



The Good Newsletter

First Baptist Church, Littleton

“Journeying to God’s Sacred Beat”

June 2009

Carolyn Webster

Church Administrator Extraordinaire!

At the Annual Meeting of the church on May 19th Carolyn Webster received accolades, many thanks and applause for her years of service as Church Administrator, a position she began in 1982. Rev. Dr. Ken Whitt was the pastor of the church and recently shared that having Carolyn take on that role at that particular time in the life of the church was critical for the growth and transformation of the church. Carolyn brought her expertise, skills, professionalism, sense of humor and faith to the position and to the entire church community. She even extended that sense of service and compassion to the Whitt family by caring and loving them as if they were her own family. Ken remembers that Carolyn would babysit the three little Whitt children every Wednesday and would always take them to McDonalds. He also still remembers Carolyn outside on the lawn of their house with a big plastic bat, teaching little Micah how to play baseball.

On May 20, 2001 Carolyn and Bert Webster celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary and Rev. Whitt came to Littleton to share the sermon that Sunday, based on Micah 6:8 with Pastor Debbie. Carolyn and Bert and their commitment towards one another in love were given as examples of the “hesed” or steadfast love of God. Towards the end of the service it was announced that Carolyn was made a Life Deacon and this was said about her:



Carolyn Webster has served this church in many capacities since the 1960's - as Moderator, Clerk, Secretary, Administrative Assistant, served on the Christian Education board, taught Sunday School to children and special needs adults. She has served as a delegate to the Littleton Council of Churches, State Conventions and various roles within the Merrimack Valley Association, as well as a serving a term as a General Board delegate for the American Baptist churches USA. From 1989 - 1997 Carolyn served as a deacon of this church. A deacon is one who takes care of the spiritual welfare of the church community and persons individually. The word deacon comes from the Greek word "diakonos" meaning a servant or

minister who cares for others. Carolyn exemplifies a Christian deacon who cares for the whole people of God with joy and an attitude of compassion. Therefore by vote of the church at a special church meeting held on March 25 2001 Carolyn Webster was voted into the position of Life Deacon.

We are once again filled with gratitude for all the ways that Carolyn Webster has lived out the call to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Thank you Carolyn! A journal was given to Carolyn at the Annual Meeting which is intended to be passed around for folks to write their thanks and thoughts in.

Would you please take the time to let Carolyn know the gratitude that you have for her ministry by sending us a note for the journal or writing in during fellowship time.

Pastor Debbie

Upcoming Events

Children's Day June 14

9:00am Rehearsal
10:00am Children's Day Celebration
11:30am Food & Fun



June 21

Summer Worship schedule begins
No Sunday School until September 13
Worship at 10AM except as noted

July 19 Worship *AT THE* Congregational Church.
Rev. Gail Wright preaching 9AM

July 26 Worship *AT THE* Congregational Church
Pastor Debbie preaching 9AM

August 2 Joint Worship HERE
Rev. Gail Wright preaching

August 9 Joint Worship HERE
Pastor Debbie Preaching

September 13 Rally Day!

Joe Vesey received this letter from
the New England Patriots!



May 18, 2009

Dear Mr. Vesey:

Thank you so much for the amazing card you sent the team. Fans like you are hard to come by and it is wonderful to see how much you and First Baptist Church of Littleton are such great supporters! We send you the most sincere thanks for your long and unwavering support of the New England Patriots. May we have a great next season!

Best Regard,

The New England Patriots



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Check us out online at:

www.FBCLittleton.org



**Vacation Bible
School Registration
Night**
Monday, June 1st
at 5:00 pm

CAMP E.D.G.E Vacation Bible School will be held from Monday, August 3rd through Friday, August 7th at The Congregational Church of Littleton.

Register your children!
(Entering Kindergarten through Grade 6)
Sign up to volunteer during VBS week!
Refreshments will be served!
(Hot dogs, chips & drinks)

Please bring:

- Your child's immunization medical records
- Your payment of \$15 per child with a maximum of \$25 per family (checks should be made payable to CCOL)
- Your children as there will be activities for them

The Congregational Church of Littleton
330 King Street, Littleton
978-486-3245 office@ccol.org www.ccol.org

HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY!

SUPER JIFFY
DRILL!



Annual Meeting Recap

May 17, 2009



Starting with a warm up of food and fellowship at the 5 p.m. pot luck supper, the gathering proceeded to conduct the business of the church. With about thirty persons (more than double a quorum) present, Moderator Gretchen Webster called the meeting to order and Pastor Debbie Blanchard opened with prayer. After a few minor spelling and punctuation corrections and the insertion of the word "partially" in the first sentence of the last paragraph on page 19 to clarify the fact that Mosby, the ministry dog, was "partially funded by a gift from the Couper Foundation," it was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to accept pages 3-27 inclusively of the annual report.

