

# The Ambassador

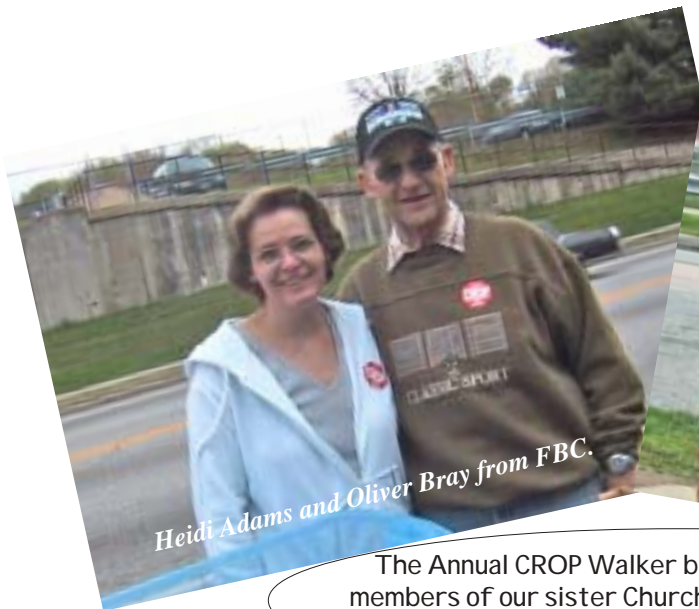
## News and Views From the Hill



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

May 2005

## Called To Feed The Hungry



*Heidi Adams and Oliver Bray from FBC.*

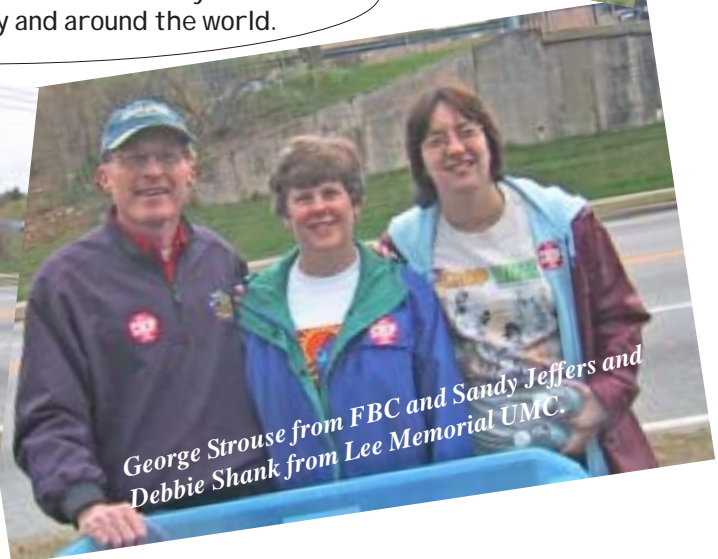


*Rev. Ho Soon Han from Lee Memorial UMC. walks with her boys*

The Annual CROP Walker brought us together with members of our sister Churches to raise money to feed the hungry in our community and around the world.



*Dave and Marilyn Oat from First Congregational Church.*



*George Strouse from FBC and Sandy Jeffers and Debbie Shank from Lee Memorial UMC.*

# Worship



Come and worship:

## May 1, 2005

Communion Sunday

Scripture: Acts 17:22-31

Sermon: *"Bride Builders For God"*



## May 8, 2005

Mother's Day

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23

Sermon: *"Who Needs Gator Aid?"*

## May 15, 2005

Pentecost Sunday

Scripture: Acts 2:1-18

Sermon: *"The Day God's Cup Overflowed"*

Special: Family Dedication for the Ambruso family

## May 22, 2005

Children's Day Worship

All Church Picnic to follow

## May 29, 2005

Memorial Day Sunday

Scripture: Romans 1:16-17

Sermon: *"Cultivating A Living Faith"*

Special: Praise Band will play

## June 5, 2005

Communion Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 9:9-13,18-26

Sermon: *"Jesus Preferred Irregulars"*

## June 12, 2005

Scripture: Psalm 116:1-19

Sermon: *"Did I Forget To Tell You..."*

Special: Commissioning of Pastor Lord for his Sabbatical Study Leave

## Excitement Looms As Summer Worship Plans Are Unveiled

Have you ever thought about going to a conference where you could experience a delectable smorgasbord of good preaching and uplifting worship. If so, you are in luck. The Sabbatical Committee will be bringing that to you this summer.

While the Pastor is away we have scheduled some gifted speakers to fill the pulpit.

We kick off the summer by welcoming John Fear to the pulpit where his grandfather preached from 1957-1967. Rev. Walter Schoepfer was a dynamic speaker and loved by the youth of the church. His grandson, John, has inherited this gift. He is no stranger to the pulpit, having served as a lay preacher in the Seventh Day Adventist Church for many years. On Father's Day, John will lead us as we praise God.

