now?

Early February is midway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. Throughout history numerous holidays have marked this seasonal crossroads. Among these is



Candlemas Day, February 2, a Christian holiday that celebrates Mary’s ritual purification. Early Christians believed that if the sun came out on Candlemas Day, winter would last for six weeks more.

The ancient Romans observed a mid-season festival on February 5, and the pagan Irish celebrated one around February 1. In many parts of Europe early February might herald the start of spring, when crops could be planted.

### Punxsutawney Phil & Friends

In the 1880’s some friends in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, went into the woods on Candlemas Day to look for groundhogs. This outing became a tradition, and a local newspaper editor nicknamed the seekers “the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club.” Starting in 1887 the search became an official event centered on a groundhog called Punxsutawney Phil. A ceremony still takes place every year.

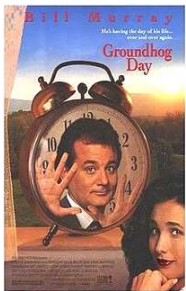
Canada’s Groundhog Day relies on the predictions of an albino groundhog named Warton Willie. Although Punxsutawney Phil gets the most attention, various American cities have their own special groundhogs; New York City’s official ground hog is called “Pothole Pete.”

**Holly Hartman**  
**Factmonster.com**

## GROUNDHOG DAY

### “The Movie”

### Religious overtones?



Did you know that many faith traditions have come to recognize and appreciate the religious significance of the movie, *Groundhog Day*? In the movie, Bill Murray plays the arrogant television weather man, Phil Connors, who is forced to cover the annual Groundhog festivities in Punxsutawney, PA for the fourth year in a row. The nightmare begins as Connors relives Groundhog Day over and over again with no end in sight. At first he uses the repetition to his advantage to exploit the various people that he meets. However Connors reaches a

point of despair and nihilism when he realizes that nothing he does enables him to escape this fate of reliving the same day. It is not until Connors accepts his fate and makes helping others his priority that he attains spiritual release.

Do these themes have religious connotations? For Buddhists the film illustrates Samsara. Samsara is the continuing cycle of rebirth that Buddhists regard as suffering that humans must try to escape. In this connotation, Phil Connors is seen as the bodhisattva who is released back into the world in order to save it.







Jews might recognize Phil Connors as one who is rewarded by being returned to the earth in order to perform more mitzvahs or good deeds. The movie instructs, as Judaism does, that the work does not end until the world has been perfected.

From a Christian perspective, we see the narrative of the death, resurrection and transformation that comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ. Phil Connors, in having to repeat each day, comes to recognize the fruitlessness of a carnal life. None of his exploits deliver him from Groundhog Day. It is only as he lives a selfless life for others that he is able to move on. Another interpretation is that without Christ, we are lost in a meaningless life as represented by Connors’ inability to move beyond Groundhog Day. However through faith in Jesus Christ, who lived a sinless life and gave himself for our sins, we are saved, redeemed and resurrected from our old ways into a new life.

All this from a movie.  
Happy Groundhog Day.!

**Pastor Debora**

# February, 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Adult Choir 7PM 	3	4
5 Worship Service 10AM	6	7	8 Worship Service at Briarwood 10:00 AM Administration Ministry Meeting	9 Adult Choir 7PM	10	11
12 Worship Ser- vice 10AM	13	14 Valentine's Day 	15	16 Adult Choir 7PM	17	18
19 Worship Ser- vice 10AM	20 President's Day 	21 Worship Minis- try Meeting	22 Ash Wednes- day 	23 Adult Choir 7PM	24	25
26 Worship Ser- vice 10AM	27	28 Leadership Ministry Meeting				

## Regularly Scheduled Events

### Sundays

- Sunday School (during worship)
- 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 Leadership Committee Chairs meet once monthly

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

## Join us



7:30PM in the chapel

Wednesday, February 22nd

December 31th, 2011



Dear Friends of Murrow,  
There are no words to express our sincere appreciation for the wonderful Christmas you provided for our children.

There were Christmas Parties and incredible Christmas gifts. What a joyful and happy Christmas for the children at Murrow. The children were so excited to open their Christmas presents on Sunday Morning. Shortly after Christmas we had three new arrivals. We now have twenty-four children here at the home, from the Cherokee, Creek, Comanche, Sac and Fox, and Kickapoo tribes. Our eldest child recently turned 18, and she is excited to graduate from high school in the spring and begin living on her own.

We are fast approaching the end of the year. The children are planning on going to the Tulsa Powwow for a New Year's celebration this weekend and starting school again next week.

