

The Ambassador

April 2007



Welcome to the Family!

Thirteen people will be welcomed as members

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

On Sunday, April 1 we rejoice together as we witness the baptism of three of our young people. Jennifer Dart, Rachel Lord and Bethany Stone will profess their faith as they follow Jesus into the water and are baptized.



All three of the girls have grown up in the church family and their faith was nurtured by our Sunday School and the loving members of our congregation.

The girls will be joined by ten others who will be given the right hand of fellowship and welcomed into the church family. Peter, Betsey, Lindsey and Chris Adams, Ray and Wendy Henry, Patricia and Steven Ohlund and Audrey Traylor and Lynn Wisniewski will be welcomed into membership at the same time.

Come join us as we celebrate new beginnings and make your own recommitment to the work of Christ at the same time.

The Church At Worship



**Lenten
Worship
10:30 -
11:45 am**

Join Us As We Worship Easter

April 1, 2007

Palm Sunday

Scripture: Luke 19:28-40

Sermon: "Will YOU Be There When The Clapping Stops?"

April 8, 2007

Easter Sunday

Scripture: John 20:1-18

Sermon: "I Can't Believe He Knows My Name!"

April 15, 2007

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Sermon: "Who Needs Proof?"

April 22, 2007

Scripture:

Guest Preacher: Amy Hollis

April 29, 2007

Scripture: John 10:22-30

Sermon: "Can You Hear Me Now?"



Believer's
Baptism

Join Us As We Celebrate our Christian faith with a service of believer's baptism and welcome thirteen new members into our church family on April 1, 2007



Experiencing God

Sunday April 29—Bring a sack lunch and stay following worship for a time of exploring and experiencing intergenerational multi-sensory devotions.

* Individuals, families, youth, adults, friends are welcome. Children under 6th grade please bring an adult. All ages are welcome.

* What do intergenerational and multi-sensory devotions mean? Ask Amy or come and find out. You will leave with resources and ideas for meeting God in daily life.

A Farewell To Amy Hollis

Sunday, May 6 - Come say good bye to Amy as she finishes her student inernship with us. We will celebrate her ministry during worship and have a reception for her after worship.



We finished another Lenten Journey this year. Participants included Sidat Balgobin, David Stickney, Bill Dunlap, Sheldon Keller, Cal Lord and Ho Soon Han.

New Nursery List Is Available

We want to thank those who have volunteered to take a turn in the church nursery this winter. Here is the nursery list for this month:

April 1 - Kelly Bolin & Rachelle Weimer

April 8 - Hired Help

April 15 - Heidi Adams & Cheryl Dutrumble

April 22 - Ray & Wendy Henry & Kristen Deptulski

April 29 - Fran Rogers & Penny Sargent



We are always looking for volunteers to take a turn in the nursery rotation. You do not have to have small children to volunteer. Contact the church office and we will accommodate your desire to help.

Why not invite a friend to join you on Easter Sunday. Surveys show that most people are more receptive to an invitation on Easter than any other day of the year. Take the opportunity to introduce them to the joy that you already know.



**April 8
10:30 am**

Holy Week 2007



Celebrate and renew your faith on Palm Sunday, April 1, 2007 as we wave the palms and declare Jesus the "Lord of our Lives."

Let's Celebrate the triumph together in our Community Sunrise Service at Howard Brown Park at 6:30 a.m.



Palm Sunday Men's Communion Breakfast 7:00 a.m. at Central Baptist Church

**Featuring Franklin Ward,
Former Police Lieutenant
with the Norwich Police
Department**



Breakfast to follow at a cost of \$5.00

What do Christians Celebrate on Easter?

On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, Jesus Christ. It is typically the most well-attended Sunday service of the year for most Christian churches.



Christians believe according to Scripture, that Jesus came back to life, or was raised from the dead, three days after his death on the cross. Through his death, burial and resurrection, Jesus paid the penalty for sin, thus purchasing for all who believe in Him, eternal life in Christ Jesus.

Let's gather to share the Lord's Supper and reflect on his passion at 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 5, 2007



**GOOD
FRIDAY
SERVICE**

Join Bishop Michael Cote, Rev. Dr. Cal Lord and other Church Leaders from the area in the Annual Good Friday Way of the Cross Procession.

April 6 at 6:00 pm from Chelsea Parade

*In the event of heavy rain,
we will gather at
Central Baptist Church*

Join us for our Easter Celebration on Sunday, April 8 at 10:30 a.m.

Invite your friends and family to come with you.

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



Easter

Upcoming Events

Mother Daughter Banquet

Date To be announced soon!

Melinda Maynard is chairing the event and will release the details this coming Sunday.



A nice Turkey Dinner will be served with some great musical entertainment for under \$10.00 per person.

Put your mom or daughters on notice!



Join us for a special concert by the Eastern University Choir on Monday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m.

The 183rd Annual Gathering of
The American Baptist Churches of Connecticut
April 28, 2007
9:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Gathering to be held at Bristol Baptist Church

“Do not neglect the gift that is in you ... Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.” 1 Timothy 4:14-15

Convenor will be Dr. Cal Lord, President of ABCCONN,
Pastor of First Baptist Church, Norwich

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Jeffrey Haggray
Executive Director/Minister
D.C. Baptist Convention



We will be gathering to worship, fellowship,
and listen to God.

Come hear how God is leading us to step up and step out both individually
and collectively.

Workshop subjects will include Bible Study, immigration, financial planning,
energy consciousness, moving out of one's comfort zone, spiritual disci-
plines, and reacting to disasters.

*** Sign up at our church. The church van will be going and you can ride
with us! It should be a great day of inspiration.

