



# The GoodNewsletter

## First Baptist Church, Littleton

“Journeying to God’s Sacred Beat”  
March 2010

## Holy Week at First Baptist Littleton

### 1 Corinthians 1:25-30

*For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.*

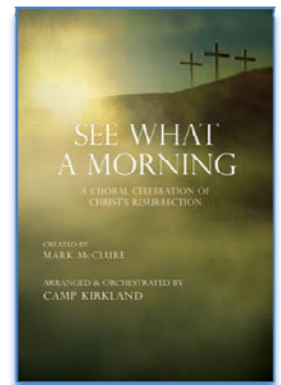
*Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.*

### Lenten thoughts from Beliefnet...

- You could not ask for a clearer expression of the revolutionary character of Christianity than these lines from St. Paul.
- How do I feel when I read these lines? Inspired? Ashamed? Challenged?
- What might I do differently if I were putting into practice the standard spelled out here?
- What do I really want? To live my life by this standard, or to be "somebody," to be influential and important? Can I talk to the Lord about this?

### Sunday March 28 Palm Sunday

**10am** Worship with the service of baptism and the Cantata  
*See What A Morning*



**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 members of the Congregational Church & Unitarian churches.  
**9:45 a.m. Praise Celebration** with *For Higher.*  
**10:00 a.m. Easter Celebration & Worship**

# FROM THE PASTOR

There are times that I worry too much! I don't know about you, but at times I find myself lost in my thoughts and I fret, speculate and worry about what the days ahead may bring or what might be going on with someone. Recently I have been thinking about trust – trust in my relationships with others and with God. 1 Corinthians 13: 8 says that “love never fails” and I have been working to replace my worries with trust. I let go and let God. I trust that God's love is really strong and that it won't fail when things are murky or rocky. I know that God's love within my relationships is stronger than my emotional ruminations.

An online devotional came to my inbox the other day and I know that it was a message from God. Karen Casey, in *A Life of My Own* said:

*“It's such a relief to give up our obsession to control, once we learn how. As we do to establish any new routine, we have to practice. In this case, we practice turning people and circumstances over to God. Our first reaction will be the familiar one, always. For so long we thought we had to be in charge. It's no wonder we felt crazy at times. We were trying to assure other people did the right thing, based on our perspective. Usually God, or they, had something else in mind.*

*Letting God hold the reins gives us a lot of extra time. We can narrow our focus to what we need to do today. And we can use our extra time to pray for the well-being of other people. Our payoff is feeling sane, peaceful, and rested at the end of each day.*

*I will enjoy the sanity of letting God take care of other people today. I'll just take care of myself.”*

I came upon a beautiful, gentle yet very powerful song called *Love Never Fails*, by Brandon Heath. He reminds us that God's love is the river that flows through us, that God's arms of love are the ones that are holding us and that God's love never fails and will sustain us. May God's love, sustain and protect you in your own emotional meanderings.

Pastor Deb

## **Love Never Fails** by Brandon Heath

Love is not proud  
Love does not boast  
Love after all  
Matters the most

Love does not run  
Love does not hide  
Love does not keep  
Locked inside

Love is the river that flows through  
Love never fails you

Love will sustain  
Love will provide  
Love will not cease  
At the end of time

Love will protect  
Love always hopes  
Love still believes  
When you don't

Love is the arms that are holding you  
Love never fails you

When my heart won't make a sound  
When I can't turn back around  
When the sky is falling down  
Nothing is greater than this  
Greater than this

Love is right here  
Love is alive  
Love is the way  
The truth the life

Love is the river that flows through  
Love is the arms that are holding you  
Love is the place you will fly to  
Love never fails you

# Upcoming Events

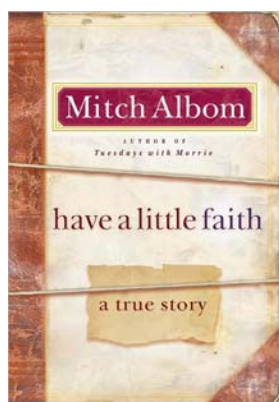
**March 13 5:30pm**

## **Church Pot Luck Supper and Talent Show!**

All are invited to a pot luck supper and talent show on Saturday, March 13. Time to show off your hidden talents again - so get out your harmonicas, science experiments, pink feather boas and funny bones as we gather for a time of food and fellowship.

