



# The GoodNews Letter

## First Baptist Church of Littleton

“Journeying to God's Sacred Beat”  
October 2011

### Women's Ministries

Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011

10AM & Pot Luck luncheon following worship



We are privileged to welcome to the pulpit Mr. Wellintone Nabwoba, the head of the Anajali School, in Kenya and Mrs. Susan LaSante, Littleton, MA

share with us the ministry that Mr. Nabwoba started. Susan has travelled to Kenya and worked at the school and is excited about this ministry. We will be sharing a **pot luck lunch** with the program to follow. Mr. Nabwoba will also be participating during worship that day. More info is found here: [www.hecareskenya.org](http://www.hecareskenya.org)

*This is Mission* is an initiative of this church to share the passionate mission and work that is happening in Littleton, Merrimack Valley, New England, America and the World! The mission field is wide open and the work of God is being done on ball fields, school rooms, hospitals, bicycles, coffee shops, kitchens, camp grounds, conference rooms, cars, trucks, cabins, the woods, living rooms, Sunday School rooms, sanctuaries, and waiting rooms. The tools in your hands are hammers, baseball bats, dogs, guitars, pianos, voices, books, water, bread, the Bible, spatulas, stethoscopes and more!

We live out the prophet's call in Micah 6:8  
*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.*

*We will hear your stories and your passion  
Sundays in October  
You Are Mission!*



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The month of October is also **World Mission Month** and we celebrate and support our American Baptist Mission work all around the world – including our support for **David and Joyce Reed**, members of this church, ministering in La Paz Mexico.



## Youth events

**Just Happened** – Youth attending the  
Fireflight Concert!  
Friday night September 23, 2011



**Upcoming - Oct. 21-23** Youth Retreat at Grotonwood.  
Please mark your calendars so we can get a good group  
together. Cherie and Heidi

**Grotonwood Day October 10, 2011**



**Sunday, October 23 4:00PM**  
Rev. Ellen Tatreau, pastor at FBC Vineyard Haven and  
President of TABCOM, will be here to speak with us  
about her experience of merging two American Baptist  
Churches while she was pastor in Framingham.

## Merrimack Valley Baptist Women: A Very Special Event

Amazing! Inspiring! Startling! Those are words that require an exclamation point when used to describe chalk artist Jenn Rutlege. People who have been fortunate enough to see her performance enthusiastically give her rave reviews. She will give her “Chalk Talk” at the Merrimack Valley Women’s Christmas party at First United Church in Lowell on **Monday, November 28 at 7:30 p.m.** Jenn creates her work of art while she is telling a story and surprises her audience with the end result. Don’t miss it.

Merrimack Valley Association women are from twenty member churches from Littleton to Newburyport. This annual event is steeped in tradition, beginning with the mitten tree that awaits adornment with donations of warm items: Mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and such. These will go to the Salvation Army for distribution in the Valley. There will be the usual ingathering of small soaps and shampoos for hospitals and shelters. Dynamic Judy Durant will lead devotions and there will be a carolsing.

This group sponsors a special project each year, alternation between local and international causes. For 2011 our offering will support facility improvements at Grotonwood, specifically the renewal of Going Lodge. Church women’s groups and individuals are encouraged to help fund the Lodges’s new interior ceiling, drywall, flooring, bathroom fixtures and plumbing, and bedding for two bedrooms.



Littleton First Baptist women are warmly invited to come and bring friends. It is always great to get together with our sisters from across the Valley.

Directions to the host church will be available, so please mark your calendars. This is the ideal launch into Advent and the Christmas season.

Carolyn Webster

# First Baptist's Fab Four

1. Home Mission Focus: Month of October
2. Holiday Fair: Saturday, November 19
3. Tree Lighting & Open House: Sunday, December 4
4. Winter Retreat: February 3-5

Last spring the church body voted to support these initiatives in the year 2011-2012. These four programs are where we will put our focused energy and ask for your *continued* support.

## What could you do to help with the Holiday Fair?

Funny you should ask!

