



The GoodNewsletter

First Baptist Church, Littleton

“Journeying to God’s Sacred Beat”
May 2010

Boy to the World!

By Caroline Poser

Laundry: Not Part of the Job Description

Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck

~Proverbs 1: 8-9 NIV

My middle son was walking around one morning with just a t-shirt on. I knew he wanted items that were recently washed, but not yet put away.

“Hmmm,” I said aloud. “If I were a basket of laundry, where would I be?”

My oldest ventured, “On the dining room table?”

I almost snorted coffee out of my nose. The night before, I had whisked all the partially processed laundry off the dining room table just prior to “Pasta Night,” so that our guests would not have to share table space with little piles of shirts, pants draped over the backs of chairs, or our socks-and-underwear centerpiece.

I couldn’t remember exactly where I put the basket, and had told my middle son I needed to get a coffee before I did anything else, which is why he was walking around naked from the waist down in the first place.

I sighed and said to my oldest, “Oh, boy...I’m not a very good housekeeper, am I?”

He answered, “That’s okay, Mom. You already have a job.”

Speaking of my job, I had actually moved my laptop to the kitchen table on the way to get the coffee; my middle son and I were planning a working breakfast since he hadn’t finished his homework the night before. My to-do list flashed before my eyes.

My oldest continued, “Your job is being our mom.”

I stopped in my tracks, unable to come up with a witty comment about how part of being a mom is actually doing all that housework and laundry. Because who says it is (see sidebar)? It so happens that in our house, it’s me who does it or delegates it. But in some households, maybe Dad or Grandma does it, or maybe the family hires a cleaning service. When I cleaned houses,



some of the families asked our company to do loads of laundry.

I imagine in the grand scheme of things, when my sons grow up, they will care more about my having spent time with them: cheering them on, helping them with homework, making them go to church. And as long as they have clean clothes to wear, they

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will care less about whether they get them out of their drawers or closet, out of the basket, or off the dining room table. Furthermore, I doubt it will really matter if I bought them at a store or acquired them via the hand-me-down network, as long as they think they're cool.

I decided to simply accept the compliment.

How validating, I thought. I hugged my son and thanked him, before I set off to find the laundry basket. It turned out to be in my room, camouflaged by the bins of summer clothes I hadn't fully integrated into drawers yet. I recalled my reasoning was that if I left clean laundry in any area where kids might be -- during which time their friends had joined them in their practice of running around the house like a small troop of monkeys, I'd be back to square one as it would likely end up strewn across the floor (along side the Pokemon cards and Nerf gun bullets), disguised as dirty laundry.

A Mother's Job Description

Author unknown

POSITION: Mother, Mom, Mama, Mommy

JOB DESCRIPTION: Long term, team players needed, for challenging permanent work in an, often chaotic environment. Candidates must possess excellent communication and organizational skills and be willing to work variable hours, which will include evenings and weekends and frequent 24 hour shifts on call. Some overnight travel required, including trips to primitive camping sites on rainy weekends and endless sports tournaments in far away cities. Travel expenses not reimbursed. Extensive courier duties also required.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The rest of your life. Must be willing to be hated, at least temporarily, until someone needs \$5. Must be willing to bite tongue repeatedly. Also, must possess the physical stamina of a pack mule and be able to go from zero to 60 mph in three seconds flat in case, this time, the screams from the backyard are not someone just crying wolf. Must be willing to face stimulating technical challenges, such as small gadget repair, mysteriously sluggish toilets and stuck

zippers. Must screen phone calls, maintain calendars and coordinate production of multiple homework projects. Must have ability to plan and organize social gatherings for clients of all ages and mental outlooks. Must be willing to be indispensable one minute, an embarrassment the next. Must handle assembly and product safety testing of a half million cheap, plastic toys, and battery operated devices. Must always hope for the best but be prepared for the worst. Must assume final, complete accountability for the quality of the end product. Responsibilities also include floor maintenance and janitorial work throughout the facility.

POSSIBILITY FOR ADVANCEMENT AND PROMOTION: Virtually none. Your job is to remain in the same position for years, without complaining, constantly retraining and updating your skills, so that those in your charge can ultimately surpass you

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: None required unfortunately. On-the-job training offered on a continually exhausting basis.

WAGES AND COMPENSATION: Get this! You pay them! Offering frequent raises and bonuses. A balloon payment is due when they turn 18 because of the assumption that college will help them become financially independent. When you die, you give them whatever is left. The oddest thing about this reverse-salary scheme is that you actually enjoy it and this wish you could only do more.

