



# The GoodNewsletter

## First Baptist Church, Littleton

“Journeying to God’s Sacred Beat”

February 2010



Join us on **February 7** for worship as we  
*Break the Chains of Slavery*  
in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!

**Barbara Anderson**, the current National President of the American Baptist Women’s Ministries, will be here to give a message on Human Trafficking. Her sermon title is "Our Neighbors Have Names," based on Mark 12:28-34.

Following the service the women will have a Pot Luck Lunch in Fellowship Hall where there will be a question and answer period with Barbara about the issue. All women of the church are invited!

### *What Is Human Trafficking?*

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery. Victims of human trafficking are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor. Victims are young children, teenagers, men, and women.

### *Did You Know?*

1. After drug dealing, human trafficking is tied with the illegal-arms industry as the second-largest criminal industry in the world today, and it is the fastest growing.
2. Annually, 800,000 to 900,000 victims are trafficked across international borders worldwide.
3. Of those victims, 18,000 to 20,000 are trafficked into the United States.
4. Victims are generally trafficked into the US from Asia, Central and South America, and Eastern Europe. Many victims trafficked into the United States do not speak and understand English. They're isolated and can't communicate with service providers, law enforcement, and others who might be able to help them.
5. There are several forms of human trafficking:
  - sexual exploitation
  - labor exploitation
  - servile marriages
  - child-sex tourism

*Human Trafficking is world-wide ...  
.... including the United States  
....including Massachusetts!*

[www.abwmbreakthechains.org](http://www.abwmbreakthechains.org)

# FROM THE PASTOR



## The Artist's Way through Lent

“Art is the signature of man.” -G.K. Chesterton

It is hard to believe that Lent begins on February 17. You are invited to come along for the journey and bring your questions, your ponderings, your creativity, and express your faith through:

Painting, poem, picture, photo, song, sewing, short story, art, pottery, cooking, recipes, drama, crocheting or any other artistic expression or medium that God has blessed you with.



The creativity will begin the first Sunday in Lent, February 21 in worship where we will have a family worship service. All ages will be invited to journey together with hope.

You will be asked to pick an artistic medium (it's up to you!) to work on for the first four weeks in Lent that expresses some aspect of your faith journey.

The work will be collected on March 21 for a book that will be produced and given out to everyone on Palm Sunday to use devotionally during Holy Week. We will also have an art gallery in Fellowship Hall during Holy Week. We will celebrate the risen Lord on Easter Sunday and praise God our Creator for all our gifts.

### Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

*Creating God, your fingers trace  
the bold designs of farthest space;  
Let sun and moon and stars and light  
and what lies hidden praise your might!*

By Jeffery Rowthorn

Grace and joy,  
Pastor Deb

## Upcoming Events

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**Saturday, February 6**

**5:30PM Ham & Bean Supper** prepared by the Finance Board

**Saturday February 6**

**Youth Group Lock In** (sleep over) in the church

**Saturday February 6**

**5:00-8PM Father Daughter Dance** at Grotonwood  
Cost is \$35 per couple, call 978-448-5763 for more information

**Sunday, February 7**

**Worship with Barbara Anderson**, ABW president speaking

**11:30AM Women's Pot Luck Lunch**

**Saturday, February 13**

**8:00AM Tool Time & Men's Breakfast**

All men of the church are invited to come to a Saturday morning breakfast with devotions, followed by a couple of hours of work projects in our own church building. Sign up on the Kiosk and bring your tools! Questions, please contact Mark Reilly or John Court.

**Wednesday, February 17**

Ash Wednesday

**Friday & Saturday, March 5 & 6**

**TABCOM Mission Works Conference** Courtyard by Marriot, Fitchburg, MA

Information can be found on the Kiosk

**Saturday, March 6**

**5:30PM Ham & Bean Supper** prepared by the Music Board

**Saturday, March 27**

**9:00 -11:00AM Book Discussion Group** at Church  
**Have a Little Faith: A True Story** by Mitch Albom, a story of the faith journey of an elderly rabbi & an African-American pastor. Sign up on the Kiosk

# Boy to the World!

## Vaya Con Dios

By Caroline Poser

*Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

~ Galatians 5:25 NIV

"I thought I had all the controls in place," she lamented. My friend and I were having coffee recently and she mentioned her high-school aged sons' "inappropriate" internet behavior.

I didn't ask specifically what was inappropriate. I am still at the stage where I am mostly dealing with silly and annoying songs on YouTube. I have to endure the likes of Charlie the Unicorn or the Potter Puppet Pals incessantly, which is what I get for insisting the kids use the laptop in public areas of the house, I imagine.

Though, one time, one of my older two asked me for my email address so that an online game site could send him a user name and password validation link. I came over to the kitchen table and had a look. The form he was filling out listed his birthday with a date in 1996. "You typed in the wrong year for your birthday," I informed him.



"No, I did that on purpose, Mom. You have to be at least 13 to play this game."

"But you're not 13."

"I know, but so-and-so plays this game and he's a year younger than me!"

"Do you think so-and-so's mom knows this?"

"Uhhmm...I dunno..."

"Do you think it's okay to lie about your age?"

"Well, no, Mom. But it's only a game, everyone does it."

"No, not everyone does it. You're not gonna do it."

"But Mom!"

"It's not like we've never discussed this. You signed an acceptable-use policy for school. Shouldn't the same rules apply here? When you sign something like that, it means you agree – you give your word, your promise!"

"Awww, Mom!"

His feigned outrage was obviously half-hearted.