June 19 - John Fear

June 26 - Rev. Burt Crooks

July 3 - Rev. Burt Crooks

July 10 - Rev. Vaughn Foster

July 17 - Jim Bober

Our preachers include:



~ Burt Crooks, a past President of ABCCONN, retired former Pastor of Voluntown Baptist Church and First Baptist/South Congregational Church in New Britain.

~ Vaughn Foster, a pastor, published author and budding evangelist from New Jersey.

~ Earl Heinrichon, a gifted bivocational Pastor who shares the compassion of Christ in his work as a social worker and as a preacher. He has recently served as the interim Pastor in Lebanon, CT.

~ Jim Bober, an active layman from and brother of our own June Deptulski.

~ Our own Kay Lautzenheiser, who serves as our Education Consultant and Youth Group Advisor.

July 24 - Rev. Vaughn Foster

July 31 - Rev. Earl Heinrichon

August 7 - Rev. Earl Heinrichon

August 14 - Cal returns

August 21 - Kay Lautzenheiser



On Sunday, May 15 Mark and Bonnie Ambruso will bring their son, William, before the Lord in a service of family dedication. Be sure to join us as we celebrate their joy.

Children's Day Service planned for Sunday, May 22  
"Come let the children lead you!"



# Looking Back

## The Family Is Growing! We Welcomed Three New Members on Sunday, April 24



*Oliver Bray greets Gary Schuster, Linda Wolinski and Pat Bubenicek.*

Oliver Bray extended the right hand of Christian fellowship to Gary Schuster, Linda Wolinski and Pat Bubenicek on Sunday, April 24 and welcomed them into full church membership. Gary comes to us by letter from the Memorial Baptist Church in Hartford. He has been coming to church for the last two years. Pat and Linda are coming by letter from St. James Episcopal Church. They

began attending in the winter of 2003-04 and have jumped right in to our worship and fellowship activities.

We are also looking forward to welcoming Ken Taylor and Jeannine Pestey into membership in the coming weeks. Anyone else interested in joining the church should speak to the Pastor.

## Daryl Alves Finishes Basic Training and Gets Married



Daryl Alves was with us last month fresh off his graduation from Basic Training. That same weekend, he and Alisha Anselmo were married. We said a prayer for Daryl in our service and for all of our servicemen and women.

Our best wishes to Daryl and Alisha as they move forward together.

## ABCCONN Meeting Brings Four Cultures Together in Christ

### Judy Allbee Installed as Executive Minister and Our Pastor elected to serve as Vice President of Convention

Representatives from many of the 126 American Baptist Churches of Connecticut were on hand for two days of celebration in New Haven on April 29 & 30. Rev. Dan Cash preached a sermon that encouraged us to represent Christ and reach out to the “whomevers” in our midst and love them in Christ.

Judy Allbee was installed as the Executive Minister and Linda Isham was elected as the President and our pastor as Vice President.



*Rev. Judy Allbee installs Linda Isham and Cal Lord as the new officers.*

# Youth Ministry

## Come Hear About Opportunities at Camp Wightman This Summer



Rev. Kevin Butler will be with us on Monday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m. to talk about the summer program at Camp Wightman and to answer questions.

There are camps for everyone from elementary school through senior adults. There are also specialty camps like music/drama, aquatics, canoe adventure... All this comes with a Christian emphasis. Come check it out.

After the presentation we will be serving ice cream sundaes.

Register for  
**CAMP WIGHTMAN**  
Now you can register  
online!

([www.campwightman.org](http://www.campwightman.org))

We also offer full and partial scholarships. See Kay or the Pastor for details



## Childrens Day Service and Picnic on May 22



Join us as we celebrate the ministry of our Sunday School during morning worship on May 22. Our young people will lead the service and share inspirational moments from the past year. The theme is "God in Nature."

Following the worship service we will head to Fort Shantock for our all church picnic. Plan to join

us as we relax and give thanks.

## We're Going to Six Flags! Notice The Date Change:

We are planning our Annual Trip to Six Flags on Saturday, June 11 at 9:00 a.m. There is a sign up sheet at church.

We need to get advance registrations for the best

price so call to save your spot today. Cost is \$22.00 per person. Scholarship help is available.



**\$\$\$**

## WE COULD BE LOOKING FOR YOU!

*We're in the process of reviewing applications for The Annual FBC Scholarships for college students.*

Each year we give money to help with College expenses to a student in our congregation.

Applications are available at church. Please fill out and return your form by June 12.