BENEFITS: While no health or dental insurance, no pension, no tuition reimbursement, no paid holidays and no stock options are offered; this job supplies limitless opportunities for personal growth and free hugs for life if you play your cards right.



FROM THE PASTOR



The month of May has a number of *important* holidays in it.

For example the first week of May is the 27th **National Hug Holiday Week**, where folks are “invited to participate as an official Hug Holiday Hugger to increase hug abundance and make a difference one hug at a time!” The week of May 20-26 is **International Whistler’s Week** and is for “whistlers who share a common interest in the art of whistling.”

May 2 is both **National Roberts Rule of Order Day** and **World Laughter Day**. That seems pretty funny to me! May 8 is **No Socks Day**, May 16 is **NASCAR Day** and May 30 is **Hug Your Cat Day**. My cats were glad to hear they were going to get some attention, after all the hoopla around the house and church about Mosby.

Two holidays in May that we actually observe are **Mother’s Day** and **Memorial Day**.

Mother’s Day is not a religious holiday, but a time to appreciate and thank your mothers, and an occasion to spend a lot of money on cards, flowers, candy and have another excuse to go out to eat.

But did you know that it didn’t start out that way? It began because of a woman’s radical vision for peace!

In 1872 Mother’s Day was first observed in June when Julia Ward Howe, the author of the lyrics to the Battle Hymn of the Republic, made an eloquent appeal for an annual Mother’s Day for Peace. She said: “*Arise, all women who have hearts, and say firmly: Our husbands shall not come to us reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.*” Women gathered to mourn the war dead and to devise strategies for peace. This observance did not catch on anywhere else, but 35 years later Anna Jarvis asked her church to hold a

service in memory of her mother, who worked for health sanitation in the Civil War battlefield settings, and who tried to bring about reconciliation between people of the North and South after the war. Mother’s Day became a national holiday in 1914 but then began to become more and more commercialized. Disillusioned by the commercialism, Miss Jarvis spent *the rest of her life* working diligently to reverse what she played such a major role in creating. At one point she filed a lawsuit to stop a 1923 Mother’s Day festival and *was even arrested* for disturbing the peace at a war mothers’ convention where women were selling white carnations to raise money. “This is not what I intended,” Jarvis once said. “I wanted it to be a day of sentiment, not profit” and she said that the giving of greeting cards were “a poor excuse for the letter you are too lazy to write.” By the time she died in 1948 at age 84, Miss Jarvis, who was never married and had no children, had spent all of her money unsuccessfully trying to stop the commercialization of the holiday she worked so hard to found.

This year in honor of peace and mothers everywhere, may we also say “thank you” and express our heartfelt gratitude face to face to those women in our lives that have loved, guided and mentored us. Consider giving them a hug the week of May 2 to 8 as well - because it is never a bad idea to increase our “hug abundance!”

Blessings,
Pastor Deb





Would you like to join me, Pastor Deb, in supporting Chris Raine in the Methuen Relay for Life? You can help by walking, giving and/or praying for her and her team!

Info can be found here:

http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLFY10NE?px=9432067&pg=personal&fr_id=23392

**2010 Methuen/Greater Lawrence MA
Relay For Life
June 5-6, 2010**

2:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. at Methuen High School

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. At Relay, teams of people camp out at a local high school, park, or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Because cancer never sleeps, Relays are overnight events up to 24 hours in length.

Lowell Transitional Center Service Project for May

The end of the month is a difficult time for a lot of the clients at the Transitional Center. We would like to



help out by delivering lots of fresh milk to the Center on Sat. 5/29, and stay to serve the evening meal. Lynn Vesey and Donna Horvath will be collecting small donations up until 5/29 in order to purchase the milk. See Lynn and Donna if you would like to help serve the meal, or want

to drop by the church around 4:30pm on Sat. 5/29 with a container of milk.

Upcoming Sunday Worship Schedule

- May 1** – Ham & Bean Supper prepared by the Deacons and Deaconesses.
- May 2** - Worship with Communion
- May 9** – Mother’s Day worship
- May 16** – Worship
- May 23** – Pentecost worship with music led by Dell Smart and his band.
- May 23** - After church Ladies Lunch and tea. Bring small sandwiches and salads to share and a Tea Cup!
- May 29** - Ministry at the Lowell Transitional Living Center
- May 30** – Worship
- June 2** – Worship with Communion & Baptism
- June 13** – Children’s Day and Pool Party at the home of Pastor Deb and Ed. This is the last day of Sunday School until Rally Day, September 12.

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!