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## Fall Holiday Fair Saturday, November 19, 2011

With fall upon us it is time to think about how you can help out with the fair. Can you organize the Supper with Santa, (I haven't asked Santa yet to see if he is available)? We need someone to run the kitchen



for breakfast. We need someone to run the kitchen for lunch. We've had yummy homemade soup and bread in the past. We need someone to organize the bake sale

table. Can you bake for the bake sale? Every time you bake something, make a double batch and put one in the freezer for the bake sale. Do you do canning - we would love to have homemade jams or jellies or relishes, ANYTHING. We need help advertising and putting out all of the signs. We need help preparing the church for the fair and cleaning up afterwards.

## Thank you! Thank you! Thank you

to Carol Accettullo for the *many* years she has served the church by picking up all the kitchen and cleaning products for the church. We are grateful for all the time and care that she took to do this ministry.

## Dah, Dah, Dah, Dah Coming again to First Baptist, Weekend Family Retreat February 3 – 5!!



<http://pilgrimpines.org/>

We will be enjoying the beautiful Pilgrim Pines Camp in Swanze, NH for a week end of fun and fellowship. Pilgrim Pines is about an hour away in lower N.H. Arrive any time after work/school on Friday, February 3. Supper is on your own. Settle in and enjoy games and fellowship and snacks.

There is a lake for skating and hill for sliding. The cost is \$126.00 per person, which includes our lodging and meals. All we bring for food is our snack foods. Children, 4 to 12 are half price and children under 4 are free. Please look for the sign-up sheet on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall.

## Neighborhood Supper Tuesday, November 29, 2011

First Baptist is responsible for preparing, cooking and cleaning up after the meal on this date. Please put it on your calendar. We have a great time together while we're serving our neighbors who are in need.

## NEEDS:

- **Someone to shop** for church kitchen and cleaning supplies!
- **Plastic bags** for bagging groceries are needed for Loaves and Fishes.
- **33 Gallon** Town of Littleton Trash Bags

## Sabbatical Update!

### Here is what I did:

I rested.

I wrote.

I walked.

I gardened and grew Zinnias.

I read - although I didn't read all the books that I had planned to read.

I traveled to Groton, Cape Cod, Vermont, Ocean Park, Maine, New Hampshire, New York City, and Princeton, New Jersey by way of Green Pond. You can see that I did not travel too far away from New England. This summer my part time work with Ronnie and the Broadcasters had me traveling to Lancaster, PA, Syracuse, NY, and to a few shows that were pretty close to home.

One trip that I really enjoyed was venturing into New York City on a Sunday morning to attend an 11AM Christmas in July service at an American Baptist Church on Madison Avenue. Their minister, Rev. Susan Sparks, who is also a lawyer and standup comedian, had just spoken in Ocean Park and had invited people to stop by any time they were in New York! Since I was on my way to Princeton Theological Seminary I gave it a try, leaving my house at 6AM and actually making it to the church on time! It was only the second time I have been in New York City and I never had driven in there. But I made it, loved the service and the people, and then drove out to see Jan and Craig Doolittle on my way to the seminary. I loved reconnecting with them and it was all a great adventure!



The continuing education courses that

I took that week on worship and music were wonderful and I hope to go back to Princeton periodically for more renewal experiences.

I didn't stay very long at the retreat center in Vermont, but ended up my sabbatical with some very precious time in Ocean Park, Maine at an Inn right on the water. I first met Eddie at Oceanwood and so spending some time there felt just right. I woke up seeing the sun rise

over the ocean. I walked and walked. I wrote a little bit and I felt like I was at home.

Of course the major event of the summer was my daughter Sarah's wedding to Eric Mersereau! It was a wonderful wedding that occurred on the Saturday night before Hurricane Irene came storming through New England. It was a beautiful celebration and I am blessed and very grateful for my wonderful family and friends.

**What did I learn?** I learned that I HAVE to take care of myself better. I must slow down and work at a healthier pace ALL the time. Nothing is as important as our health and I can very easily get caught up in the excitement of church programs - especially all those creative ones that we offer. I have to slow my pace, my mind, my breathing and actually "be still and know" that God is God who loves me because I am a human being and not a human doing.

If you remember the time that I now work for the church is .80 time. That is about four days a week which are usually Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Friday. I don't work on Wednesday, Thursday or Saturdays. *BUT* I will move the work and the days around if there are programs or meetings that I need to attend. I continue to do part time work for Ronnie and I am continuing to find time to write.