I am very encouraged by the prayers and support that churches all across the nation have given us. Please continue to pray for us as we go into the 2012 Year. We are working on a new program for our Independent Living children (16 and older) and are optimistic it will be successful and provide the skills necessary for these children to live independently after they leave Murrow.



Thank you for your prayers and support. Have a happy and bright new year!

**Soup Labels! We have 132,382 points towards the new van. Please continue to send them!**

In Christ,

*Betty R. Martin*

Executive Director

# Congratulations!

To Andrea and John List, Jr.  
On the birth of their new daughter,

*Harper Kate List*



January 12, 2012—19 1/2 inches—7lbs. 3oz.

## The Joshua League

*The Joshua League is our Sunday School program for kids grades 3 through 6.*

*Join Minister Kyle and your favorite Bible SUPERHEROS in this fast paced program of Christian Education!*

*See Minister Kyle or call the church office for more details!*

*See you Sunday!*

# Caring and Calling

During December and January we prayed for the family of our sister, **Reverend Sandra Dorsainvil**, whose mother passed away in November. We also prayed for the family of **Pastor Debora's** dear friend **Florence Hudspeth** who passed on December 16th.



We prayed for the family of **Rev. Dr. Joseph E. O'Donnell, Jr.** who passed on New Year's day.

**Elizabeth Mercer** asked us to pray for her friend **Brenda Vikre** who had surgery on December 12th. We also prayed for **Gretchen (Gundel) Leary** who had surgery during the month.



We prayed for **Doris Walsh's** son **Bob** who was admitted to the hospital in mid-December and diagnosed with lung cancer. **Karen Campanella** asked us to pray for **Gwen Lorimier** whose illness is rejecting her liver, and for **Sue Lorimier** who was ill with pneumonia.

We continue to pray for our brother, **Tom Rossiter** who is very ill.

**Sandra Evans** asked us to pray for her brother, **Robert Ed-dins** who has been struggling and having difficulty after his recent stroke. We also prayed for **Sandra's** friend **Richard Atkinson** who has issues with his intestinal tract and doctors have yet to find a diagnosis.

We prayed for **Spike Todd** and his sister **Linda Hamby**.

**Clif Holbrook** asked us to pray for his nephew's wife, **Barbara Celusdian** who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer.



We prayed for our sister, **Elsie Kent** who fell and bruised ribs during the month of December. **John and Dianna List** asked us to pray for their friend **Glenn Nutting** who had surgery in January.

We prayed for **Susan Susi's** husband's **Aunt Eleanor** who is very ill.

We prayed for our sister, **Bi Toh**, who is in Cameroon trying to bring her son back to the Boston area for medical treatment.

We continue to pray for our sister, **Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil** and for her ministry as **Pastor of The First Baptist Church of Sharon**. We continue to pray in thanksgiving and celebration for our sister **Rev. Charla Kouadio** on her appointment as **Pastor of Christ's Community Church** in Chicopee, MA.



We prayed for **Sandy Le-May's** friends **Carol Davenport** and **Pauline French** who have been doing better but still need our prayers. And for **Sandy**, in thanksgiving that she is doing better and is grateful for all our prayers.



We prayed for **Alice Perry** who spent some time in the hospital and then in rehab but is now home and doing better.

**Ken Gullotti** asked us to pray for his friend **Jim Donahue** who was having heart prob-

lems. We prayed again in thanksgiving when **Jim** was feeling better.

We prayed for all who travelled and returned over the holidays, including many of our own members, that God would grant everyone safe journeys and all the blessings of Christmas.



We prayed in December and early January for **John and Dianna List's** daughter-in-law **Andrea**, who was ill during the last part of her pregnancy. We then prayed in celebration and thanksgiving for the birth of **Andrea and John Jr's** new daughter, **Harper Kate List**, born on January 12th at 3:43PM weighing 7 lbs. 3 oz. , 19 1/2 inches long! **We thank you, God!**

As always, we thank God for all our blessings, large and small, even when we feel we are undeserving, because **God is good!** (all the time!)

## February Birthdays

Karen Campanella	Feb. 1
Ron Molter	Feb. 4
Bruce Wile	Feb. 5
James Thomas	Feb. 22
Judy Currie	Feb. 26
Sam Scott	Feb. 26





## 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

- 10:00 Worship Service
- Sunday School during Worship Service

### Tuesdays

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

### 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)

Administrative Assistant: Ken Gullotti

Music Director: Sean Lair

Student Minister: Tami Gonsalves

Minister Emeritus:  
The Reverend Gordon C. Swan

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