

The Ambassador

News and Views From the Hill



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

July/August 2005



Pastor Lord Begins his Sabbatical

On Sunday June 12th, a special commissioning service was held to mark the beginning of Pastor Cal Lord's eight week Sabbatical. Through voicing a responsive reading, the congregation promised to pray for the Pastor while he is away and he, in turn, promised to pray for us, his congregation. Candles will be lit by both parties as a weekly reminder of our mutual commitment during his absence.

After the commissioning service everyone met downstairs for a reception. Church members and friends prepared delicious food that included a variety of finger sandwiches and sweet treats. A substantial monetary gift of \$5,000 was presented to Pastor Cal from members and friends of the church. After the presentation, Cal shared his story of his initial contact with First Baptist in Norwich. He beamed with the memory of meeting with members of FBC and of the tour he was given of Norwich, recalling that even though another church was pursuing him, First Baptist "just felt right." Through this feeling, he became clear that our church was where God was calling him. Now, twenty years later, he is still grateful he listened to that Call. It was very touching to hear his story.

continued on next page...



Worship



July 3, 2005

Communion Sunday

Scripture: Mark 6:30-44 Guest

Preacher:

Burt Crooks

Sermon: "*Mind &/or Heart*"

July 10, 2005

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16

Guest Preacher - Vaughn Foster

Sermon: "*Ambassadors on Assignment*"

July 17, 2005

Scripture: Mark 8:35

Guest Preacher: James Bober

Sermon: "*Gambling With God - A Sure Bet*"

July 24, 2005

Scripture: Matthew 16:21-26

Guest Preacher- Rev. Vaughn Foster

Sermon: "*Let Go and Let God*"

July 31, 2005

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-5, John 12:34-38, 41 & Rev. 1:8-18

Guest Preacher: Earl Heinrichon

Sermon: "*In Our Midst*"

August

August 7, 2005

Scripture: Exodus 6:6-7, Matthew 26:26-30, Rev. 19:5-9

Sermon: "*The Marriage Supper of the Lamb*"

To Be Announced

August 14, 21 & 28



What do you think? Should we pray or paddle?"



Prayer for the Nation

by Thomas Jefferson

Almighty God, Who has given us this good land for our heritage, we beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning and pure manners.

Save us from violence, discord and confusion; from pride and arrogance and from every evil way. Defend our liberties and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindres and tongues.

Endow with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Thy law, we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth.

In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness and in days of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

cont'd, Pastor Lord - Sabbatical

The new experiences begin

Already Cal has started his quest for enriching his ministry. He has attended his first conference - in New York City - and picked up new ideas about 'Worship that Transforms'. A flight to Chicago brought him in contact with new dramatic and technological outreach possibilities. Next, he's off to Denver, Colorado to meet with the author of Reinventing Sunday. *Look out FBC!* Much more on all of this later.

Plans and expectations

Weekend worship at various new places such as New York City, Saratoga Springs, NY, Brattleboro, VT and Flemington, NJ are featured in his personal renewal plans. To *participate* in services rather than implement them will give him a chance to relax and absorb the prayers and words of other Pastors. Plans to edit and publish a collection of his 'Pastoral Epistles' will keep him busy when he's not traveling. And he is happily anticipat-

ing spending more time on his personal devotions and spiritual journey.

FBC needs are covered

Special congregational needs arising during the Pastor's absence will be addressed by Oliver Bray. Please feel free to contact him at 887-9481.

Each Sunday will offer new inspiration from experienced speakers and ministers, so our congregation, too, can grow during this unique phase. *Come join us this summer!* (Reported by Karen Barber)

Upcoming Events

Primary & Junior High School

Pool Party

Sunday, July 10
from noon - 3:00 p.m.



Bring your swim suits,
Bring your enthusiasm,
Bring your selves!



Hosted by Wendy & Jennifer Dart at
51 Green Brier Rd, Norwich

The Kitchen Remodeling Project is in the planning stages.