# Upcoming Events

## Its Tag Sale time again!



As you clean out from last year, remember that your clean, in- good-repair belongings will fit a USEFUL niche for someone. Donations accepted after Mother's Day. Call the Church for drop-off times. (889-0369)

The Kitchen Remodeling Project is in the planning stages. Your input is needed. Please contact George Rezendes to join this ad hoc design committee.



## Want to Bowl This Summer?



The Holy Rollers will take to the lanes on May 22 for another season of fun and fellowship. The matches will begin at 6:30 p.m. each week and continue through August 21. We will take Memorial Day and July 4th Weekends off. The cost is \$12.00 per week. Sign up as a 4 person mixed team or as individuals by May 15th if you want to join the fun.

## Golfers Get Ready!

The 14th Annual Believer's Open Golf tournament is Saturday, May 14 @ 7am. Chanticlair Gold course in Colchester.

Cost: \$50.

More info.: See the Pastor



## Eastern Univ. Touring Choir

May 19 @ 7 pm Central Baptist Church

This 30 member choir will provide a great evening and your attendance will support our ABC School.\*\*

\*\*CAN YOU HELP? B & B's needed for Thursday night, May 19 with breakfast in the morning.

CAN YOU MOW  
A LAWN?  
MOWERS  
NEEDED!



Signup sheet on board outside the Sanctuary

## Mother Daughter Banquet

Saturday, May 7 at 5:30 p.m.

FOOD: A delicious hot turkey dinner

ENTERTAINMENT: Dancers from 'Style Extraordinaire' of the Luis Pabon Dance Arts

RESERVATIONS: Through the church.

\$7.50 for adults.

\$4.00 for children age 6 - 12

Kids 5 & under - free.

"If you judge people, you have no time to love them."

~Mother Teresa~

# Wit and Wisdom

## Small Wonders

A group of geography students studied the "Seven Wonders of the World." At the end of the lecture, the students were asked to list what they considered to be the present-day seven wonders of the world. Although there was some disagreement, the following got the most votes: 1) the Great Pyramids of Egypt, 2) the Taj Mahal, 3) the Grand Canyon, 4) the Panama Canal, 6) the Empire State Building 6) St. Peter's Basilica and 7) the Great Wall of China.

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student, a quiet girl, hasn't turned in her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list.

The quiet girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind



because there were so many possibilities."

The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help."

The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are: 1) to touch, 2) to taste, 3) to see,

4) to hear..."

She hesitated another moment, and then continued, "...5) to hope, 6) to laugh, 7) and to love."

The room became so silent it was deafening! You see, it is far too easy for us to look at the exploits of man and refer to them as "wonders," while we overlook all the amazing things God has done, regarding such blessings as merely "ordinary." Life itself is wondrous, amazing, and miraculous! Why don't we notice this and declare it to be so with each breath and within every moment we live here on the earth? To do so is to truly ALIVE!

May you be aware each day of those things which are truly wondrous! Count your blessings, and shout for JOY!! Author unknown. From March 2002 'Pulpet Helps'



## Thoughts on Prayer

Prayer is not an old woman's idle amusement. Properly understood and applied, it is the most potent instrument of action. ...Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. ...It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart.

- Mahatma Gandhi

A day hemmed in prayer is less likely to unravel. - Unknown

Our prayers should be for blessings in general, for God knows best what is good for us. - Socrates

## FACT:

More than 34 million Americans can't afford enough food to meet their basic needs.

One Great hour of sharing.

## Who Makes the Coffee?

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning.

The wife said, "You should do it, because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee."

The husband said, "You are in charge of the cooking around here so you should do it, because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee."

Wife replies, "No, you should do it, and besides it says in the Bible that the man should do the coffee."

Husband replies, "I can't believe that! Show me."

So she fetched the Bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says, "HEBREWS."

## FACT:

In the developing nations of Africa, Asia, and Latin America more than 1.2 billion people currently earn less than \$1 per day.

One Great hour of sharing.

## Mom's Example

"By whose preaching were you converted?" a young man was asked.

"Not by anyone's preaching," answered the dedicated believer. "I was converted by my mother's practicing."



# The Good Life



## Yoga

*Join us at FBC*

MONDAY AFTERNOONS 4 - 5:30

or

MONDAY EVENINGS 7 - 8:30

PHONE SANDY: 860-608-4349

## Share Your Blessings Thru Our Food Pantry



We have targeted the second Sunday of each month as a time when we can all bring in bottled and canned goods for our Pantry.

**Enjoy** a sociable morning helping us fold and label the monthly newsletter. We usually do it during the last week of the month. Speak to the Pastor if you would like to help.