Sign up on the Kiosk so we know how many are coming!

**March 27 9:00 – 11:00am**



Book discussion – *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom. Please sign up on the kiosk so that we know how many are coming.

**April 24 Spring Craft Fair**

We will be holding our spring craft and product fair on Sat., April 24, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. I am looking for volunteers for the event. I'll need some helpers for Friday night from approximately 7:00 to 8:00 PM, Sat., a group to man the kitchen for the lunch hour from 11:00 to about 1:00. The menu is your choice but the soup and bread went over very well at the fall fair. I need someone or a group to run a bake sale table and maybe a plant table. Is anyone interested in selling CHEESE? Folks are also needed for clean up that afternoon. If you are able to help please sign up on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall or speak to me. Thanks, Anne Lee

**April and May**

## **THE PRAY PROGRAM for all children - those in a Scouting program and those who are not.**

We will offer the two programs Sundays after church beginning on April 11 which will be an introductory session for parents and their children. This is very much like a young youth group program – however we will be following the curriculum in the God and Me and the God and Family programs. This is for children and a parent who are mentors for their children. Participating children will receive a badge on Children's Day, June 13, 2010 in worship. Invite your friends!

### **God and Me (Grades 1-3)**

#### Curriculum Goals:

- To provide an opportunity for young people and families to explore their faith together
- To help children realize that God is active in every part of their lives
- To help children know that Jesus is their best friend
- To memorize the Lord's Prayer



### **God and Family (grades 4-5)**

#### Curriculum Goals:

- To provide an opportunity for young people and families to explore their faith together
- To learn six ways of strengthening families through faith
- To help families grow in God's love
- To memorize the Ten Commandment



## The Buffet Table of Life

*“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.” ~Romans 12:6 NIV*

The Bigs and I were walking to school one Friday when a tanker truck went by. My middle son had his hand tucked into the crook of my right elbow; my oldest was several paces ahead of us. We didn't see the name on the side of the truck – even though it slowed down to 20 m.p.h. through the school zone – so we were using the eyes of our imagination to figure out what could be inside it. My middle son was sure it was fuel of some sort. I countered it with, “Well, imagine if it was pancake batter...” we both giggled.



“Hey, do you want to have breakfast night tonight? I could make pancakes...”

“Yeah, and waffles!”

“Okay, that’s easy!”

“Oh, wait,” he said. “I know – we could have all

sorts of food in the middle of the dining room table. Like pizza...pizza sticks...French bread pizza...oh, and maybe French fries, too!”

“You mean a buffet.” I wondered how we segued from pancakes to pizza.

“What’s that?”

“You know, lots of different choices.”

The buffet idea reminded me that I needed to finish a conversation I'd started with my boys the previous weekend. It had been Super Bowl Sunday and surely a good time to introduce my sons to the thrill and excitement of football squares – since the Bigs had declared that they wanted to play football in the fall.

I had descended upon them with a blank piece of paper, a ruler, and a pen and announced that I was

going to make a grid of 100 squares and they could write their names in them for a chance to win prizes.

I could tell they had no idea what I was talking about, but were intrigued by the idea of prizes (which were boy-oriented novelties that I had placed in attractive gift bags). So, I made the grid and let them write their names in 20 squares each (the remainder were split among three grownups) while I explained the part about picking the numbers and how the prizes would be awarded.

My middle son began complaining almost immediately. “I stink at this. I never win anything.”

“Everyone has an equal chance.” I wondered if he had already forgotten about his team’s near perfect basketball season.

“Until the numbers are picked,” I added. “And then you get what you get.”

“And you don’t get upset!” my youngest chimed in. That’s what they say at preschool when they’re handing out donut holes.

“Do you want to pick the numbers?” I figured that would be a good way to engage my middle son.

After we wrote the numbers on the left side and bottom of the grid alongside the team names, I began explaining how certain scores would indicate a winner.

“Look,” I said to my middle son. “You got 3 and 7, and 7 and 6, and, oh, wow, you got 7 and 7, too!”

“So?” he demanded.

“So, you’ll see. Some of your numbers are really good.”

“Hmmmph.” He remained skeptical.

“Anything’s possible...”

We all endured his murmuring until he had the winning square at the end of the third quarter and could choose a prize. Then we heard his grumbling

after he opened the gift bag, because he liked other people's prizes better. "It's not fair!" was his mantra, on and on ad infinitum.