The reports of the Collector and Treasurer, pages 28-33, were considered next. Treasurer Dick Huebner stated that communication with our Merrill Lynch representative is good and he is optimistic about the information he is receiving. A comment was made that it would be helpful to have funds that are identified as restricted on p. 33 defined more clearly so we understand just how those funds may or may not be used. This was referred to Dick and the Investment Committee to work out for future reporting. The Collector's and Treasurer's reports were accepted unanimously.

Ellie Stetson presented the report from the Human Resource Committee, thanking all those who had agreed to serve in various offices and positions. There are still some openings, but the HRC continues to work on filling them as an ongoing process. She moved that the slate as presented to be accepted and it was so voted.

Next on the agenda was the Pastor's "state of the church" address. Debbie listed some of the reasons people attend a church are:

- To find a relationship to Christ.
- To find community.
- To make a difference.

The membership has shown good stewardship in caring about and for our funds and she remains optimistic, pleased with the way we listen and move to “God’s sacred beat.” She has pastured this church for nearly ten years and sees it as “a wonderful body of Christ”.

Tom Alsup, for the Finance Board, walked the group through the proposed budget, correcting some of the numbers due to updated information and other changes. Questions were answered, ideas were shared, and line items clarified. Tom commended the Board of Christian Education for reducing their budget. The Youth Worker and Minister of Christian Ed line items are at zero because both Mark and Maria Reilly have agreed to serve on a volunteer basis. Use of available curriculum materials is maximized. The membership was reminded that adoption of this budget means we are agreeing to a deficit of about \$45,000. Pending noted changes, the budget as presented by the Finance Board (yellow pages 1-6) was accepted unanimously, with the understanding that fine-tuned and corrected copies will be provided as quickly as possible. Tom was thanked for his work.

Looking for a consensus as to whether to continue with our ham and bean suppers, the Moderator conducted a brainstorming session. Some of the suggestions:

- Offer them consistently, whether it be the first or second Saturday of each month.
- Advertise them more widely.
- Offer some sort of program or entertainment after some suppers to make it more interesting for children and other.
- Organize responsibility for them to lighten the load on various boards.

The suppers were seen primarily as an outreach but also as a fundraiser, and a small rise in price was recommended. Folks attending the suppers in the fall could be surveyed to discover whether varying menus would be appreciated. The matter will be referred to the Advisory Council.

Yours truly was pleasantly surprised to be the one to whom the agenda item “special recognition” referred. With a booklet entitling me to ongoing free parking, unlimited use of the word processor, retention of the

coveted church key, and other such privileges, the Churchmouse became the “Administrative Coordinator Emeritus”. Sincere and heartfelt thanks to my church family. I treasure this award and the thoughts behind it and I will enjoy the heartfelt flowers and journal that were presented to me, along with the documented privileges.

Anne Lee Ellis called attention to the sign to the sign-up for people to bring needed contributions of food for the Memorial Day breakfast, thus cutting costs. She also detailed the plans for the all-church fair set for November 21 and asked people to be part of that effort.

Gretchen passed the book containing Roberts Rules of Order and other such helpful information over to incoming Moderator Carol Huebner. The meeting was adjourned with the singing of Blest Be the Tie that Binds.

Carolyn Webster, Co-clerk



You may think that it's too soon to be thinking about the holidays, but they will be here before you know it. This year on Saturday, November 21 we will be holding an ALL church holiday fair. We are hoping that everyone in the church will be involved in some way or another. Please put on your thinking caps and come up with some creative idea for that day. We will be renting out tables and spaces for crafters, so if you know of anyone who might be interested please have them email me at charlieandannelee@gmail.com. The music board is going to be having a silent auction table and we will gladly accept any items that you may have for our table. This is a great opportunity for us to open up our church to the public and also make quite a bit of money at the same time. If you have any ideas, please speak to me.

Thank you, Anne Lee

FUN with the SON!

**2009 Mid-Summer
Festival at
Oceanwood!
July 31 - August 2,
2009**



Boy to the World

By Caroline Poser

“The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.” ~ Isaiah 58:11 (NIV)

Over thirty years ago, the first Mid-Summer Festival was held at Oceanwood to raise support for camperships, resources, and operations. Since then, the Festival has raised almost \$500,000, and proceeds have renovated cabins, built paved walkways, purchased safety equipment, provided countless camperships, and helped the budget.

Started as a fundraiser, the Festival has also been a “fun” raiser for guests, alumni, and the community. The Festival is a cooperative program of the Grotonwood-Oceanwood staff and Grotonwood-Oceanwood Supporters and Helpers (G.O.S.H.)

Friday Night Start!!!!

**4:00 pm - Lodging Opens
6:00 pm - Dinner - Shish Kabob Cookout
7:30 pm - Special Music
8:30 pm - Son-Dae Dessert Bar (\$5)**

Saturday Fun!!!!

**7:00 am - Yard Sale Opens
8:00 am - Breakfast Buffet
9:30 am - The Party Begins!
(Dunking Booth and Games Open)
10:00 am - Music Festival Begins with the Dunlap Bag Pipers
11:00 am - “Celebrity Dunking Booth” Opens
11:30 am - Snack Shack Opens
2:00 pm - Pool Open
5:00 pm - Texas BBQ
5:30 pm - Silent Auction winners announced**

Sunday Wrap Up!!!!