Your input is needed.

Please contact George Rezendes to join this ad hoc design committee.



Renovation Project

JOIN US FOR A SCRAPING & PAINTING PARTY

On July 9 at 9:00 a.m.

We're looking for you!

we will finish preping & then paint the doors, overhangs and stain the porches.



COULD THIS BE YOU?

Part-time Office Administrative Assistant Needed Immediately

A way for you to help your church and gain a little money as well!

Please phone 889-0369 to apply.

coming soon

Church Photo Directory

It is on its way!
Stay tuned to find out when it can be picked up.

Wednesday Praise and Prayer will continue through the summer at 7:00 p.m. Come and be refreshed & renewed.



Couples Club Outing in the Sky Box at the Navigators. Hold the Date: Friday, August 19



Can you take a turn mowing the church lawn?
sign up sheet on the board outside the Sanctuary



For the Calendar

Wit and Wisdom

THE BRICK

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on the brakes and backed the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, "What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing? That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?"

The young boy was apologetic. "Please, mister...please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do," He pleaded. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop..." With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car. "It's my brother," he said. "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up."

Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay. "Thank

you and may God bless you," the grateful child told the stranger. Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept

the dent there to remind him of this message: "Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!"

God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us. It's our choice to listen or not. - *Anonymous*



OLD IS WONDERFUL

Let us take note that it is the old apple trees that are decked with the loveliest blossoms;
That it is the ancient redwoods that rise to majestic heights;
That it is the old violins that produce the richest tones;
That it is for ancient coins, old stamps
and antique furniture that many eagerly seek;
That it is when the day is old and far spent that it displays the beautiful colors of the sunset;

That it is when the year is old and has run its course that Mother Nature transforms the world into a fairylane of snow;
That old friends are the dearest and that it is the old people who have been loved by God for a long, long time.
Thank God for the blessings of old age; its faith, its experience, its maturity.
When all is said and done, OLD is wonderful!

- *Sister Gemma Brunke*



Our Church Family

FBC IS PROUD OF ITS' YOUNG LADIES

In the past month, two members of our church family have gained recognition through their efforts and abilities.

Allison Walberg, a musician and former member of the Tri-M-National Music Honor Society, has again distinguished herself. During her freshman year at Western Connecticut State University she has been honored by becoming a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Added to that accomplishment, she established a standing on the 'Dean's List! Way to go Allison!!!



Allison S. Walberg

Our very own **Sarah Lord**, is representing Connecticut in the first 'Miss America National Outstanding Teen Pageant'. On August 17, with prize money in hand, she will be traveling to Orlando, FL to compete nationally.

Sarah publicly rallies to encourage participation in volunteer work and personally volunteers to assist special-ed students. Eleven years of dance training honed her reportedly outstanding musical theater dance number. The coming year promises to be an exciting one for Sarah. Congratulations Sarah!

Sarah Lord



Karen Murray's Dream Helps Others

Karen's desire to be an 'at home mom' earned her a write-up in the summer 2005 issue of Avon Dreams. She says "I am passionate about helping moms make money and start their own business from home,". With two years of experience developing her



Avon business, she has made the President's Club both years and expects to continue to grow her business.

This type of business gives her more time to spend with her children and the flexibility to be at home when they really need her.

We think of Michelle Lord and Beverly Duntz, as they recover from surgery. We pray for complete success and healing...



We think of Bob Buchowiecki. He is in the hospital in Hartford having had a minor stroke while he was in the hospital. He is doing well. Please keep including him in your prayers... We lift up Les Main in our continuing prayers as he seeks to find balance... Remember Elizabeth Isenburg as she continues to experience the effects of Lyme disease... We think of Myra Christensen in continuing prayer...

We lift up Jeannine Pestey as she prepares for the new little one in her family.. We express gratitude for Curt Brockway's recovery from surgery; he is expecting to return to work soon. We continue to lift up Adele Cofer in our prayers as her back problems continue...



