



The GoodNewsletter

First Baptist Church, Littleton

“Journeying to God’s Sacred Beat”

September 2010

Rally Day 9 a.m.
September 12

GO

GO A Call to Action!

GO Make a Difference

GO Create

GO Serve

GO Sing

GO Laugh

GO Eat

GO Love!



Jesus said: “**GO** and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

COME and Worship. Join us for Rally Day as we celebrate and worship. During the 9AM hour we will be creating GO banners for our sanctuary, as well making sandwiches and putting together lunches for the Lowell Transitional Center. If you would like to contribute please see Donna Horvath. At 10:00AM we will have music by For Higher, Cindy & Steve Hudson, and the FBC Choir. Our guest speaker is Dr. Nevet's Mackro, a very entertaining and inspiring speaker, and we will see the inspiring **GO** video made at Grotonwood this summer.

Sunday, October 10

We will celebrate St. Francis of Assisi day which is September 4. We don't traditionally celebrate the Saints but we're not your traditional Baptist Church so we will give thanks for this patron saint of the animals. John Moon, Executive Director of NEADS will be speaking in worship at 10:00am,



and at 12Noon we will be having Blessing of the Animals on the front steps. Pastor Deb and Mosby, with Linda and Larry, will be leading the blessing. People are encouraged to return with their animals or stuffed animals!



Pastoral Daze

Jesus calls us to both **COME** and to **GO**. He says in Matthew 11:28, "**COME** to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." And so we come to worship, to praise God, to learn, to be in fellowship with one another, to deepen our trust, and to build the beloved community.

However Jesus also calls us to **GO**. In Matthew 28 He says, "**GO** and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

Our church is a sanctuary where we **COME** and then we **GO**, but we do both in the name of and for Jesus Christ whom we follow. We are disciples and we make disciples.

These last few weeks of the summer I finally ventured down Prescott Street to Grotonwood to listen to the joyful sounds of Celebrate, the Sunday evening worship experience for all summer campers. What a joy it was to be there! For Higher was leading the music – but they were infiltrated with members of the Grotonwood summer staff – who played the guitar, sang, smiled, did skits, shared, inspired the campers – and were having a great old time! They did this every Sunday night of the summer, and they greeted the last group of campers with the same enthusiasm, knowing that for those campers – it was still their first week of camp.

The camp's summer theme – was **GO-A** Call to Action. **GO** and make a difference. **GO** Trust. **Go** Bold. **Go** Love. **Go** Share. **Go** Follow. Dr. Nevets Mackro led the campers in worship with skits that were

very interesting I might say, and I am thrilled that he has agreed to come to our Rally Day to share the same message with our humble congregation. I know you will enjoy him!

This fall we will worship and celebrate both our **COMINGS** and our **GOINGS**. Please join us for Rally Day on September 12 at 9AM.

Regular Sunday School classes begin on September 19 at 9AM.

Hope to see you there!
Pastor Debbie

Note: *As a result of dropping one day of work from my schedule as pastor, I will not be in the church Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. I am always available for emergencies and please don't hesitate to get in touch with me if one arises. I am also still planning on being at some Saturday church programs, and when that happens I will just be shuffling my hours around. Thank you!*





(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.



Sunday, September 12

There will be a special meeting of the church following worship. The Trustees are requesting \$3609.80 for additional expenses incurred with the inspection and repair of the elevator, the purchase of a new fire extinguisher, mixing valves for the kitchen sink and the pumping of the septic system.

Friday, October 22, 2010 Women's Ministries

Fall is here! Our first meeting is going to be a ladies night out! Join us for a fun filled evening at the Salem Cross Restaurant and Tavern in West Boylston, MA where the Stageloft Repertory Theatre will present Murder Mystery Interactive Dinner with "The Doo-Wop Murders". Danny "Boom-Boom" DiVitro is appearing in this oldies but goodies broadcast. Optional dress code: poodle skirts and saddle shoes. We will be car pooling and leaving the church at 5:15. The cost is \$52.00 per person which includes the tax and gratuity. The menu is: Tossed green salad with creamy Italian dressing, Rustic boneless breast of Chicken, Supreme Sauce, Seasonal Potato and Vegetable, homemade rolls, Ice Cream Cakeballs with homemade hot fudge, brewed tea and coffee. Tickets need to be purchased in advance. Sign up and pay Anne Lee by Sunday, September 26. Sign up sheet is on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall.

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.



Save the Dates for these important church gatherings concerning our visioning process with the Alban Institute. The Guiding Team is Lynn Vesey, Willow

DiLuzio, John Court, Caroline Poser, Pastor Debbie.