8:30 am - Blueberry Pancake Breakfast

Visit the link below for registration and other information
<http://www.grotonwood.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=111>

“What in the world was that buzzing noise?”

I opened one eye and it took a moment or two to realize where I was, when it was, and what I was doing: trying to take a nap on the couch one afternoon recently. My older two were with their dad and my youngest was having a much-needed siesta on the adjacent couch. My phone shimmied across the coffee table as it continued to vibrate. I snatched it up, looked at it and tossed it back on the table disgustedly, as I didn’t recognize the number. I figured whoever it was would leave a voicemail.

I squeezed my eyes shut again to block out the sunny day it had become after the overcast morning that we had all spent at one of the baseball diamonds at the town field. I had alternated as pitcher, catcher, umpire, and arbitrator during our family baseball game. My younger two, who had got up far too early (in my opinion), had short fuses and I realized we better head home since we’d need the last of their energy reserves to make it back home on the rail trail. The boys had all ridden their bicycles, and it was my youngest’s debut on his new-to-him two wheeler with training wheels.

I couldn’t drift off again, though.

As it had turned out, my youngest couldn’t complete the ride – he was even slower than the notoriously pokey dog, who sniffed just about everything coming and going. I’d alternately urged my son along and towed him by the front handlebars with my left hand, but he was becoming a puddle. I told the Bigs to go ahead, and we abandoned his little bicycle on the side of the trail about a half mile from our house. And even though

I had the bat bag containing all four of our baseball gloves, seven balls, as well as the bat slung over my right shoulder and our soft-sided lunch cooler and the dog's leash in my right hand, I scooped up my son with my left arm and hoisted him over my hip. We trudged along and when we got to the off ramp, where we'd go up the hill to our street, I set him down.

"Can you walk now, honey?"

"No, Mommy," he'd answered in a small voice.

"Okay," I'd sighed, and groaned inwardly, "just give me a minute."

Annoyed, I realized with the absence of buzzing, that whoever it was didn't even leave a voicemail: my nap was wrecked for nothing. I snatched my silent phone back up and looked at the time. I had only been asleep for 15 minutes.

Nevertheless, I lay on the couch with my arm draped over my eyes and thought about things. I thought about the spreadsheet I had planned to finish the day before; the dishes in sink and the laundry on dining room table; the two birthday parties I needed to plan; my 2nd grader's weekend homework; the various piles of papers that needed attending to, most urgently were all the forms that had come from the camp that the boys would be attending; the fact that I had to talk in church the next day (*about what*, I wondered); and lastly, I lamented the column I didn't write the week before, though I did turn out two masterfully written presentations for work and a press release for my friend's band.

I realized this could have been any typical Saturday. And indeed, hadn't it been months before when I actually started this very story, except the event preceding my napquest was my oldest's basketball evaluations during which I had held my restless youngest son in my lap on the crowded bleachers (when I wasn't taking him to the potty or to get a drink) trying to keep him amused with the contents of the purse and the jewelry I was wearing, while my middle roamed the halls of the school doing God-only-knows-what?

I had so much to do, yet I remained on the couch.

With my eyes defying daylight, my other senses were amplified. I could hear the traffic on the street and a dog barking (and was glad it was not mine: he was asleep on the other end of the small couch with my son) through the open living room windows. I shivered as the breeze wafted through the curtains and I could smell someone's freshly cut grass. And oh, I guess the mourning doves were back after all.

"Sleep when the baby sleeps." I'd heard that advice more than nine years prior when my oldest was the baby. And now, finally, with my third son who is going on four and insists, "Don't call me 'Baby' anymore, Mom!" I had finally started taking the advice. The only challenge was that with three kids, opportunities for naps were few and far between.

As my understanding editor had said the day before, "No problem. It's good to give the brain a rest every now and then. Maybe next time."

But still I'd panicked. What if I have writer's block? What if I stopped writing? What if there was no next time? Well, what if? What if I just took a break from writing? Could I?

But he was right. I did need a rest. I had been running on empty for far too long. Everything else could wait. It would have to.

Thank you, God, that I have so many good and worthy things to do, and thank you that I have the opportunity today to have a rest before I start doing them...I ticked off my gratitude list in my head.

I remained where I was and when my son began to stir, I reached over and held his hand at the right angle where the matching couches met. We lay in companionable silence for a good while.

Then, "Are you ready to go get your bike?"

"Okay, Mommy."

Refreshed, we started over. What might have seemed like a waste, was actually a good investment of time.

Scenes from the Ronnie Earl Concert benefiting the Lowell Transitional Center

May 15, 2009



First Baptist Church of Littleton

P.O. Box 156

Littleton, MA 01460-0156

Phone: 978-486-4660

Email: office@fbclittleton.org

Website: www.fbclittleton.org

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