



News
and Views
From the Hill

The Ambassador

A Newsletter From
The First Baptist Church of Norwich
239 West Main Street, Norwich, CT 06360
Phone: 860-889-0369



Easter 2009



Our Praise Team Has Been Busy. They led us in worship on March 1 while the Pastor was away on the Mission trip. They shared special music and some testimonies. They have also added some very moving and inspiration music to several of our special services. Last week they sang a song written by Steve Contois titled, "Promises" as part of our Basketball Recognition service. You can hear more of their music at the Open Mic on April 18 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall.

More news inside:

- * Complete Holy Week Schedule
- * Notice of Upcoming Events
- * Got Stuff? How about a Tag Sale at FBC this Summer?
- * Building project updates
- * A Mission Trip to Appalachia?
 - * Softball, anyone?

Resurrection means reconciliation

Jesus' resurrection is the very foundation of Christianity. If Christ had never been raised from the dead, we'd have no Christian religion. God's power was at work in Christ's death and resurrection. "It was on the resurrection fact that the church was built," said New Testament scholar James Stewart.

Paul understood that the resurrection was the bedrock of our Christian faith. "If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain," he wrote to the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians 15:14, NRSV). The apostle went on to say, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" (verse 17).

Billy Graham said the risen Christ is the bridge between us and God. "One of Christ's hands holds the hand of God; his other hand holds ours," said the evangelist.

The Church At Worship



Worship
10:30 -
11:45 am

Join Us As We Worship This Spring

Palm Sunday Men's Communion Breakfast at Central Baptist

Retired Navy Chaplain Frank Burchill will be the guest speak at this year's Men's Communion Breakfast at Central Baptist Church on Palm Sunday, April 5th. He will talk about how his faith equipped him to serve our troops. The service begins at 7:00 a.m. Tickets for the breakfast are available for \$5.00 each. Call the church (889-0369) to reserve your spot.

*Hosanna
in the
Highest!*



Relive the Mission Experience on Palm Sunday during Sunday School



We will have an encore showing of the Mission Mexico video this week during the Sunday School hour. Invite your friends and get to church early. It highlights the work that our mission team did while down in Mexico a few weeks back. You will see the entire team as

they reached out to share the love of Christ with the people in three congregations in Mexicali.

The presentation will take place in the sanctuary and begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to enjoy the experience.

Faithfulness is will be topic on Palm Sunday

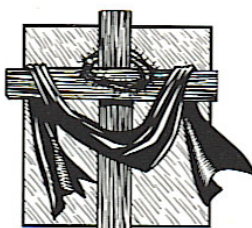
Mark and Fran Rogers will bring their daughter, Julia, forward during our Palm Sunday service and thank God for her. They will also promise to raise her in a Christian home and teach her all about God. It is a fitting act for Palm Sunday, a day when we lift up the challenge of being faithful to God's call. The pastor's message is titled, "He Did It God's Way" and the choir will sing of Jesus' Triumphant Entry. Our Praise team will also offer a selection titled, "Kings and Nations."



On Thursday, April 9, we will gather around the Lord's table with Jesus relive the events in the upper room on that night long ago.

Come and worship with us at 7:00 p.m. as we share the Lord's Supper and reflect on his passion. There will be special music and dramatic readings.

Way of the Cross Procession



**GOOD
FRIDAY
SERVICE**

On Friday, April 10 we will join with Bishop Michael Cote and other Christian leaders from across the region in a public witness to our common faith in Christ.

Join us as we gather at Chelsea Parade at 6:00 p.m. and march down Broadway carrying the cross, singing hymns and reading and reflecting on Jesus' walk to Calvary All are welcome to join in this powerful testimony to the unity we have in Christ.

If it rains, we will meet at 6:00 pm at Central Baptist Church to sing and pray.

**"You always have TIME
for the THINGS you put FIRST!!"**

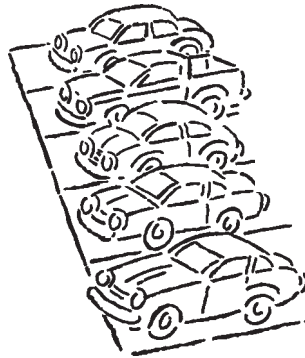
The Church At Worship

Join us for our
Easter Celebration
at 10:30 a.m.
on Sunday, April 12



Invite your friends and family
to come with you.