## Recipes of the Month:

*from the FBC Family Cookbook*

### RHUBARB COFFEE CAKE

1 1/2 C. sugar	1 t. baking soda
1/2 C. butter	1/2 t. salt
1 egg, beaten	3 - 4 C rhubarb, chopped
2 C. flour	1 C. sour cream

COMBINE flour, sugar, salt and baking soda. Cut in butter. Add rhubarb, egg and sour cream. Bake in 13 x 9 inch pan or tube pan.

TOPPING:

1/2 C. brown sugar	1 t. cinnamon
1/2 C. flour	1/2 C. chopped nuts (pt.)
	1/4 C. butter

BAKE at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

Mix together & sprinkle on top before baking.



### RHUBARB CAKE

1 1/2 C. sugar	2 1/2 C flour
1/2 C. butter	1 t. baking soda
1 egg, beaten	1 t. vanilla
1 C. milk	3 C. rhubarb, chopped

SIFT together dry ingred. Cream together butter & sugar. Add egg and beat well. Add milk, vanilla & dry ingred. Alternately fold in rhubarb. *Pour into greased, floured 9 x 13 inch pan.*

TOPPING: Mix 1/2 C. each of coconut, brown sugar & chopped nuts.

SPRINKLE on top of batter.

BAKE at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes. NOTE. Taste develops after sitting.

## Book of the Month *Review*

### **Soul Care**, by Peter Lord

*"Peter Lord believes that God intended the church to be not a hospital, but a soul spa - a place where we can develop our soul's full potential."*

A person does not have a soul, but is a soul - with a body and spirit. Peter Lord defines and describes the soul and compares its value to the commodities people spend far more time maintaining. He offers a goal for soul care and exercises to strengthen life's spiritual dimension.

This is a fresh, exciting view of Christian living, written with unusual insight and candor. It presents a challenge to all Christians to properly care for their souls, to be concerned with their spiritual health, and be aware of the infinite value God attaches to their souls.

SAMPLE: A Test (*questions to ask yourself*)

1. Why did God create you? What did he intend your primary function to be?
2. Why did Christ save you? What was the purpose of your redemption? Complete this statement: "I am saved for..."

(This book can be borrowed from the Church Office. Please come in and see us.)

# Ministry to Families

## News from our Church family...

Karen Murray has taken a new position at Madonna Place in Norwich. Congrats! Emily McFalls is becoming quite a techie. She has been working behind the scenes for the Griswold High School Drama Department and just finished the spring show. Carol McMillan is graduating with her Masters in Tax Accounting this May. Her mom and Dad, (Rosie and Les Main) and brother Brian (Goldin) will be traveling out to Oklahoma to witness the event. Kathy Bartkowski is applying for a position as organist in a church in the Hartford area. Dan and Cheryl Dutrumble led a group of students on a trip to Central America this spring. They said it was a wonderful experience. Carolyn Brown began working full time at the hospital recently. She loves the work but misses the time with the kids. Betsey



*Kathy practices at our organ.*

Adams went on the NFA Band trip to Washington DC over spring break. Curt and Mary Brockway went on a cruise during the break and had a great time. Dick and Cynthia Strouse managed to get away and visit their daughter and son-in-law, Kate and Chris Canada last month. Both Timothy (Eastern University) and Amy Rezendes (Three Rivers) are among the graduates this spring.

## What Will We Do When The Pastor Is Away This Summer?

Most churches go through an interim period about every seven years. We have been very fortunate in that we have had steady pastoral leadership for twenty years. It has allowed us to enjoy continuity and given us the ability to rely on Pastor Lord's day to day ministry at the church.

This summer the Dr. Lord will be taking his well deserved sabbatical break. The Sabbatical Committee has been hard at work making plans for the summer to insure that every aspect of the Church's work will continue.

First off, we have secured guest preachers for each of the weeks Dr Lord will be away. Dick Strouse and the committee have called some very talented and gifted preachers that will continue to offer excellent services for us to enjoy. We hope everyone will continue to join us for worship and fellowship and take the

opportunity to hear different voices from our pulpit. We can use the occasion to be challenged and moved to grow in new directions.

Oliver Bray and the Diaconate are setting up a network for hospital visitation and pastoral care in this interim ministry. If a need rises, you can call him at 334-7195. Oliver has already spoken to a few pastors in the vicinity to cover for emergencies.

We will need some more help though. If you would be willing to work with Sandy in the office to make collect announcements and help with producing the monthly newsletter, please speak to Dick. We also have plenty of little jobs that need to be done. A complete list will be printed in upcoming Sunday bulletins and the June Newsletter.

With your help, we can make this a wonderful summer at church.

