



The GoodNewsletter

First Baptist Church, Littleton

“Journeying to God’s Sacred Beat”

Mid-Summer 2009



*Summertime, And the livin' is easy
Fish are jumpin' And the cotton is high
One of these mornings, You're going to rise up singing
Then you'll spread your wings, And you'll take to the sky*



Here are some *Summertime* recommendations from our church friends and family!

Summertime Trips

Lynn & Joe Vesey - A cruise on the Danube River 7/25-8/3, Kimball’s Farm mini golf to buy some fried dough made by Kayla Vesey.

Craig & Jan Doolittle – Cottage in Ridgewood, New Jersey and a Whitfield family reunion.

Court Family - Woodstock, NH area not far from Franconia Notch and Loon Mountain and a family reunion in Portland, Maine.

Julia Court - Oceanwood, Junior High experience, a two week camp & Wyldlife camp in NY.

David Court – Grotonwood Day Camp.

The Websters – Camping in the North Maine Woods, PEI for three weeks.

The Stetsons – Their cottage in Trenton, Maine affectionately known as Shady Nook House.

Summertime Concerts

Lynn & Joe Vesey –*Entrain* in Ipswich & the Chelmsford Band concerts to hear *Allie Vesey* on flute.

Craig & Jan Doolittle – *Crosby, Stills, & Nash* at the Pavilion in Boston.

The Court family – Free oldies concert in Boston and cruise nights at Kimball’s.

Lyle Webster - *Monte Montgomery*, *The A to ZZ Tour (Aerosmith & ZZ Top)*, *Ronnie Earl* at The Lowell Summer Music Series.

Caroline Poser - Some music on a Boston Blues Cruise and *Ronnie* on August 29th in Lowell.

Summertime Music

Ronnie Horvath – *Junior Wells Southside Blues Jam*.

Lyle Webster – couldn’t decide - he now has 10, 000 songs on his iPod.

The Stetsons – Classical, Big Band and smooth jazz, and the summertime music in Maine.

Caroline Poser - *Led Zeppelin, Jimmy Page, The Black Crowes, Blind Willie Johnson, Nina Simone, Joan Jett, B.B. King, Eric Clapton, Carole King*.

Summertime Reading

Chris Raine - *Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter novel series*.

Cathy Court – *The Red Tent*.

Lyle Webster - *Stone Mad* by Seamus Murphy, *Cod and Salt*, by Mark Kurlansky.

Summertime Movies

Chris Raine - *Ben Hur, Spartacus, 300, The Doctor, Dr. Zhivago, Dead Poets Society*.

FROM THE PASTOR



Thanks be to God!

Two of our June worship services were a joy to be a part of; Music Sunday and Children's Sunday. Music Appreciation Sunday was a day to be held and inspired by soulful and beautiful music, but also by the words that were shared from all of you about how music inspires, heals and touches you. Craig Doolittle brought a thoughtful and welcoming presence to the pulpit, leading us into to a time sharing moments of music that were healing and uplifting in our life.

Children's Day was also a complete joy – a joy to behold! Our Sunday School teachers, Board of Education members and parents are one of the most creative groups of God's disciples anywhere. It was great to see the children perform the old games shows – the sets were so much fun and it was a blessing to see that our Sunday School program is an uplifting and creative community.

One of the most touching moments for me was listening to **Matthew Reilly's invocation** on Children's Day. It touched my heart to see this young man, so poised and so thoughtful, share a reflection on a day in his life at a sports event. It was a blessing to see how Matthew has infused his faith and his life outside the church, and see how he applied the lessons of faith to his daily walk with God. That is discipleship! That is what growing in faith in our Lord Jesus Christ is about, and hearing Matthew's profound words inspired many of us. Thanks be to God!

& nbsp;

AND the very next week, **Allison Vesey** preached a sermon entitled *Taking a Leap of Faith*, at the Methodist Church in Westford where she is now working. Thanks be to God! A number of you went to hear and support this young woman whom we love so dearly. We will have to see if she is available to preach here in Littleton, because I know that we would also be inspired to see and hear the witness and words of our young people once again. God is at work - from the time our little children receive their Bible sitting on the steps of our church, to times that they stand behind

the pulpit and share the words and lessons on life, wherever and whebver God may call them to do so.

Never doubt that God is AT work wherever two or three are gathered - thanks be to God!

Love,
Pastor Debbie

You may hear Matthew's invocation on our church website at

<http://www.fbclittleton.org/childrensday2009.html>

at you may also see some of our church You Tube videos through a link on the home page at

www.fbclittleton.org.

Also.....

Thank you to all for all the love, prayers and help you have extended to Eddie and I during his cancer treatments. As he continues with treatment and then recovers over the next months, I am full of gratitude to those who have offered to preach, help in worship and who have supported us in a multitude of ways!