- **Informational Meeting** after church **October 17, 2010** with the Guiding Team
- **Congregational Meeting #1:** **Sunday November 7, 2010** 4pm with light pasta dinner and meeting. Led by Alice Mann
- **Congregational Meeting #2** **Sunday January 30, 2011** 4-7pm - Dinner & Meeting, led by Alice Mann
- **Congregational Meeting #3** **Sunday February 27, 2011** 4-7 pm Dinner & Meeting, led by Alice Mann



Starting Oct. 1st Littleton is going to be **Pay As You Throw** for our trash. That means we have to use special bags that we purchase from local retailers. The bags come in three sizes, but I think all we have to be concerned with is the 33 gallon [large] bags at \$2.00 each. If some people would buy an extra bag once in a while when they buy their own it would keep the cost down. They could be put in the Loaves & Fishes basket in the hall by Goldsmith Street.



The more we recycle the more we save. There is a bin for paper in the church office, and one in the choir room. There also is a bin in the alcove off the kitchen for clean cans, plastic, and glass. With everyone's cooperation this will cost us very little or nothing at all.

Larry Fisher T.D.S.
(Trash Disposal Specialist)

Boy to the World!

By Caroline Poser

Choose Joy

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
~Philippians 4:4 NIV

...the joy of the LORD is your strength.
Nehemiah 8:10 NIV

“Make sure you choose Joy®...” I called after my son. We were in the supermarket and his assignment was dish soap. His brothers had been dispatched in different directions: one’s mission was milk and the other was headed to the bakery.

“Uh huh,” he said, without turning around.

I say the same thing every time we need dish detergent.

We always get Joy dishwashing liquid. I like the orange kind (because the color goes with the walls in my kitchen) but will buy the lemon variety if that’s all that’s available. Even though I have a soap dispenser built into my sink, I keep the bottle out so we can see the label.



It’s a good reminder for my family and me to think about joy. Joy is a choice. We may not be able to control everything that happens in life, but we can control our attitudes about it.

Not long ago I came across a speech my late mother had delivered one year at a Relay for Life event. My mom was a cancer survivor. She talked about that and mentioned that she had “also experienced the terrible disappointment of divorce – and financial disaster, too.” But she didn’t focus on the hardships. She challenged us to choose our attitudes, choose our experiences, choose to be the best people we can be, and choose to create the life that we want to live.

And she concluded with “Choose joy! And let your light shine brightly in the world.”

Everyone experiences hardship in life. God allows trials and tribulations to help us grow into the people we were meant to be, to draw us closer to Him. It is through trials that we learn to have faith, to let go and let God work in our lives. God will never give us more than we can handle with His help.

There is a reason and a purpose for everything, of that I am sure. I don't always know what it is at the time, but often hindsight is 20/20. When reflecting upon experiences – some of which I would not care to repeat, but for which I am grateful nonetheless – I ultimately have insight into how they helped to shape me. And I know that I'd better pay attention, because if I don't get the lesson the first time, it will certainly be repeated.

Pain is inevitable, suffering is optional. I can choose to be happy even if I don't get the raise I'd hoped for. My kids can endeavor to be good sports even when they lose a baseball game. We can find moments of joy even during times of great sadness like loss of a loved one.

One day recently when I was wondering if I really was “the worst mother in the world,” I was trudging along the rail trail with the proverbial dark cloud looming overhead. It had been a thankless morning. However, if I hadn't been walking so slowly, I wouldn't have noticed that the black raspberries on the bushes alongside the trail had begun to ripen. This was enough of a bright spot in my morning: a seed of happiness that led to hope, that restored my joy and my faith that everything will and does work out for the good. Sometimes sadness or pain is a little wakeup call that something needs to be changed, such as our approach to solving a problem or even just our attitude.

Because the detergent my son chose that day proclaims that it's not only “Ultra Joy” but also antibacterial soap, we've been using it for bubble baths. My boys bathe regularly in “out-of-the ordinary, extreme” joy.

As my mother said, “Choose joy! And let your light shine brightly in the world.”
Remembering our Minister and First Lady Emeritus

From the Diaconate....

At the Annual Church Business Meeting in May 2010, the church members unanimously voted to combine the Board of Deacons and the Board of Deaconesses, to be named “The Diaconate Board.”

A few meetings have taken place this summer to sort out the various responsibilities of both boards, with the following results:

In an effort to combine leadership from both previous boards, two co-chairs were voted in: Ellie Stetson from the Board of Deacons and Lynda Fisher from the Board of Deaconesses. Cheryl Lichtenberg will remain as Treasurer and will continue to track expenses from both previous groups, resulting in two distinct line items.

