



The GoodNewsletter

First Baptist Church, Littleton

“Journeying to God’s Sacred Beat”
April 2010

Upcoming April Events

April 1 Maundy Thursday
7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall
Service of Communion & Tenebrae

April 2 Good Friday Service
12:00 Noon at the Congregational Church

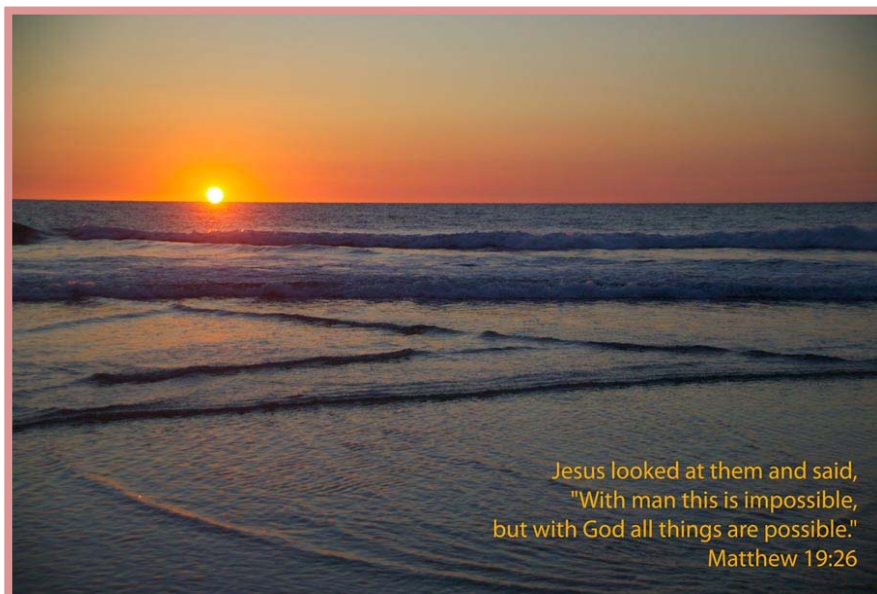
April 4 Easter Sunday Christ is Risen!
6:15 am Sunrise Service on Telephone Hill on Newtown Road, with the Congregational Church & Unitarian churches.
9:45 am Praise Celebration with *For Higher*.
10:00 am Easter Celebration & Worship

April 17-18
***Mission Possible* Stewardship Weekend**

Saturday April 17
Multiple Mission Projects to choose from.

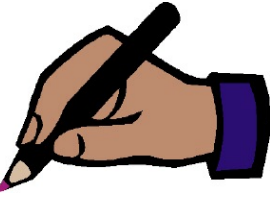
5:30pm Pot Luck Dinner
6:30pm Talent Show

Sunday, April 18 March Forward Offering



Jesus looked at them and said,
"With man this is impossible,
but with God all things are possible."
Matthew 19:26

FROM THE PASTOR



Do you remember watching Mission: Impossible? Not the 1996 movie with Tom Cruise, but the original TV show (1966-73) starring Peter Graves as Jim Phelps, an agent of IMF or the

Impossible Missions Force? I remember and one of my favorite parts was the beginning of the show, where the agent received secret instructions on a tape cassette (remember those?), and then a voice would say:

“Your mission, should you decide to accept itand as always, should you or any of your IM force be caught or killed, the Secretary will disavow any knowledge of your actions.”

Then the tape would self-destruct and the catchy theme music would start. The music was great, pulled you into the action and the song remains a very recognizable instrumental.



Each episode began with a seemingly impossible task that only Secret Agents could handle. But of course by the end of each show the problem was solved and the task was accomplished! It wasn't really an impossible mission – but a mission possible!

In the book of Matthew, chapter 19, Jesus gives a rich man some instructions about inheriting eternal life. Jesus told him to sell all his belongings, give to the poor and then come and follow him along the way. The man left dismayed because he didn't want to give up his money and possessions. Jesus then says, “it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”

The disciples were amazed at this, because *supposedly* the eye of a needle was a very small gate in the wall of Jerusalem, where everything on a camel's back would have to be taken off, in order for it could get through the gate. They were amazed and asked “who then could be saved?” Jesus said:

“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible!”

Our Finance Board has chosen this scripture to be our stewardship theme and it is a **bold statement of faith.**

“With God all things are possible!”
Matthew 19:26

We will not self-destruct and will never be disavowed by God! We go forward in faith as we plan for next year, guided by love, steeped in prayer, energized by hope, for we believe that God is good – all the time!