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



No Sunday School until
September 13
Worship at 10am
except as noted

Upcoming Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday, July 5, 10:00am

Rev. Dr. Jean Wright preaching, Pastor Debbie participating

Sunday, July 12 10:00am

Rev. Diana Kirk preaching, Pastor Debbie participating

Sunday, July 19 AT the UCC Church 9:00am

Rev. Gail Wright preaching, Pastor Debbie participating

Sunday, July 26 AT the UCC Church 9:00am

Pastor Debbie preaching

Sunday, August 2 HERE at FBC 10:00am

Pastor Debbie preaching, Rev. Gail Wright participating

Sunday, August 9 HERE at FBC 10:00am

Rev. Gail Wright preaching, Pastor Debbie participating

Sunday, August 16 & 23, Sept. 6 10:00am

Pastor Debbie preaching

Sunday, September 13 Rally Day!



Check us out online at:

www.FBCLittleton.org

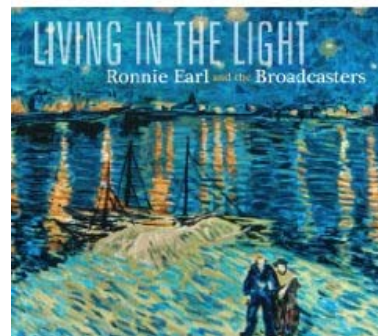
Congratulations to Ronnie on his album debuting at Number 4 on the Billboard Blues Top Album Chart!

A large contingent of church folks and area friends are going to see Ronnie and the Broadcasters at the **Lowell Summer Music Series on Saturday Night August 29th**. Opening for Ronnie is Dave Keller and his band who sang two of the songs on the new album. Tickets for the concert are only \$16 if purchased ahead of time. It is an outdoor concert and will be held indoors if it rains. Bring lawn chairs and a picnic basket and let's gather as a group for the night! Tickets can be bought here ahead of time: <http://www.lowellsummermusic.org>

CD Review

"Living In The Light" by Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters (May 29, 2009)
by [Brian D. Holland](#).

An interesting aspect about *Living In The Light*, the newest studio release from Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters, is that it encompasses everything in the Ronnie Earl musical spectrum - instrumentally, lyrically, and spiritually. And although it's all within the blues realm in one way or another because



Ronnie never strays entirely from blues territory, he once again stretches those elastic boundaries as far as they can go without reaching a breaking point. The fact that his music includes profuse jazz, soul, and

gospel influences allots the elasticity in the boundaries incredible bending ability in diverse directions. And it's certainly modern-day electric blues of the finest quality, acoustic as well.

Although Ronnie's studio material and concert performances have been largely instrumental over the past few years, this one once again has a handful of appealing vocal pieces on it. It's an aspect that's blatantly perceptible from the start. The title words in the opening song, "Love Love Love," soar abruptly and passionately from the mouth of guest vocalist Dave Keller. The Vermont native, known for his soulful and passionate performances in The Dave Keller Band, adds another fine vocal presentation to "What Can I Do For You." It's an eight-minute slow blues and gospel-influenced Bob Dylan cover featuring magnificent performances from the Broadcasters as a whole and an outstanding solo from the man they call Mr. Earl in particular.

Largely known for his vocals and blues harp duties in the Fabulous Thunderbirds, Kim Wilson is no stranger to the music of Ronnie Earl. The two friends hook up once again to record some great blues on three tracks here, the first being a straightforward acoustic rendition of Robert Jr. Lockwood's "Take A Little Walk With Me." Most notably, his voice is both subtle and poignant in "Child Of A Survivor," a song dedicated to holocaust survivors, which is an issue close to Ronnie's heart. The fact that he's the offspring of Jewish survivors who lived through one of the most horrifying periods in history is truly relevant in this slow blues tune. The genocidal event is exemplified in the lyrical theme to help enforce the understanding that it should never be forgotten, a reflection that's as important today as it was at the end of the second world war, as terrorism and hatred are frightening realities still. This is one of a few songs on the album in which Ronnie is able to shed light on issues of genuine importance, to him as well as to others. And although all but three of the album's tracks are Ronnie Earl originals, this is one of two written collaboratively with close friend Deborah Blanchard. The second is "Donna Lee," a moving acoustic blues featuring Kim Wilson on vocals and harp. Of personal value lyrically, it's about the bonding strength and love shared between Ronnie and his wife Donna.

Fans still yearning to hear Ronnie and the band get into some breathtaking instrumentals needn't fret, because *Living In The Light* doesn't lack in that area. Both "S.O.S." and "River Charles Blues" are superb treats in which Ronnie soars off into blues guitar heaven, with the Broadcasters rhythm section in brilliant,

unadulterated support. "Recovery Blues" is a melancholy melody highlighting recovery from alcohol and drug addiction, another topic Ronnie's passionate about. A guitarist known for purity in sound, one that needs no effects, his guitar's straight-to-amp resonance is placid and clean throughout, and totally fitting to the "clean" in body and mind premise of the song. *Living In The Light* closes contentedly with a beautiful slow blues instrumental, entitled, "Pastorale."