Grace Latham passed away last month after her three year battle with cancer. She was surrounded by her family... Elizabeth Isenburg has been suffering from the effects of Lyme disease... We think of Myra Christensen who landed in the hospital with a case of shingles... Sue Sucholet had surgery and is coming along very well. Lift her up in continuing prayer... Lisa Falck had knee surgery and is back on her feet again... Melinda Maynard continues to improve after her recent surgery... Adele DiBiagio Cofer's back pain has flared up again. Think of her... Bob Buchowiecki continues his chemo therapy and has received encouraging news. We give thanks for the good words... Les Main continues to have his ups and downs. We pray for healing and continued favorable reports from his doctors... We lift up Joel Fishkin as he receives treatment for MS and pray for wisdom for the doctors as they continue to test and care for him... We think of Zelda Earle as she has been out of work with medical problems again. We pray her health returns... We think of Julie Lord, the Pastor's niece, as she recovers from being hit by a truck and the critical surgeries that followed... We keep Wayne Morse in our continuing prayers and pray that he will find some relief for the pain he is suffering with his chronic shoulder problems... We lift up Jeannine Pestey as she heads into her last trimester and pray that she and the baby make it to term... We think of our college students as they enter final exams and prepare for the summer break... We remember Jean and Steve Roscoe, Edith Robinson, Doris Royce, Doris Regets and Ruth White in our prayers...



# In Mission

## Gifts to Save Communities

### In West Virginia

Jimmy Nichols crumpled onto the concrete and watched the blood ooze from a bullet wound in his chest.

The teenager had become a statistic in a crime-ridden and violent neighborhood of Charleston, W.Va.



Jimmy and other students had been on a school bus that was involved in a minor accident in front of Emmanuel Baptist Church. The students were taken off the bus and told to wait on the sidewalk in front of the church. A boy shot Jimmy as he stood on the church steps. As he lay bleeding, it may have occurred to Jimmy that the bullet was the logical climax of the life he was leading.

"I was out of control at school and at home" he ruefully recalls. "started smoking pot when I was about 11".

Before he was in his teens, he was hooked on drugs and alcohol.

But thanks to American Baptists in West Virginia, the story does not end there. Emmanuel Baptist Church and the Bob Burdette Center, Inc. are in an area plagued with drugs, prostitution and violent crime. Children roam the streets after school and often commit crimes before supper.

The center, sponsored by Emmanuel, offers children alternative

*"I truly thought I was going to die."*

activities for those afternoon hours.

"The people at the Bob Burdette Center cared enough about me to get me off the streets and away from drugs and alcohol," says Jimmy. "I would have had a gun on me to retaliate against the boy who shot me if it was not for the Center. For real, they have taught me that violence is not the answer to all of your problems."

Today Jimmy volunteers his time at the center each day and plans to work with the center's "Hard Time for Gun Crime" program.

The Bob Burdette Center, supported by gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering and other sources, serves 185 children in grades kindergarten through 8, in four sites. "We are hoping to expand to a preschool and a high school program also." says Jean Cunningham, a member of the American Baptist General Board and vice president of the Center's Board of Directors.

Social problems like violence and drug and alcohol abuse are hard to control, and their cost can be devastating in terms of human life, well-being and property. In such situations, persons may feel helpless to save young lives. But there are many things people of faith can do to help to save our young people - beginning with their generous contributions to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

## Capital Campaign Is Under Way for Camp Wightman and Ministries of ABCCONN

In order to increase the capacity of the dining hall and create a new space for worship and program, Camp Wightman is going through a Capital Campaign to raise \$475,000 to put a major addition of the dining hall. Many of our young people have enjoyed their experiences

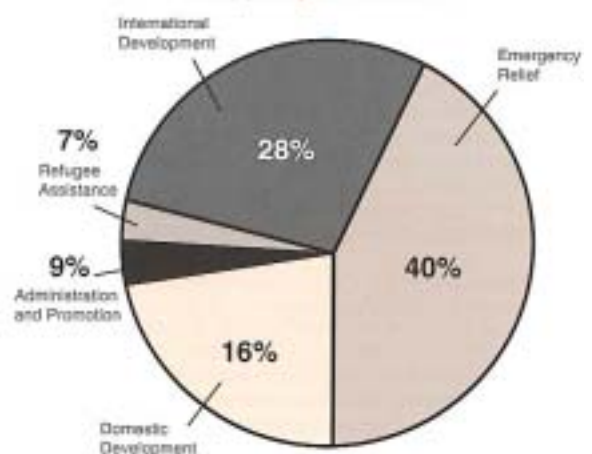


at Camp over the years and know how important this project will be to the future campers. Speak to Pastor Lord if you would like more information.

### How your gifts made a difference in 2004.

Giving from Churches and Individuals	
Undesignated	\$1,804,539
Designated Gifts	\$ 613,476
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,418,015</b>

### How your gifts were used.



# A Powerful Witness...

## Walking in the LIGHT

JENNIFER ROTHSCHILD'S LIFE  
BEAARS WITNESS TO GOD'S DESIRE  
FOR EVERY WOMAN TO BE AN  
OVERCOMER.

