



The GoodNewsletter

First Baptist Church, Littleton

“Journeying to God’s Sacred Beat”
October 2010

Sunday, October 10 at 12:00 Noon

Blessing of the Animals Service at First Baptist Church

Led by Pastor Debbie & Mosby, the ministry dog.

October 4 is the Feast Day for St. Francis of Assisi, who is the patron saint of animals and the environment. Francis is known for his deep love and respect for animals and all of creation.

Here is just one of the legends about St. Francis, according to Wikipedia. It comes from *Fioretti*, which are excerpts from his work.

It is said that, one day, while Francis was traveling



with some companions, they happened upon a place in the road where birds filled the trees on either side. Francis told his companions to "wait for me while I go to preach to my sisters the birds." The birds surrounded him, drawn by the power of his voice, and not one of them flew away. Francis spoke to them:

“My sister birds, you owe much to God, and you must always and in everyplace give praise to Him; for He has given you freedom to wing through the sky and He has clothed you... you neither sow nor reap, and God feeds you and gives you rivers and fountains for your thirst, and mountains and valleys for shelter, and tall trees for your nests. And although you neither know how to spin or weave, God dresses you and your children, for the Creator loves you greatly and He blesses you abundantly. Therefore... always seek to praise God.”

We invite you to come to this short service at 12:00 Noon on the lawn of the church and bring your animals or stuffed animals. Please join us in welcoming guests to this service!

Treats will be provided for pets and the people who love them.

Saturday, October 2

5:30PM The first church supper will be a pasta supper prepared by the Board of Mission. Please join us and invite your friends!





Taking Gratitude for Granted?

One day the boss called one of his employees into his office.

“Rob,” he said, “you’ve been with the company for a year now. You started off in the mailroom, one week later you were promoted to a sales position, one month after that you were promoted to district manager of the sales department, and just four short months later, you were promoted to vice-chairman. Now it’s time for me to retire, and I want you to take over the company. What do you have to say to that?”

“Thanks,” said the employee.

“Thanks?” the boss replied. “Thanks?! Is that all you can say?”

“Okay, okay,” the employee said. “Thanks, Dad.”

There are times that we take our blessings for granted. All of sudden something happens that reminds us of all we have. We are a blessed people and even though we all struggle with a variety of issues, some of which are very serious, we are also very blessed. September has been a month of re-gathering and re-connecting as we have come back to church from our lazy, hazy days of summer. Don’t get me wrong, I loved the much slower pace of our summer, but it is good to be together again. The energy level on Rally Day was a joy to be a part of and what a thrill to see that energy and enthusiasm in church! I am grateful for all the parts of the body of Christ who used their gifts and skills to make music, make sandwiches, make crafts, make worship and joy happen.

As we begin our church year together, let us get the energy level going and let us be grateful for all we have. As we begin our work with the Alban Institute, let us not only look at what we don’t have, but let us

look at what God has blessed us with and let us be thank-*full* - for God is good!

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. “ Colossians 3:15

GO and be grateful!

Pastor Deb

Youth Group Events

- **October 3** Apple Pie Making for Grotonwood Day. 2pm - 5 pm at Grotonwood
- **October 23** Canobie Lake Park Screampfest - Times TBA
- **November 14** Progressive Dinner
Four homes needed for appetizers, salad, main dish and dessert.

Please speak to Cherie Trout or Heidi Crowell.

Upcoming Events

GPS

Growth, Possibilities, Sustainability

Save the Dates for these important church gatherings concerning our GPS process with the Alban Institute. The Guiding Team is Lynn Vesey, Willow DiLuzio, John Court, Caroline Poser, Pastor Debbie.

This month: October 17, Informational Meeting after church with the Guiding Team.

Congregational Meeting #1: Sunday November 7
4 pm with pot luck dinner and meeting, led by Alice Mann

Congregational Meeting #2: Sunday January 30
4-7pm - Dinner & Meeting, led by Alice Mann

Congregational Meeting #3: Sunday February 27
4-7 pm Dinner & Meeting, led by Alice Mann

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.”
Matthew 25:35

God calls us to **GO Serve** and on Sunday, November 21 we will be assembling **150 Grace Bags** for the Lowell Transitional Center for their Thanksgiving meal.

We need 150 each of the following. Please keep an eye out for good bargains. We will be collecting items from now until that Sunday. Thank you for your ministry of care and service.



Each Grace Bag will include the following based on *availability*:

- Package of gum
- Breakfast bar
- Package of cheese crackers
- Chef Boy-R-Dee meal, small, microwavable
- Small package of tissues
- Chapstick
- Warm socks.
- Toothpaste (travel size)
- Toothbrush
- Small grace note with words of encouragement & love
- Handmade soap
- Very small bottles of hand sanitizer

During the year, Anne Lee Ellis found the tissues on sale; Caroline Poser is making the bars of soap. Last year our family dentist donated the toothbrushes and toothpaste – maybe yours would like to donate some this year? Children and adults are invited to write small notes of hope that we can include. Look for the large basket in Fellowship Hall to drop off any items you would like to donate.



Monday October 11 is Grotonwood Day! Many folks have Columbus Day off from work and school. All are invited to attend Grotonwood’s annual open house. See the camp, enjoy a floatboat ride, eat some apple pies, enjoy games and music. See the posters about Grotonwood Day in Fellowship Hall, or visit <http://www.grotonwood.org/>

From the Mission Board

October is World Mission Month!! The Missions Board will be receiving donations to the World Missions Offering (WMO) throughout the month. You can use the special envelopes in the church



pews and bulletins, or give your offering to any of the smiling Missions Board members- Lynn, Bob, Phil or Donna. This year’s theme, “In

Haiti and in the World” celebrates the American Baptist churches’ inspired and heartfelt response to the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti. So far, over \$2.3 million has been raised by American Baptists to help the Haitians. FBC of Littleton donated \$1020 for Haiti relief. Praise God! As help continues for Haiti, we should not forget the millions of others in the world who are still in need. That’s why WMO is more important than ever. We prayerfully ask that our church challenges itself to match our Haiti contribution with an equal gift to the October WMO. Can we donate \$1020 this month? Please give what you can. We thank all for their generosity.