We pray for the smooth running of the church in Cal's absence. We lift up Cal as he journeys during his sabbatical. We pray for the summer travelers in our congregation.

As our kids - Rachel Lord, Constance Hall, Josephine Hall, Sybil Hall, Victor Hall, Jeremiah Hall, Brianne Jones, Nathan Jones, Jacob Kreger, Jared Laflamme, and Brandon Mehlinger - go off to Camp Wightman, we ask that their time at Camp deepens their connection with God.

We also remember Jean and Steve Roscoe, Edith Robinson, Doris Royce, Doris Regets, Myrtle Henry, Lois Lopez and Ruth White in our prayers...

Please lift up all the families in our congregation in your personal prayers. We all need encouragement to remain strong.

In Mission

One Day in Bangkok

A glimpse into Annie Dieselberg's ministry with women



A pregnant Cambodian woman and her child begging in the streets of Bangkok. The woman and her unborn child die days later from lack of medical attention.

I had a good, busy day today. But, tonight, the tears came for one young woman who slipped through the cracks of society's care. In December I brought gifts to the homeless Cambodian women who beg along the streets. One woman I met was very pregnant and had a toddler with her. There were tears in her eyes as her friend told me that her husband had recently died in Cambodia. It had been a while since I had seen this woman, so when I was out tonight, I stopped and asked her friend where she was. Her friend explained to me that something went wrong and the baby wouldn't come. She had to wait to get a vehicle to take her to the hospital and she died before they got there. I had seen this woman some time ago and touched her stomach and asked her how she was doing. She didn't speak Thai, but I understood something wasn't good. I didn't quite know what she was saying and there was no one to translate. Now I know. If only I had taken her to the doctor! I'm just so sad for what she must have gone through and so sorry I didn't help her.

Hope for the Future

It also caught glimpses of hope today. This morning was my last time to lead Women's Day worship for the term. One of the songs we sang says, "for the joys and for the sorrows, the best and worst of times . . . for the tears that flow in secret . . . for this I have Jesus." Where would I be without him! I was able to share this message with a young girl in a bar tonight. At first Om told me she liked the work in the bar. Then as our conversation progressed, she began to tell me the truth. She is 18 and has been working there for more than a year. Om finished ninth grade and then the money ran out for her education. Her aunt gave her a job in the bar first serving drinks, then dancing. I asked her if she was scared the first time.

Her eyes looked distant and filled with tears.

I told Om that God created women and loves us. That women are precious to God and God never intended women to be treated this way. She said that she was interested in knowing about Christianity and then I was able to share about Christ and how Jesus helps bear our burdens and sorrows, frees us from our sins, and stays with us through it all. Om is interested in changing jobs, finishing her schooling and in knowing more about Jesus. I left information with her and encouraged her to visit Rahab Ministries, a ministry that helps women leave the bars. I'll be praying she'll have the courage to leave the bar and seek Jesus.

Reaching Street Kids In the same bar area, a bunch of street kids run around selling roses. A few weeks ago I met a young girl named Faa. She surprised me when she came up to me and said in very clear English, "they think you are police." I had been trying to take pictures and the children were shying away. I assured them I was not the police and gave them

some Valentines candy and children's Bible stories. They all said they couldn't read. I asked Faa if she would like to learn to read. She said that if she could read, she would read every single day!

Faa is 12 years old and from Vietnam. She is very bright but has never been to school. I told Faa I would teach her to read and write. The next week, she wasn't there. The police had come the day before and taken her away to a children's detention center. I found out that they released Faa, no doubt for a fee, and she went back to work. I looked for her again today and she wasn't there. This time the children said a Thai teacher from Soi Cowboy (another red light district) had taken her to the social welfare department so she could study. I seriously have doubts about his intentions and am now praying for her safety.