From the outside, the Rothschild residence seems to be the quintessential middle-class home nestled beneath the shade trees of a typical Midwestern suburb. The freshly cut lawn gently slopes down to the curb on which a bicycle casually rests. Parked in the driveway is the all-American family-sized utility vehicle awaiting the next trek to the nearby high school soccer field or the local farmers market. Little would anyone imagine that within the traditional brick walls of this home (in the basement study, to be exact) lies the control center for the ministries of Christian author, singer, songwriter and inspirational speaker Jennifer Rothschild.

"As a wife and mother of two, having a home-based ministry is a real blessing," Jennifer recently told SpiritLed Woman. "I can do a radio interview in my sweats while finishing a third load of laundry. It's become rather ordinary; it really has."

Actually, it's extraordinary, considering the fact that Jennifer is blind. As a teenager, she was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, an eye disease that caused her to slowly lose her vision.

Actually, it's extraordinary, considering the fact that Jennifer is blind. As a teenager, she was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, an eye disease that caused her to slowly lose her vision.

However, Jennifer does not consider her blindness to be a handicap or a reason for self-pity. She sees it, rather,

as a life situation presenting a series of challenges for her to overcome by relying on God's help. As she states in her book "Lesson I Learned in the Dark: Steps to Walking by Faith, Not by Sight" (Multnomah Publishers), "at times, life is dark for all of us, but you can walk forward by faith into His marvelous light."

Whether it be traveling on weekends to speaking engagements and concerts, learning to ride a tandem bicycle, or even bungee jumping, Jennifer practices the advice she gives to her audiences and readers: Set your sight on the potential not the problem. For example, Jennifer is learning how to use a computer to complete her writing assignments.

"I decided that since I just turned 40, it was high time for me to become computer savvy, and there was no way blindness was going to keep me from being proficient."

She usually writes everything by hand and has an assistant meet with her once or twice a week to transcribe the handwriting and enter it into a computer. "Even though we have a great working relationship, I'm looking forward to having more freedom. It's a big mountain to climb, but I'm about to be so liberated, I can't wait!"

### SPIRITUAL ROOTS

The spiritual stability that anchors Jennifer's confidence was nurtured at an early age. Her father, Lawson Jolly, was a Southern Baptist pastor.

"After coming to Christ at the age of 9, I would get up early every Saturday morning, go out with my dad on the church bus, and knock on doors throughout the city," she said. "We'd tell people about Jesus and invite them to church."

"And we did this every week well into my teenage years. God really used these weekly outings to help mold me and shape my image of what ministry was all about."

"Even though most people have never heard of my dad, he is one of the

godliest men I have ever known. And it's through his and my mom's ministry and their walk with the Lord that I developed my love for Christ and the Word."

Along with her parents, Jennifer's circle of Christian friends became the support group she needed during those first years of her illness. "Thankfully, none of the relationships with these friends changed or suffered during the tender years when I initially lost my sight. Life went on, from playing with Barbie dolls in the sixth and seventh grades to experimenting with makeup and nail polish in high school.

"There seems to be a resilience of youth and a grace that good friends, especially Christian friends, share at that age. One of my best high school friends, Stacy, was probably most steadfast in her faith, which was seemingly very logical to her. I probably couldn't have articulated that at the time, but now I look back and realize her kind of faith had an impact on me."

While in college, Jennifer developed a friendship with a fellow student that evolved into a four-year courtship and then marriage. Her husband, Philip, who is a professor of entertainment management at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri, was drawn not only to her physical beauty but to her spiritual maturity as well.

Willing to take on the added responsibilities that fall upon the spouse of one who is visually impaired, Philip has been the ultimate helpmate for more than 18 years. Whether helping Jennifer select a new dress or applying her nail polish and checking her makeup, Philip sees these acts as "wonderful opportunities for intimacy."

Philip's dedication to lacing Jennifer's needs above his own is observed daily by the couple's two young sons, 15-year-old Clayton and 6 year-old Connor. "Both are following in their dad's footsteps," Jennifer noted,

# A Powerful Witness

and developing the very relationship skills and habits that I find in Philip.”

Needless to say, the Rothschilds are a very close-knit family. Jennifer cooks at least three nights a week. “Tuesday night, of course, the kids look forward to eating at a local Italian restaurant for a dollar. Every Thursday night the boys have ‘wrestled night.’

“Clayton is growing out of the wrestling phase and becoming more of a referee. On those Friday nights when I’m in town, we have a family night: order pizza, rent a movie, pop popcorn. And on the weekend we love to stroll through the nearby nature center, catch a dollar movie, or just stay at home and enjoy our neighbors.”