Parking On Easter Sunday is also
available next door at Firestone Tire,
across the street at Midas Muffler
Shop and at Oak Tree Plaza.



Sunrise Service in Norwich



As the sun comes up over the hills of Norwich we will be singing God's praises at Howard Brown Park on Easter morning. Come celebrate with us. Pastor Jeff Sharp will be delivering the message. The service begins at 6:30 a.m. and will last about 40 minutes. Following the service there will be a hearty breakfast at the Norwich Alliance Church on Wawecus Hill Road. In the event of rain, the service will be held at our Church.

Color Easter Eggs the Natural Way



Here's a fun way to color Easter eggs using all natural ingredients. The longer the eggs are in the coloring the darker they will become.

(NOTE: Some of these colors need to be heated on a stove or in a microwave oven. Be sure to get an adult to help you.)



Golden Brown

Simmer the brown outer skins of onions for 5-10 minutes. The more skins you use, the darker the color.

Blue

Mash blueberries – fresh, frozen or canned – in a pan with a little water. Simmer 5-10 minutes.

Lilac

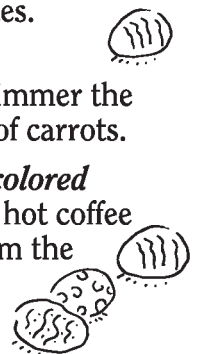
Dip eggs in cold grape juice. For a darker shade simmer the juice for 5-10 minutes.

Pale Green

Chop and simmer the green tops of carrots.

Chocolate-colored

Dip eggs in hot coffee straight from the coffeepot.



Are you thinking about taking the next step in your faith life? Talk to the pastor about baptism or church membership. A service of believer's baptism is being planned for May or early June.

Where Do We

Talk of Projects Dominates Discussion at Quarterly Meeting

On Sunday we had our Quarterly meeting and discussed a few things that will impact our congregation in subtle ways over the next few years. After it was determined that we had a quorum, we approved the minutes of the Annual Meeting. Moderator Curt Brockway announced that any written reports would be posted on the bulletin board at church next week.

As we moved into old business Ray Deptulski, Property Committee Chairman, talked about the two furnaces at church. He shared the fact that both of them were on their way out. The furnace that supplies heat to the sanctuary is about fifty years old and not very efficient. The boiler that services the rest of the building, including Fellowship Hall, the Chapel and office area is about thirty years old but in even worse shape. He suggested that act proactively and replace both furnaces.

Ray is soliciting prices right now. He has even talked to the folks at Norwich Tech about doing the project as part of their training program. This would save us a good deal of money. He will come back to us with prices and a recommendation from the Property Committee and Board of Trustees at our next meeting. But first Ray proposed removing the asbestos on the pipes in the basement. This has to be done before we do any work. It is a health hazard and he has a bid to do the work.

We voted to approve the expenditure of \$5200 to remove the asbestos. We also affirmed his efforts to get prices on replacing the heating system. If you have thoughts on whether we should go with oil or gas or anything else, talk

to Ray or a member of the Property Committee about it.

Ray also mentioned the possibility of the school doing the work in the kitchen. Which brings us to the second big discussion.

Last summer we made plans to renovate the kitchen. We had every intention of doing it over the winter months but then the economy went south. At the Annual meeting we decided to put it off until this summer. Even then raising the money was a big issue.

After a discussion we decided to investigate the costs of having the Tech school do the work and also asked for volunteers to serve on the Capital Campaign Committee. This committee would develop the plan to raise the money for both of these projects. Volunteers included June Deptulski, Sue Ferguson, Amanda Duntz and Fred Green. So stay tuned for more news on all these things.

We also voted to approve the expenditure of \$500 for the Appalachian Mission Trip from the Biennial Trip category in the budget. I told the group that I was not planning on attending the ABCUSA Biennial in Pasadena, California this summer for a few reasons. The motion was made and approved.

Finally, Mary Brockway asked for approval to hold a tag sale on the last Saturday of May. She said the Tag Sale would not be done as we have in the past. We would sell tables and allow members and friends of the church to price and bring in their stuff to sell. They would pay us \$25 for the space and then keep whatever they made. We would sell for or have our own fundraising efforts as well. At the end of the day everyone would be responsible for their own clean up.

We adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.



Mustard Seeds & Mountains

There was a growing sense of excitement about the possibility of a second mission trip this year. The idea of a trip to help people in the States has been floating in the air for a few years and was mentioned again after a recent television expose on the problems in Appalachia.

The idea is appealing for a couple of reasons. First, this trip would take place during one of the last two weeks of July when some of our young people and those who teach them could be available. Second, it offers a venue for those who wanted to go to Mexico but were a little nervous about crossing the border for a variety of reasons.

A few members at Central Baptist checked out opportunities offered by National Ministries of our ABCUSA and found the Mustard Seeds and Mountains ministry in West Virginia. This group puts people to work doing home repair services for poor families in Southern West Virginia. This is an area of the country that experiences between 30 - 50 % unemployment.

If there is an adequate response between our churches. We will move on this. Those interested in going would need to provide a \$100 deposit by April 15th to hold a space. The total cost could be up to \$300 total (though we would hope to defray that with support from the churches). The maximum number we can accommodate is 18. If you would like more information, please speak with me and let me know.

Opportunities at FBC

Fundraiser for Mission Trips

We want to make Mission trips a lasting part of our ministry here at First Baptist. In an effort to do that we are hosting Baptist Day at the Connecticut Defenders on April 19, 2009. You can get tickets from any member of the mission team this month. Tickets cost \$8.00 and the mission team gets 1/2 of that. We also get to name the person or group who will sing the National Anthem that day if we sell 75 tickets. It has been suggested that the choirs for the two churches sing.



Our mission partner in Mexico, Mercy Gonzales Barnes, will be in the Connecticut from April 14 - April 30th. We are hoping to host her for gatherings in Norwich and Quaker Hill. Watch for the dates and times on our web site and in the Sunday bulletins.



Got Stuff?

Bring It To The Church.



We are going to host a multi family yard sale at the Church on Saturday, May 30 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

You purchase a table space with a donation of \$25 to the church and you can bring down all those "treasures" you've been hiding in the attic or basement and sell them at a venue that has proved successful in the past.

You price the stuff, set it up and sell it on that day. Then clean up and bring home what is left over. For more information please call Mary Brockway at 822-9772.

185th Annual Gathering of ABCCONN

Saturday, April 25, 2009 Grace Baptist Church, Waterbury

Walking in the Steps of Jesus



Preacher & Bible Study Leader:

Dr. Reid Trulson, Executive Director Board of International Ministries

"And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'" Matthew 25:40 (NRSV)

"I was always taught to respect my elders, but every year it gets harder to find one."

Iron Sharpens Iron A Conference for Men Saturday, May 16th in Worcester, MA

Special Guest Speakers:

Rick Rigsby

Bruce Wilkinson



Cost \$39.00 per person
Let's get a group to go!

Softball Season Is Here!

Find your glove, put on some sweats and join us as we celebrate our 23rd season in the Church League.

The league is open to anyone over the age of 16. Games are played on weeknights at 6:00 p.m. up at the Reservoir Fields.

Speak to the Pastor, Ken Kreger or Brian Goldin if you are interested. Reg-



Basketball Team Finishes Season With Thanksgiving to God



We only had one team in the Norwich Church Basketball League but it did very well. They finished with a record of 9 - 1 and took first place in the Varsity division. The team featured Ryan Lusk, Desmond Miller, Marcus Outlow, Ibo Rivera, Ahmond Gomes, Taylor Chaffee, Cebria Outlow, Douglas Babbitt & Jordan Hyde. It was coached by Leonard Miller and Thomas Outlow. We presented the kids with certificates and team photos during worship on March 29 and Fred Green awarded them their trophy.

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Phone: 860-889-0369
web address: www.fbcnorwich.org
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Summer Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.
Fall Schedule includes: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.
Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Clayton A. Lord, Jr., Pastor
Adele DiBiagio,
Organist & Choir Director
Sandy Stone, Administrative Assistant
Harry & Doris Calkins, Carol Calkins, Sharon
Fishkin and Bob Walker are the Production Assistants.