Living In The Light is a comprehensive and gratifying release from Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters, one that's resplendent with exhilarating instrumental blues excursions and passionate vocals. To follow the CD and DVD releases of the successful *Hope Radio* sessions with another brilliant studio release proves that the creative juices are flowing strongly within Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters. And with the extraordinary guitarist at the helm, they've surely got a lot to say both instrumentally and lyrically, and once again it's all about "hope" and "living in the light." That's the power of the blues for sure.

<http://www.modernguitars.com/holland/archives/004923.html>



God Texts* the Ten Commandments

By Jamie Quatro

1. no1 b4 me. srsly.
 2. dnt wrshp pix/idols
 3. no omg's
 4. no wrk on w/end (sat 4 now; sun l8r)
 5. pos ok - ur m&d r cool
 6. dnt kill ppl
 7. :-X only w/ m8
 8. dnt steal
 9. dnt lie re: bf
 10. dnt ogle ur bf's m8. or ox. or dnkey. myob.
- M, pls rite on tabs & giv 2 ppl.
ttyl, JHWH.
ps. wwjd?

Boy to the World

By Caroline Poser

The Thumbs Up



“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”
~Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

“Get away, Mom!” My middle son snarled and shrugged away from my embrace, as though he were disgusted. I had just hugged and kissed his older brother goodbye and now I was bidding him farewell as I dropped them off at Grotonwood, the Christian summer camp they were attending for their fourth summer.

I tried not to take it personally, but still my heart still skipped a beat.

I put my hand in his shoulder and said, “See you this afternoon,” and turned around and walked out the recreation center door, heading back down the hill to my car.

I know that our primary goal as parents is to prepare our children to grow up and become independent, while evolving into educated, civilized, and productive members of society. The latter part of that statement is something I remind them of frequently when they gripe loudly about school or chores, the former I let slide. They still think they are going to live with me forever. My oldest recently asked me what is the closest college to Groton; my youngest thinks that when he rescues his girlfriend from the castle, “she’s gonna live with us at our house, Mom!”

My middle son’s outburst of autonomy took me by surprise. I remember not long ago when I had one or both of my older boys clinging to my legs at daycare, insisting “I don WAN go!” Or my oldest telling me he

needed the thermometer (in order to convince me he was sick.)

I would peel them off and hand them over to a teacher, who would coax them to say goodbye and blow kisses to me out the window. One would be sobbing and refused to look at me. The other would try to comply, but he just looked weary.

“I love you both,” I said, pressing my nose against the window screen. And with false bravado: “I’ll see you at 6:00 – have a great day!” I didn’t want them to see me cry.

But I did, for most of the 30-plus miles I drove to work. Twenty minutes or so into the ride I’d pull myself together to call daycare to make sure my boys were alright (they always were); then sniff and sob intermittently *because* they were, and I was the one with the emotional hangover. And at the end of the workday, I’d do the same thing in reverse, except this time I’d be praying I’d get to daycare in time that my kids wouldn’t be the last ones there, or even worse that I’d be paying the dollar-a-minute late fee times two.

“Mommommom,” I heard my son calling out the sliding screen door of the camp recreation center.

I looked up the hill.

“Bye, mom!”

I smiled and blew him two kisses and then a thumbs up.

He tapped his chest and then gave me back a peace sign, a thumbs up, and then an “I love you,” sign, which is basically a thumbs up and “Rock on!” combined, the same hand signs we shared during the school year after he’d boarded the bus on a good day. (If it was the worst day of his life, I’d just get a thumbs-down.)

And rock on I did, smiling at my son as I returned the signs. After all, it was summer time and we had survived the final two weeks of school during which we had been inundated not only with rain, resulting in a couple of baseball playoff game reschedules, but also with special requests from the room

parents, teachers, and school for summer birthday celebration pizza parties; lost library book fees; class play rehearsals before and after school; payment for the 2nd set of class pictures (which I had to buy because I needed pictures for the scrap book pages that the room parents were making for the teachers); teacher gift contributions; food donations for the class parties; a used book for the book buddy book swap; and signed permission slips to allow continued pen pal communications over the summer (not likely to happen since it's hard enough to get anyone to write thank-you notes).

There were no more sports practices, scout meetings, or homework. No more making lunches every morning, since the camp provides lunch. All the kids had to remember was a bathing suit and towel. (I remembered the sunscreen.) They went to chapel for their daily dose of Jesus and then spent the bulk of their days outside. My commute was simply back to my home office, since I'd held a telecommuting position for the past three years.

Yes, it was summertime and the living was easy.

Does Ronny Lanier mean a lot to you?



39 Friends of Ronny have put together a book about her. The book contains her life story, pictures, poetry, and tributes covering the life she has shared with us. It cost \$24.95 to make.

Would you like one of these keepsake books? Make her happy and send her a check for \$24.95

and a book will be sent right to your house! She is still located at :

470 Lebanon Street

Melrose, MA 02176

We think you will be blessed by this book.

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(See Exodus 14)

06-05-2009

MAKE SURE YOU STOP FOR A SEC, MOSES, AND REALIZE JUST HOW WILDLY COOL THIS IS

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HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

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