Jennifer strives to make sure that the time she spends at home with her family is not affected by the fact that her ministry is based at home. “I usually have an administrative assistant who works 30 hours a week in our basement office. So we have a rule that when the assistant is working the office and needs to see me, she should call me on the phone, rather than come up from the office and, for example, bring e-mails to my bedroom.”

Lately these e-mails have included countless invitations for Jennifer to speak at events such as upcoming 2005 Women of Faith national conferences. She recently teamed up with Beth Moore and Mary Kassian to lead LifeWay’s national women’s conferences.

Jennifer’s distinctive communication style has also resulted in invitations from national and state professional organizations, and international ministries such as Focus on the Family, MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) International, and some of the largest churches in America. She has made numerous singing appearances with Grammy Award-winner Larnelle Harris and shared the platform the fellow authors Kay Arthur, Zig Ziglar, Beth Moore and Nancy Leigh DeMoss.

Jennifer’s life story and message has been the cover story of numerous national magazines such as *Virtue*, *Becoming Family* and *HomeLife*. She’s been interviewed on many national TV and radio programs, including *Hour of Power*, *Life Today*, *Family Life Today* and CBN’s *Living the Life*.

During her travels, Jennifer sensed the need to network the thousands of fellow women in ministry she had met, and subsequently cofounded the on-line interactive resource *WomensMinistry.NET* ([www.womensministry.net](http://www.womensministry.net)).

“I want women’s ministry leaders to have a way to exchange ministry ideas, resources and other information worldwide. She may be a paid church staff member, a volunteer minister or a home-based Bible study leader.



“But *WomensMinistry.NET* gives her the opportunity to explore things that have been tried and tested in similar ministry situations. She may have a true-life illustration but hasn’t found an outlet. Or she may have a unique ability to organize and plan but hasn’t had a chance to share her tips.

“The Web site is a great way for a woman in ministry to publish her ideas, get exposure and let others know about her own women’s ministry events. And I think that the greatest strength of *WomensMinistry.NET* is

that women truly do exchange their ideas and resources, making them far more practical than theoretical.”

Online features include such submissions from subscribers as Top 10 lists, retreat theme ideas, photos of decoration ideas, new choruses with tips for leading worship, and “wake-em-up tricks, icebreakers and other fun stuff for livening up presentations and gatherings”.

An interactive events calendar allows subscribers to publicize upcoming women’s ministry activities. And a search feature allows the user to find a speaker or program guest based on such criteria as specialized ministry, location, availability and honorarium fees/love offering.

There are more than 17,000 subscribers to the online magazine and free e-newsletter. “And they’re very active, very responsive whenever we ask for feedback. Judging from the resources they submit, we know that they’re really involved in their ministries and communities.”

Jennifer is excited about the March 2005 release of her newest Bible study, *Fingerprints of God*. She just returned from Hawaii, where much of the footage for the video portion of the study was filmed.

With such an intense schedule Jennifer is looking forward to some down time. “I’m going to take a few months off just to ponder, pray and see what’s next.

I think I have a book brewing in the back of my mind.

“The book will deal with the struggle of why things don’t turn out as we hope. So many of us feel like we counted on God for something and from our perspective, come to the wrong conclusion that He’s failed us.” ... Hebrews 10:39... ‘But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.’ ...

by Randy Wright Reprinted from ‘*Spirit Led Woman*’