Boy to the World!

By Caroline Poser

The Dish on Finding Time with God

Be still, and know that I am God. ~Psalm 46:10 NIV

“I’m sorry he hasn’t had time to look at your dishwasher...” my friend told me. She had volunteered her husband to fix my leaking appliance about a week prior.

“Please don’t give it another thought,” I told her. I knew they were in the midst of their own home improvement project, which had become more pressing as they discovered hazardous materials that needed removing.

Truthfully, there is no hurry on my end. I don’t welcome the idea of allocating a line item on our household budget to an appliance repair (after financing summer childcare and a subsequent huge car maintenance fee).

And while I do like the ease of putting the dishes in the dishwasher, I’m not a big fan of taking them out and putting them in the cupboards. There have actually been clean dishes sitting in the dishwasher since last



time I ran it, which was easily more than three weeks ago, maybe even a month or more – I’ve lost track of time during the back-to-school rush of middle-school homework (I learned that I am not smarter than a fifth grader, but I do know how to look things up), making lunches, processing all the paperwork that comes home in three sets of backpacks, and working around a kindergartner who was sick for the entire second week of school – just the other day we found our missing 8th spoon, in the dishwasher (#s 5, 6, and 7 turned up outside, in the man cave, and in the boys’ room respectively).

The other night as my oldest son and I were discussing the bonus incentive part of the kids’ allowance plan, he

suggested that loading the dishes could be one of the chores he did. I reminded him, “Our dishwasher’s broken, remember?”

“No.”

“Yeah, I haven’t been using it.”

“Then how do you do the dishes?”

“The same way I did them as a kid. I fill up the largest container with soapy water, like a pot or bowl, depending on what was cooked. Then I put all the silverware and small items in there. Then I wash all the dishes with the blue sponge – the yellow sponge is just for counters. When I have finished all the dishes...”

“Yuck – that sounds awful!”

“Well, it’s not, really,” I realized as I was explaining this to him. I began to reminisce about my own childhood, when homework and chores were my only concerns. I didn’t tell him about the summer I lived up in Maine and had to heat the water that I had called forth with a large cast iron hand pump on the propane stove in order to do the dishes. The water from the deep well was so cold my hands would ache if I didn’t heat it. I knew my son wouldn’t be able to relate, just as he has no concept of life before cable – or even color – TV, or of when phones had rotary dials and were hard wired to the wall. “The way I do it probably uses less water than the dishwasher...”

“I don’t think dishes should be one of my chores. Not until the dishwasher’s fixed, anyway. But actually, I hate unloading it!”

“Yeah, that’s not my favorite part, either.” Normally I suggest a different word than ‘hate’ but this time I did not. I guess it runs in the family. “I can teach you how to do the dishes by hand...uncle and I used to switch off every other night...”

“No – I think I’d rather learn how to do laundry.”

That was an intriguing thought. Lately, with football season in full swing, I had started separating the laundry – not the usual way, by

colors – but by his and hers. I wasn't going to put any of my fine washables in with football girdles and socks and the like. I remember thinking in early August when the season started that I had finally discovered something stinkier than a diaper that needed changing.

Plus, I decided I didn't want to give up doing the dishes: it offers an opportunity to stand in one spot for ten minutes at a time doing something methodical with my hands and being alone with my thoughts, and I can look out the window over the sink – a break in the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

If I choose to look at doing the dishes as an opportunity to re-set, re-focus, and even pray, rather than an unpleasant chore I have to rush through before I move to the next to-do, I can stop feeling guilty that I don't start my day with devotional readings and that I never seem to find that half an hour of uninterrupted time during the day to mediate or "sit with God." Standing with God works. For that matter, kneeling on the floor while I clean up the latest mess, whether it be purple grape juice on my white counter top or the broken window from the front door that one of my football players stiff-armed, if done prayerfully ("Thank you that I remembered to get Mr. Clean Magic Sponges last time I was at Target" or "Thank you that he didn't shred his arm"), is time with God. Just a moment – if spent with God – can be the eye of my hurricane.

"He doesn't need to rush on my account," I told my friend. "I don't really mind doing the dishes by hand."

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Thanks to Monette Long

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WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? ... IT'S AUTUMN,
LEAVES FALL

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(In the words of the Beatles)

HELP, I need somebody,
HELP, not just anybody,
HELP, you know I need someone, **HELP!**

Sat., Nov. 20 will be our 2nd annual Fall Holiday Fair and I need help. Last year we held a fall and a spring fair which were successful for the church, in that we raised almost \$4000.00, but not so much for the vendors.



Our vendors are not going to return if they have another unsuccessful fair. I need an

advertising team that will help make and distribute posters and fliers. I need someone to help get the word out through the newspapers and television. We're hoping to have another Supper with Santa that evening. We have Santa all lined up. Can you help put on a child friendly meal, a spaghetti dinner or hot dogs and mac & cheese? We need a group to take charge of the kitchen for breakfast and another group for lunch? This is a fund raiser for OUR church. Many hands make light work. Please let Anne Lee know at 978-486-4075 or charlieandannelee@gmail.com, if you can help out in any way.

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Help out at First Baptist's turn at providing a nourishing meal at **Neighborhood Supper** at the Congregational Church. We start setting up and preparing the meal at 3:00 PM, serve at 5:30 with clean up following. Please let Anne Lee know if you are able to help.