I don't think anyone (but my youngest) is really in such a hurry to grow up – recently they all insisted that an animated movie featuring falsetto-voiced rodents was the absolute *only* thing they would see albeit the several other choices at the cineplex. Because it was sold out, we traipsed to another theater, and even though the movie was even more annoying than any of their YouTube videos, it made me happy to know that they didn't want anything more sophisticated.

I told my friend, "Imagine if you kept your kids sheltered from MTV, the Internet...never let them go to the movies or the mall...just imagine what would happen when they left home for college, or whatever..."

She rolled her eyes. "I can't even think of it."

A few days later, I was reviewing the Boy Scouts of America's anti-drug pamphlet with my oldest. I cringed at the amount of detail about huffing common household chemicals or overdosing on medicine cabinet staples like pain relievers or decongestant. I recalled the last time I was doing my nails how one of my sons had told me he liked the smell of nail polish remover.

"Put that bottle down, honey, you don't want to inhale any vapors" – *or did he?*

The childproof bottle caps on the acetaminophen and cold medicine don't stop any of the children in

my house. "I'll get it, Mom," my youngest said when I asked him if he could just hang on a few minutes.

"Oh, no you won't, honey – you're not old enough to do that!"

"Yes, I am, Mom. I'm four and a *half*, now!" A study in worlds colliding, he struts around with his hand-me-down Nintendo "DeeYesssss!" with his lovey slung over his shoulder à la Linus of the Peanuts gang.

One of our jobs as parents is to grow our children into fully functioning, self-supporting adults. One day they're going to be on their own, so I suppose they have to have some knowledge about what's wrong, in contrast with what's right. Similarly, how are they going to learn conflict resolution if there's never a conflict? (This must be the reason Santa brought only one Wii controller to our house this Christmas.) And how do we learn patience, if we never have opportunities in which to practice it? (I have stopped praying for patience; surely I am blessed with ample opportunities already.)

Of course we try to protect our kids the best we can, but the reality is they have to leave the house sooner or later. You let them go and you hope that they remember the things you've taught them: say please and thank you, look both ways, love God and love your neighbor, change your socks and underwear, count your blessings, clear your plate, just say no to drugs, brush your teeth....

I let go and let God a little bit every day when they go to school. *Vaya con Dios, boys*, I pray silently, as the bus pulls away. *Go with God.*

## Calling all Men...TOOL TIME

Mark Reilly and John Court are organizing a Men's Breakfast at the church at 8AM on February 13, followed by some work projects around the church. All are invited and all skill levels are needed. For more info, please contact John or Mark and sign up on the Kiosk.



## From the Missions Board...

*"God has shown you what is good, and what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*

### **Micah 6:8**

We are delighted to report that our church community donated just over \$1900 for missions in December and \$900 was collected for relief work in Haiti! Thank you for your generosity!

The next "Micah" opportunity sponsored by the Missions Board will be an outreach to the Lowell Transitional Center. We intend to cook and serve a Sunday dinner, and are planning for the last Sunday in February or a Sunday in early March. The Lowell Transitional Center serves a very needy community- typically at least 150 people come for meals. Here's how you can help:

1. Contribute your ideas (menu suggestions),
2. Contribute your time (helping with the shopping or preparing or serving,
3. Contribute your financial resources as you are able.

We will be collecting donations throughout February. Watch for announcements in the church bulletin and during worship services. Donna Horvath is the "point person" for this outreach.

## Good News from the Finance Board

Here's a quick snapshot of our pledge income.

We're **thrilled** to report that our church



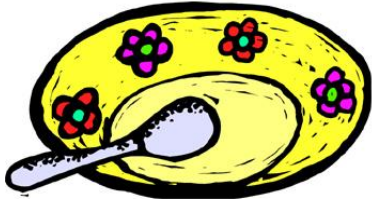
budget benefited from a very generous December! After several months of lower giving, now our anticipated pledge income and our actual income are virtually the same. God is

Good!

Pledges BUDGET:	\$58,360.00 (05/01-12/31/09)
ACTUAL received:	\$58,063.00
Difference	- \$300.00

All the Time!

## The Giving Plate



*This plate belongs to everyone,  
Wherever it may go  
With each new sharing of its gift,  
The love and blessings grow.*

*Friends and family gather 'round  
With kindness and with laughter,  
To nurture body, mind, and soul,  
With memories forever after.*

*So fill it up and pass it on  
To family and to friends  
To start the circle one more time,  
Love's journey never ends.*

This poem is on a beautiful dish that will be circulating throughout our First Baptist Family. All you have to do to take part in this is sign up on the sheet on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall. When the dish makes it way to you, you have 2 weeks to make something yummy and pass it on to someone else on the list. Please do not pass it on to someone who has already received it. There will be a list of recipients that will go with the plate. This will be yummy and a lot of fun. This could be a good way to get to know someone you might not know very well. Enjoy!!!

## American Baptist Churches respond to the crisis in Haiti



### Haiti Earthquake

Dear American Baptist,

The news from Haiti has been grim: the most impoverished country in the Western Hemisphere is now struggling with the aftermath of an earthquake that has destroyed its capitol city, killed thousands, and left thousands of others without shelter, food, or clean water.

American Baptist International Ministries has been working to contact our Baptist brothers and sisters in Haiti, coordinating our response and urging American Baptists to give generously. You can keep updated on the situation by referring to their link on this website at [www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org)

To our brothers and sisters in Haiti and our brothers and sisters of the ABC Haitian Alliance within the United States, we pledge our continued prayers and support now and throughout the recovery.

[Read more...](#)

Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley  
General Secretary



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