Reprinted from ABC Mission, International Ministries.

www.internationalministries.org

The Sports Page

SOFTBALL AVERAGES



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	Name	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	K	Sac	OB	OB%	B Avg
2	Fred Green Sr.	12	51	26	33	4	5	1	21	2	0	1	37	0.698	0.647
3	Chip Chaffee	11	43	23	27	8	1	3	32	2	0	3	30	0.667	0.628
4	Mike Staron	10	36	20	22	6	3	4	20	4	2	1	27	0.675	0.611
5	Dave Mehlinger	9	35	15	19	2	0	0	13	1	1	1	24	0.667	0.543
6	Steve Moon	12	40	19	21	2	1	0	13	8	0	3	26	0.542	0.525
7	Armin Harris	10	40	20	21	5	3	1	18	2	2	0	25	0.595	0.525
8	Cal Lord	4	12	6	6	0	2	0	3	1	0	0	7	0.538	0.500
9	Brian Goldin	10	32	13	15	2	0	0	9	4	0	1	23	0.639	0.469
10	Ken Kreger	10	31	11	14	2	0	0	10	4	0	3	20	0.571	0.452
11	Casey Rezendes	7	28	10	12	2	4	2	12	0	0	0	15	0.536	0.429
12	Dave Moon	7	26	14	11	1	0	2	13	1	0	1	15	0.556	0.423
13	George Rezendes	9	31	10	13	2	0	0	4	3	0	0	13	0.382	0.419
14	Steve Flanders	5	15	4	6	1	0	0	3	3	0	0	8	0.444	0.400
15	Jason Mandeville	8	29	13	10	0	0	0	7	3	0	1	18	0.563	0.345
16	Daryl Alves	2	3	3	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	5	1.000	0.667
17	Curtis Royce	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.667	0.667
18	Fred Stone	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3	1.000	0.500
19	Jeff Brockway	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.333	0.333
20	Joe Lopez	1	5	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0.400	0.400
21	Shayne Young	1	3	3	2	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1.000	0.667
22	Totals		460	209	236	37	20	13	179	41	5	16	299	0.597	0.513

Exersize daily; walk with the Lord.



KEESEN HOWE contributes to a winning Soccer team

Having won the Connecticut State Cup, Keesen's Soccer team (South Central Premier team) now has the opportunity to compete in the Regional Play-offs in Virginia. If they win during the Regionals, they'll qualify for the National Competition. We'll be standing by to hear the results!

The Holy Rollers

THE summer bowling league continues to enjoy fun and fellowship at the Norwich Tenpin each Sunday night at 6:30PM. After completing one-third of the season the league standings have the **3 Saints Plus One** with Bill Shaw, John Ross, Peter Ingoglia and Brian Fage and the **Spare Parts** with Bev Duntz, Lori Lord, Cal Lord & George Rezendes having a small lead (4 games) over

the last place team thus leaving the league title up for grabs. The top male bowlers are Ken Kreger with a 193 average, Chip Welch with a 183, Bill Shaw with a 167 and Mark Pellatier with a 164. The top female bowlers are Lori Lord and Besty Ward with a 144, Polly Rolfe with a 140 and Eileen Potter with a 134.

Nurturing the Family

Grace Matters

Marriage Partnership talks to Max and Denalyn Lucado about making forgiveness work individually and together.

By Ginger Kolbaba



He's been named "America's Pastor," and in a recent national survey was ranked one of the most widely known and respected Christian authors, second only to Billy Graham. He has sold more than 39 million books, including his most recent *Come Thirsty* (Thomas Nelson), most of which center on our relationship with God and the forgiveness/love/grace connection. That's Max Lucado: the soft-spoken, gentle, unassuming husband to Denalyn. But do the Lucados, specialists on the subject of grace, really need it in marriage? Don't they have it all together? "Hardly!" laughs Denalyn. "The Lord has been good to us. But learning how to extend grace doesn't happen overnight. Max and I have had to practice forgiveness for 23 years."

When have you been tempted not to forgive?

Denalyn: During our first year of marriage, when we invited our first overnight guests, I became hyper about making sure our new apartment was ready. So I was on my knees scrubbing our kitchen floor. Meanwhile, Max sat in the living room, putting together a wedding photo collage.