Pastor Debbie



Sunday April 11, 2010
Worship at 10:00AM

Students that are in the Littleton High School musical *Godspell* will join us to sing some of the numbers of their upcoming musical which will be present on April 30, May 1 & 2. They will be performing around 10:10 as some of the students have other commitments – so don't be late!



MISSIONWORKS 2010

What has the **Holy Spirit** to do with Missions? That was the question answered at the MissionWorks conference to which 9 of our members attended last month. Not only did we learn of our mission work in Tibet, and Malden, MA, but we got updates on Haiti, our Asian ministries, La Paz (by our own Joyce and David Reed).

The weekend began with a delicious Chinese buffet, singing with Paul White, and a stirring message by Dr. Reppa Cottrell on what it means to be filled by the Holy Spirit. What a challenge to relook at how we personally relate to the Holy Spirit!! We visited many mission tables that told of our work both at home and to the far reaches of the world.

On Saturday we heard Rev Ben Chan, director of Asian ministries for ABC International Ministries share a message

“They Spoke the Word of God Boldly”
telling of the need to let ourselves be filled with the Holy Spirit and be open to His using us to spread he gospel.

We were introduced to our 2010-11 State Mission Explosion projects. The first is to build a new building for an orphanage in Lhasa, Tibet. The second is to hands on support the Refugee Immigration Ministry clusters that are forming across the state of Massachusetts to help with tutoring, computer instruction, fund raising, and event management needed to help resettle the many refugees that are presently arriving in the State of Massachusetts.

There were workshops on many of the missions and one on the greatest need in Massachusetts and ABC USA – “an infusion of the Holy Spirit” What a challenging presentation by Dr. Denton Lotz pastor of Tremont Temple Baptist Church in Boston, and former head of the Baptist World Alliance.

The presentation from Brian McClatchy, a former middle school teacher who has become the Director of management for Jatson Chung School and Orphanage in Lhaza, Tibet, was very moving. You will hear more of this mission in the coming months.

Of course, there was greeting of old friends from across the state and the world, with catching up on what is happening in our churches.

The day concluded with a stirring testimony by Dr. Stan Slade, and challenging presentation on “They Turned the World Upside Down” by Rev. Dr Denton Lotz.

The conference sent us away with hope, joy, power and new vision for Christ’s work in our world through His Holy Spirit.

We invite you to join us for the next MissionWorks in September of 2011.



Boy to the World!

By Caroline Poser

In God's Hands

Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.

~Proverbs 9:21

Recently my middle son had baseball evaluations. He was trying to play up a division because his birthday is so close to the cut-off date. Initially, I thought all kids his age who wanted to play up could, but then I learned that there were a limited number of spots. Apparently "evaluations" is the politically correct term for "try outs," which, as one of the other parents I talked with agreed, is a lot of pressure for kids this age.



My sons and I discussed this on the way over to the school where the evaluations were being held. I told my middle son, "I know you're a good baseball player, and I am sure you'd do fine in this division, but there are only so many opportunities available. There may be a lot of other good players, too..."

Silence.

"Did you hear that, honey?" I said to my oldest who had his nose in a book, and whose evaluations had been held the night before. "The same goes for you. You did great last night, and at the same time, you

were one of the youngest kids there. Some kids were two or more years older than you."

"Awwww! I really wanted to play in that division..." "That division" is one level above the one for which his brother would be evaluated.

"I understand, honey, and I haven't heard either way yet. I'm just letting you know, there's a possibility that because of the population that tried out, you might not. It wouldn't be a bad thing; I am sure there are other kids you know playing at this level."

I had actually wanted him to stay in the division he had been in, hopefully with his brother, since he hadn't finished his first season last year due to an injury. And if that were the case, my wish would be for both of my sons to be on the same team.

"I stink," he moped and slumped in his seat.

"Don't be ridiculous! You did a good job. You did your best."

I remembered the conversation we'd had the previous evening on the way home. My middle son and I were talking with my oldest about how he did, since we had seen most of the drills. I told him I was amazed at what a good pitcher he is, and how impressed I was that he hit just about every ball.

My middle son added, "Yeah, you were, like, the only one pitching right!" (I am sure this is an exaggeration, but they've both been attending a pitching clinic and have learned some very specific things.)