I tried to explain to him that of course it was fair. "That's just how life is. You accept what you have and do your best with it."

My mom would often refer to the "Buffet Table of Life" meaning all the diverse opportunities, possibilities, and experiences life has to offer. With the buffet table approach, we don't all expect the same things out of life because it's understood that we all have unique gifts and talents and thus different preferences and different ways to learn life's lessons.

My oldest was waiting for us at the driveway to the school. Picking up where I'd left off on Super Bowl Sunday, "Hey, boys...do you think life is fair?"

"Yes," my oldest answered without hesitation. My middle son was silent. Could he still be lamenting that his test tube full of blue slimy ooze didn't measure up to the light-up squishy glow worm that his brother got?

"Even though we don't all have the same circumstances or opportunities as each other?"

"Yeah, things don't have to be exactly the same...they could be equal..."

"Okay, so you imagine it all works out in the end."

"I think so."

"Well, what about someone who's handicapped or someone who is really sick or someone whose house burns down...?"

"Hmmm. Well, I dunno...I guess there's a reason for everything..."

"Yeah, I don't really know either..."

We were all silent for a few moments.

I continued, "Maybe it's not up to us to decide what's fair and what's not." We had reached the entrance to the school. My middle son disengaged his hand from my elbow. "Maybe it's up to God."

"Yeah...well, bye Mom!"

"Yeah, bye!"

"Bye boys," I said as we elbow-touched. "Good luck on your states and capitals test..."

## From the Missions Board....

Don't miss the Mission Works "The Holy Spirit and Missions", being held March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Fitchburg Courtyard Marriott hotel. Friday evening features a Chinese buffet (\$20/person), and there will be several adult and youth programs over both days. For more information contact:

[tabcom.missionworks@gmail.com](mailto:tabcom.missionworks@gmail.com),  
or phone (978) 448 – 1445.



The next special offering will be the "America for Christ." Gifts support Christ-centered ministries that are transforming lives across the United States and Puerto Rico—from addressing Children in Poverty initiatives and resettling refugees violently driven from their homelands to providing evangelism training, developing discipleship resources and leading ministry workshops and conferences. Watch the bulletin for the collection envelopes.

## Easter Flowers Order Form 2010



It is time to order your Easter flowers. The cost this year is \$12/plant. Please give orders and payment to one of the Deaconess' – Anne Lee Ellis, Carol Huebner, Lynda Fisher, Dawn Gravlin, or Marge Payne. Orders may be mailed to:

Carol Huebner  
17 Sherwood Drive  
Westford, MA 01886

Checks should be made payable to “Deaconess Fund”

**The order deadline is March 28th.**

Type	Quantity
Easter Lilies	_____
Tulips	_____

Please include the words of recognition you would like to use in the bulletin

In memory of (or use your own words):

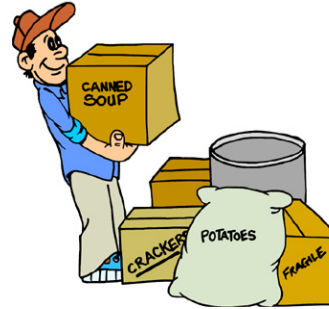
Leave \_\_\_\_\_

Pick Up \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Loaves and Fishes Donations

Recently some clothes have been left in the Loaves & Fishes food baskets, but regrettably we have no current way of delivering clothing items to the Pantry. Loaves & Fishes accepts clothing donations **ONLY** on Mondays, between 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.



Larry Fisher picks up food and bags at seven different locations in the surrounding towns, which he then delivers to L & F weekly, and sometimes twice a week. Larry cannot make the additional

clothing trip at this time. If anyone would like to take on the clothing ministry, please call the Pantry at 978-772-4627 to make arrangements.

The supply of bags is doing better now because L & F clients are using more reusable bags, so if you could donate those, it would be helpful. Even so, please don't forget your donations of food and paper bags – all donations are appreciated.

Food suggestions:

- Flavored potato sides
- Ramen noodles
- Jelly
- Soap
- Shampoo

On Good Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Larry will be walking to raise money for Loaves & Fishes. If anyone else would like to participate in this walk, there will be forms available in Fellowship Hall.

**First Baptist Church of Littleton**

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