I was boiling inside because he wasn't helping! I finished up and went to bed to have a pity party. I had no intention of forgiving him!

How was that resolved?

Denalyn: The next day, after a while of giving Max the silent treatment, he asked, "Okay, what's wrong?" And we talked it out. Max hadn't meant to do anything to upset me. In fact, he'd been oblivious that there was a problem. And I hadn't said anything to educate him. I wanted him just to *know* what I wanted him to do. That's when the Lord helped me see Max for who he really is and not for who I'd made him out to be.

It's not a natural instinct to forgive. But the more I know the kind of grace and forgiveness Christ pours over me every hour, every minute, the more I find myself convicted of unforgiving thoughts or desires to lash out or to criticize or judge. *Max:* Forgiveness comes more easily when we lower our expectations. Many people set impossible standards for their

spouse. Yet only God can completely meet our needs for intimacy, identity, hope, and security. Once we understand that, our spouse's failure to meet those needs—while unfortunate and probably difficult—is forgivable.

Denalyn: We had to learn that lesson the hard way.

In what way?

Max: About ten years ago, I traveled all over the country speaking, then I'd arrive home Saturday night, speak at my church on Sunday. Monday and Tuesday were dedicated to church work. Then I was off again. We had three small kids: ... I was leaving Denalyn home every week to care for those kids by herself.

Denalyn: If it wasn't travel, it was church. I'd think, *All we do is church, church, church, and we can never be a family.* Then I'd get pouty.

Max: During one trip, I called Denalyn and said, "Honey, next year I'm going to do 10 or 15 special events, and go here and here and here." ...

We left the conversation hanging. And when I arrived home and saw Denalyn, I realized I'd been so self-centered.

Why? What happened?

Denalyn: I'd gone into a deep depression and was suffering from almost uncontrollable anxiety. ... I was so jumpy and shaky... I'd just pace back and forth.

Max: That was a scary wake-up call.

Denalyn: ...Max didn't see what was going on for a long time because we were both on a speedy treadmill.

Max: I didn't realize what I'd done, but the stress of rearing three kids had exhausted her.

Denalyn: To be fair, I don't blame the depression on Max. His being gone may have been part of it, but I overstretched myself and my capabilities. ...

So what did you do?

Max: When I came home that night and saw her pacing frantically back and forth, I begged her forgiveness. Then I cancelled several speaking obligations I'd made for the next year.

Denalyn: I went through counseling and got on medication. I had a lot of people praying for me. But it was a very dark time for us. There was a lot of need for grace—on both our parts.

Max: Part of the problem was that I didn't understand depression. I've never been a moody person. To be honest, there was a part of me that thought, *Come on,*

Denalyn. Buck up. Let's move on. But depression isn't something you just snap out of. ...

What did you learn from that?

Max: ... A good marriage is a canvas on which God can paint a picture of how he's able to bring harmony. It's so God can unite two hearts so that somebody somewhere can look at that marriage and say, "Whoa, look at the work God did there." And that includes a whole lot of forgiveness and grace.

How do you establish a pattern of forgiveness in your marriage?

Denalyn: I ask God to give me grace at the moment I need it, because it's not as if I can anticipate when I'll need to forgive Max. I also pray for Max. I pray, "Lord, would you give Max a blessed day? Fill his heart with new things and refresh him." As I continually pray, it becomes easier to express grace and love for Max out of the grace and forgiveness God has daily poured out on me. ...

For complete article, see 'Marriage Partnership', Spring 2005. Or online: www.marriagepartnershipio.com
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And is your husband working now . . . or is he still in the ministry?



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Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. (summer hrs.)

Mid Week Worship & Prayer Service
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Clayton A. Lord, Jr., Pastor
Adele DiBiagio Cofer,
Organist & Choir Director
Sandy Callender, Administrative Assistant
Harry & Doris Calkins are the Production Assistants.