I said, "Oh, and I noticed how fast you are." (This was during the baserunning drill.)

My oldest said, "I didn't do so great as catcher..."

I hadn't actually seen that drill, but added, "And you were better at infield than outfield – but that's why they have evaluations, so they know your strengths and weaknesses."

My youngest, not wanting to be left out, contributed, "Yeah, you're just really awe SOME!"

As we arrived at the evaluations, I added, “You definitely don’t stink. Let’s leave it in God’s hands.”

We had actually put it in God’s hands prior to both nights’ evaluations when we prayed in the car, thanking God for our gifts and talents and asking Him to help the boys glorify Him by using them well.

My middle son took his assigned pinny and fell in with a mob of kids who were throwing a ball back and forth. It didn’t look like there was any rhyme or reason to this game, but I trusted there was because I have seen the kids do it with a football, too.

The evaluators executed all the same drills as the night before. I followed my son around from station to station, sometimes with my other two by my side, and sometimes not, depending upon if they were running around with the rest of the “sibling club” in attendance that night.

I am fairly certain my middle son was happy that I was watching, because he checked to be sure I was from time to time. *Yes, I see you*, I indicated with a thumbs up or a wave. It reminded me of basketball season when he wanted me to watch – not just be there, but observe – his practice, even though he was old enough to be dropped off while I ran to the supermarket half a mile away. So, I would spend the hour watching, admiring, encouraging, and holding his water bottle as I did that night at baseball. I imagine it won’t be long before he prefers me to watch from a distance, and then maybe not at all.

When we were done and on the way to our Boy Scout meeting, he said, “Mom, I think I made it!”

I told him, “Well, you never know. We didn’t see how everyone else did. But I saw that you did a good job; you did your best. That’s the most important thing. Let’s leave it in God’s hands.”

New Prayer Group Starting



The First Baptist Church (FBC) of Littleton will be hosting a non-denominational prayer group on Wednesday nights from 5:30-6:30 PM. This prayer group will meet starting

Wednesday April 7th, 2010 for four Wednesday's during April, ending on April 27th, 2010. This will be an informal worship and prayer time for any and all who would like to attend. Come for as long or as little as you would like and share your worries and cares with friends and neighbors. Or if you are just looking for a few moments of peace and a time for quiet reflection, please join us. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 978-486-4660 or visit our website at:

<http://www.fbcittleton.org/>.

The Allison Vesey Seminary Fund

The Board of Deacons is announcing the formation of the *Allison Vesey Seminary Fund* to support Allie Vesey, who will be leaving in mid-August for Kansas City to enter the Master of Divinity program at Nazarene Theological Seminary. We have all been a part of Allie’s life for over ten years and it is a joy to see her follow God’s call into ministry! This fund will be administered through the Deacons Fund. You may make a donation by sending a check made out to FBC Deacons Fund/Allie Vesey. Your donation is tax deductible. Before Allie heads out in August, she will receive the money to use for books or whatever financial needs for seminary that she might need at the time. As part of her Christian family, we rejoice with Joe, Lynn and Kayla as Allie takes these steps of faith. God is good!

From Your Mission Possible Finance Board

The Finance Board would like to invite you to participate in *Mission Possible Weekend!* Our celebration is based on the scripture from Matthew: "With God All Things Are Possible." Join us in celebrating all that God has made possible in the life of our community of faith, and all that is still yet to be. We're planning a two-part celebration. **On Saturday, April 17th**, we'd like to have everyone participate in some kind of mission activity. We have a variety of activities in the planning stages – a Men's fix-it activity at church, baking for our food ministries at the Lowell Transitional Center and the Neighborhood Supper, gathering items for the local mission in Acton called the Household Goods Recycling of Massachusetts that collects household goods and distributes them to the local residents, a Children's and Youth activity, knitting a prayer shawl or writing letters to missionaries or folks in the service, and more ideas yet to come. Our goal is have everyone do something, simple or ambitious, it's all good, and then in the evening come together for an All-Church Pot Luck Supper and Gong Show to celebrate what was possible. **On Sunday, April 18th**, we invite you to continue our Mission Possible Weekend with our March Forward, pledging support for next year's

ministry and the far-reaching effects of all our ways of service, mission and outreach. So save the dates and stay tuned for more information and sign-up opportunities.



Group serving at the Lowell Transitional Center



Art work by Harriet DiLuzio