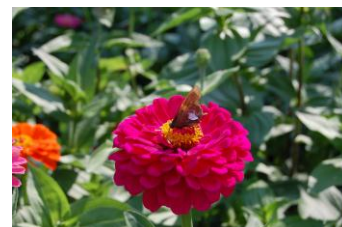
I was very much renewed during my Sabbatical. I was very ready to be back to work at First Baptist Church of Littleton and to be with you all. We are a blessed community - similar to the small communities found in the early Christian churches and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

Ronnie has a beautiful blues piece called "I Am With You" and that is the sentiment that I feel passionately about being back at church.

*I am with you and we are together in life and ministry as the family of God.*

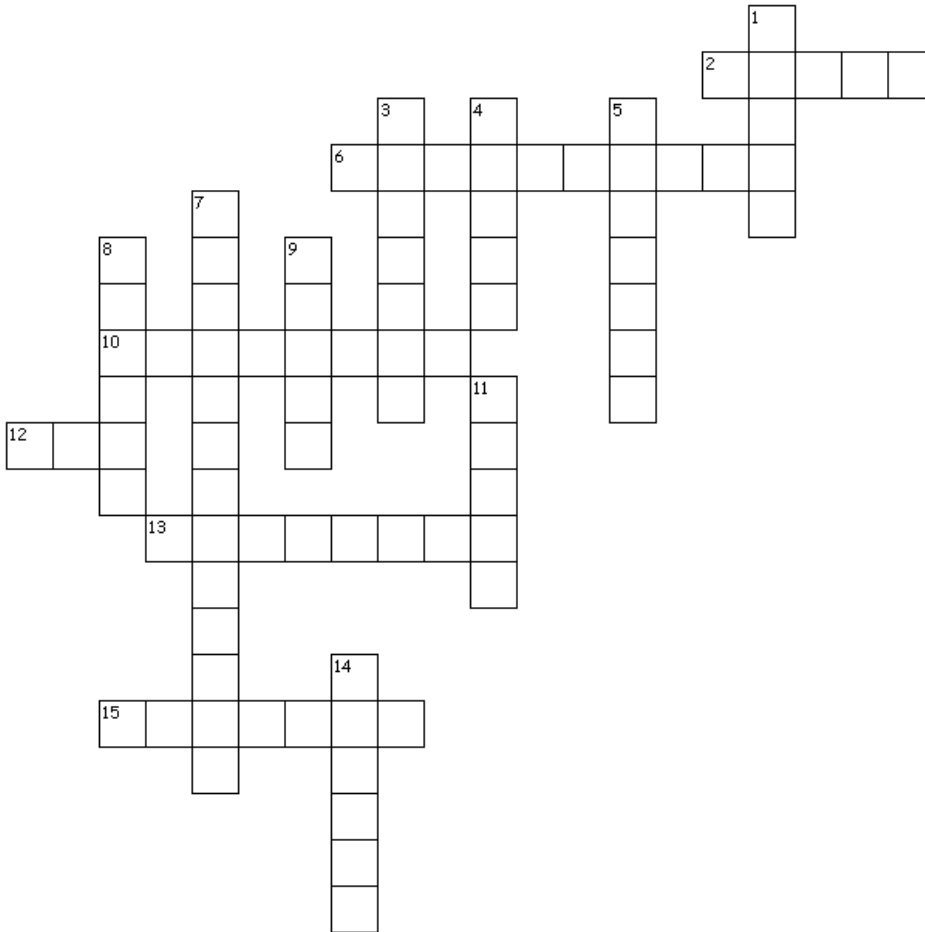
Be of Good Cheer!

Debbie



# October Newsletter Puzzle

Answers are in the newsletter!



## Across

2. Who has been doing the church shopping for many years?
6. Who the Youth Group went to see.
10. Our Holiday Fair is on this day of the week on November 19.
12. Who loves the Miracle League?
13. Susan Sparks is a minister, lawyer and what else?
15. What town in New Hampshire will we go to for the winter retreat?

## Down

1. Who hears your Christmas list?
3. What did we grow for our daughter's wedding?
4. The country where our guest missionary speaker is from.
5. October is a month about this.
7. A special day in October that is just Super!
8. We need plastic bags for Loaves and \_\_\_\_\_?
9. To act justly and love \_\_\_\_\_.
11. The MVA Christmas party money will go towards this lodge.
14. Where the Reeds live and work as missionaries.

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