The Diaconate Board has split the responsibilities of both boards into two areas: The Chancel Team and the Worship Leaders, and some of us are on both groups, as we chose. Some have chosen to be in only one group.

The Chancel Team will be responsible for many of the same tasks that the Deaconesses did: preparing and serving communion, ordering and arranging flowers for holidays, funerals, Maundy Thursday, ordering replacement altar candles and supplies for funeral collations, etc. Chancel Team members will continue to take responsibilities on a monthly basis, preparing communion, lighting candles and arranging for weekly flowers. Any of them can be contacted if someone wishes to place altar flowers for a certain Sunday.

Chancel Team members for the remainder of this year are:

September - Marge Payne
October – Lynda Fisher
November – Ellie Stetson
December – Carol Huebner

Worship Leaders will be responsible for the Invocation, Scripture reading, receiving the offering, and serving communion and securing two board members to receive the Deacons' Offering.

This is a weekly commitment, as it has been in the past, changing to a different Deacon every week. As in the past, volunteers are always welcome, and there are two Worship Leaders listed who are not on the Diaconate Board, but their participation is most welcome. The Worship Leaders are:

Sept 5 – Harriet DiLuzio
Sept 12 – John Court
Sept 19 – Diana Kirk
Sept 26 – Chris Raine
Oct 3 - Donna Horvath
Oct 10 – Lynda Fisher
Oct 17 – Cheryl Lichtenberg
Oct 24 – Dick Huebner
Oct 31 – Dawn Gravlin
Nov 7 – Marge Payne
Nov 14 – Ellie Stetson
Nov 21 – Lynda Fisher
Nov 28 – John Court
Dec 5 – Diana Kirk
Dec 12 – Chris Raine
Dec 19 – Donna Horvath
Dec 26 – Harriet DiLuzio

We're sure there will be more changes forthcoming as we work within this framework, and you'll be notified of them all, as we step out in faith into the future of this church with a new, combined board. We look forward to serving God and His church at the Common.

John Court, Harriet DiLuzio, Craig Doolittle, Dawn Gravlin, Carol and Dick Huebner, Diana Kirk, Cheryl Lichtenberg, and Marge Payne.
Ellie Stetson and Lynda Fisher, co-chairs

Remembering Our Minister and First Lady Emeritus

The recent passing of Thelma Griffin calls up many memories of the years of leadership provided Littleton First Baptist Church by her husband, the Rev. John T. Griffin, and Thelma herself. They served this church from 1963-1977, moving here from Cape Cod with their two teenage sons. They were always a team, her skills and commitment complementing his ministry. She was our organist, director of both the senior and youth choirs, and the church's volunteer secretary/typist. Together they put out the church

newsletter, "The Compass," and led a large and active youth group. Thelma was always a driving force in our Women's Fellowship, which at the time included four busy work Circles. For many years she was the secretary at Grotonwood.

Following retirement in 1977, the Griffins first moved to Rhode Island, but returned to Harvard, Massachusetts, when son Randy built a lovely new home with an attractive and comfortable apartment for his parents. In 1989, the members of this church voted to give John and Thelma the recognition they so richly deserved, electing them our Minister and First Lady Emeritus, a lifetime title and honor. To make this an especially memorable event, we were able to bring their young and only grandchild, son of Jamie Griffin, here from Oregon for the celebration. In December of 1997 we recognized the 50th anniversary of Pastor John's ordination and in December of 2004, the Griffins' 60th wedding anniversary. His final official function here was to escort Mary Bettencourt in the processional to her ordination service at this church on March 10, 2002. He died in April of 2005.

There was an adventurous side to John Griffin. When Bert Webster was hauling apples out of northern Main by trailer truck, John went along for the ride, stopping to visit relatives in the potato-country town of Blaine. When Bert picked him up on the return, a sack of griffin-grown potatoes was added to the load. Mabel and Elmer McInnis, a couple who were active at LFBC while they lived in Littleton, moved home to Prince Edward Island in 1974. When their daughter Carrie Lee died there in 1975, Pastor John never gave a moment's hesitation to boarding Bert's 4 passenger plane and flying to PEI with us to attend Carrie Lee's funeral and spend time with the family.

John was quite accomplished in the kitchen, but he and Thelma also very much enjoyed eating out. Beverly and Paul Hollingworth saw to it that they were able to continue this pleasure as long as possible, and also helped them in many ways. All of us who have been touched by the lives of John and Thelma Griffin could share many stories, but for now we just pause to remember and be grateful for their years with us.

Carolyn Webster.

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