# One great hour of sharing.






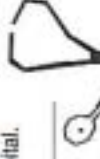








# GIVING CALENDAR

## It's remarkable what your gift will do.

Lord, when was it that we saw you...a stranger and welcomed you? Matthew 25:38

Welcome unseen strangers into your home by thanking God for your blessings and sharing your gifts through One Great Hour of Sharing, an offering that makes real the love of Christ for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disasters, conflict and poverty. Decide what "gift multiplier"—a dime, a quarter, a dollar—is best for your home.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>One Great Hour of Sharing helped Bosnians farm their land by providing seed potatoes. Make a list of potato foods that you eat and share one gift for each item on the list.</p> <p>\$ _____</p> 	<p>One Great Hour of Sharing helps communities dig wells so they have safe water. Share one gift for each water faucet inside and outside your home.</p> <p>\$ _____</p> 	<p>Make a list of different ways to greet people when you welcome them. Share one gift for each greeting on your list.</p> <p>\$ _____</p> <p><b>Howdy itela!</b></p>	<p>Afghan women make quilts in refugee camps with fabric provided by One Great Hour of Sharing. Share one gift for every blanket in your home.</p> <p>\$ _____</p> 	<p>One Great Hour of Sharing helps children survive by providing medicines and vaccinations. Estimate how many vaccinations each member of your family has had. Share one gift for each shot.</p> <p>\$ _____</p>	<p>One Great Hour of Sharing provides literacy classes and vocational training so people don't have to leave their communities. Share one gift for every year of school for each member of your family.</p> <p>\$ _____</p>	<p>One Great Hour of Sharing provides basic needs for children struggling to survive on their own. Some wear the same clothes every day. Share one gift for every T-shirt of every member of your family.</p> <p>\$ _____</p> 
<p>Refugees usually leave home in a hurry, sometimes without any belongings. One Great Hour of Sharing provides food and shelter until they can return to their homes. Share one gift for every suitcase your family owns.</p> <p>\$ _____</p>	<p>When hurricanes and floods hit any country around the world, One Great Hour of Sharing provides victims with emergency care. Share one gift for every kind of soap in your home.</p> <p>\$ _____</p>	<p>Refugees and disaster victims are often separated from their families and friends. Share one gift for every family member that does not live in the same town as you do.</p> <p>\$ _____</p> 	<p>One Great Hour of Sharing is helping Afghans build new homes in the Shomali Valley. Share one gift for every room and storage area in your home that you don't use every day.</p> <p>\$ _____</p>	<p>One Great Hour of Sharing helps provide medical care in areas without hospitals. Share one gift for every time the members of your family have received care from a hospital.</p> <p>\$ _____</p> 	<p>The first thing we often do to welcome people into our homes is to open the door. Share one gift for every door in your home.</p> <p>\$ _____</p> 	<p>Over 60% of Haiti's population is undernourished. Share one gift for each vitamin each member of your family takes every day.</p> <p>\$ _____</p> 
<p>Rice is the bread of life for millions in Thailand. Today, consider sharing a gift of \$5, which would feed a child a diet of rice, fish pasta and beans for one month.</p> <p>\$ _____</p> 	<p>Between 600,000 and one million Burmese are internally displaced within their country. Share one gift for each home you have lived in as a family.</p> <p>\$ _____</p> 	<p>Honduras is still slowly recovering from the devastation wrought in 1998 by Hurricane Mitch. Share one gift for each hurricane your family has experienced.</p> <p>\$ _____</p> 	<p>Guadalupe Valenzuela of Mexico hand washes mounds of laundry needed to keep her children and grandchildren in clean clothes. Share one gift for each load of laundry you do each week.</p> <p>\$ _____</p>	<p>Women at the Sankhamba Care Center for victims of HIV/AIDS in Durban, South Africa, sing together to use music as a healing power. Share one gift for every music CD in your house.</p> <p>\$ _____</p>	<p>Fifty million African children, mostly girls, are denied a basic education. Share one gift for the number of schools you or the members of your family attended.</p> <p>\$ _____</p> 	<p>Thank God for your many blessings and that your gifts, added with so many others through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, can make a remarkable difference.</p> <p><b>TOTAL \$ _____</b></p>

# FBC Softball Starts Off With A Bang!



*Dave Mehlinger gets set to rip the ball in the first game of 2005.*

The starting gun sounded and the FBC Softball team was off and running with two big victories to open the season. Led by Chip Chaffee (2 hr, 6 RBI), Casey Rezendes (2B, hr, 3 runs), Dave Moon (4 runs, 3 RBI) and Dave Mehlinger (3/3 on base, 2 runs the team went on to defeat Sacred Heart 20-4 in the opener. The

hitting continued in game two as Mike Staron (hr, 3B, 3 runs), Steve Moon (2 hits, 2 runs), Fred Stone (3 times on base, ) and Jason Mandeville ( 3 RBI) led the team to a 18-15 win over Missionary Alliance.

Ken Kreger and Brian Goldin have taken over the helm as co-managers this season and they bring a fresh enthusiasm to the ball park and a determination to better the 10-12 mark of last season.

Filling out the roster in the 2005 season are Armin Harris, Fred Green, George Rezendes, Jeff Brockway and Mitch Baird. We can still use a few more players so if you are interested in joining us, please contact the co-managers or the church office for details.

## **Softball Schedule for May**

Mon May 2 at Ouillette Field 1 vs Sacred Heart **W**  
Wed. May 4 at Ouillette Field 2 vs Missionary Alliance **W**  
Mon. May 9 at Ouillette Field 1 vs Worship Center  
Fri. May 13 at Ouillette Fireld 2 vs Sts Peter & Paul  
Mon. May 16 at Ouillette Field 2 vs Universal Life  
Wed. May 18 at Ouillette Field 2 vs St Patricks  
Mon. May 23 at Ouillette Field 1 at 7 pm vs Central Baptist

**The First Baptist Church**  
**239 West Main Street**  
**Norwich, CT 06360**  
**Vol. 21, No.13**

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239 West Main Street, Norwich, CT 06360  
Phone: 860-889-0369 Fax: 860-887-3504

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

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.