Children's Day June 10, 2007



Program at Church and all church
picnic at Fort Shantock to follow

Annual Tag June 3, 2007



You can start bringing in your
goods after May 14, 2007

“Since in order to speak,
one must first listen,
learn to speak by listening.”
- Mevlana Rumi -

Youth & Education

Sunday School Is Never Boring



Chelsea Calkins and Bethany Stone sing of Father Abraham

Singing, dancing, making crafts and learning about God's love is what makes Sunday School fun for our kids. It is never to late to start. Right now the kids are starting a new session and will be getting ready to work on their projects for Children's Day in the next month or so.

We have classes for all ages including an adult Bible study. Come and have fun while you and your kids nurture your souls.



Rachelle Weimer shows the children how its done as she, Cassie Kane and Amy Hollis get ready to make some paper mache with the kids in Sunday School.

First Baptist Church Sunday School Craft Schedule

April 1	Grades K-2nd	Mosaics
April 8	Easter	Regular Classes
April 15	Grades 3rd-5th	Mosaics
April 22	Middle Schoolers	Mosaics

Lenten Bible Study



"The Body of Christ" Sundays at 6pm

Join us as we explore what it means to be part of the Body. No previous Bible knowledge is required - just come and learn about yourself, your gifts, and your neighbor and their gifts.

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." 1 Corinthians 12:12

Last session - April 1 (Palm Sunday)

"The Holy Spirit and the Fruit of the Spirit"
Acts 2, Galatians 5:22-26

* How do we live the "Fruit of the Spirit" in the world? Are we better at some than others?



Pizza Party Marks Season's End

Over fifty people came out to enjoy pizza and soda at our season ending party on March 23rd. The pastor shared some remarks thanking the participants and their families and everyone watched a slide show featuring many of the kids on the court.

People, Places and Possibilities



Carolyn Brown and her family are in our prayers as they mourn the sudden loss of her husband, James. We think of Steve Roscoe in prayer. He fell and broke his wrist and is now recuperating at the Norwichtown Convalescent Home... Daryl Alves left for Iraq this month. Think of him, Steve Rogers, David Blanchard and Heather Stone as they serve in the area. Pray for their parents and families as well. It is an unsettling time for all... Penny Sargent was in the hospital and is back at home now. Think of her... Helen Song is improving but she still needs our prayers... Dave Murray continues his follow up treatments. He recently had a CAT scan to check his progress. We pray for good results... and is doing well. Lift him up in your prayers...

We think of Kate and Chris Canada as they anticipate the birth of their first child at the end of April...

We continue to lift up Ken Taylor, Helen Moore, Myrtle Henry, Al Damien, Doris Regets, Katherine Bromley, Bill Rossoll, Edith Robinson, Myra Christensen and Michelle Lord in prayer.

Also lift up the meetings and discussions between First and Central Baptist Church as we consider God's will in our futures.



Congratulations to Allison Walberg and Jason Beit who announced their engagement recently.

Amanda Duntz was home and visiting family and friends last month. She currently lives in Virginia and is working as a retail store manager.



Life Line Screening

May 9, 2007
at First Baptist Church
 Be tested for;
Carotid Artery Blockage
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
Osteoporosis
& ABI
Call 1-800-772-8260 for appt.



Sandra Lucien brought her son, Sebastian to Sunday School.



Churches don't grow because they have paid advertising or great community programs. They grow when the members get excited about what is happening and they start inviting their friends to join them.

If you enjoy weekly worship, then your friends will probably enjoy it too.

Are there things that you would like to see happening at church? Then let's talk about the new programs and ministries that you and your friends would like to engage in here at First Baptist. We can work together to make it happen. After all, it was one person who posed the possibility of a softball team that launched our whole focus on sports ministries twenty two years ago. It has since spread to bowling, basketball and golf. Every ministry starts with an idea. Maybe God wants to speak through you. Let's talk.

Norwich in Bloom

Sue Vanase is looking to get a small group together to work on a beautification project this summer as part of the "America in Bloom" contest that Norwich is participating in. Neighborhoods, businesses, and private and public places will all be taking part. This is an international contest that encourages communities to work together and showcase the beauty and green spaces of their cities. At First Baptist, we could plant flowers, maybe put some planters or hanging pots on the front steps, etc. and keep the yard and plantings looking neat and well cared for through the summer. Anyone interested in more information on the project can call Sue Vanase at 887-5514.



Volunteer Drivers Wanted

We are looking for a few people who are willing to offer a few people a ride to church services on Sunday morning. You could use your vehicle or the church van.



We are also looking for anyone who might be able to drive Jean Roscoe to and or from the convalescent home to visit her husband Steve during the week.

Check us out on the web at www.fbcnorwich.org. You will find our monthly newsletter in color and lots more.





Sports Page



Coach Brown Remembered on Basketball Recognition Sunday



Pastor Lord receives the trophy from Coach Julio



Coach Miller's JV Team was there.



Sha gets well deserved recognition.

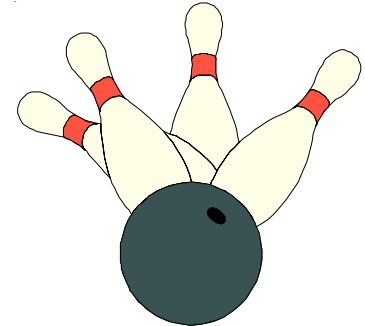
One hundred and forty one people were on hand as we celebrated the success of our basketball outreach program on and off the court. Several of the kids and all of the coaches were present as we introduced the kids and presented them with certificates. All four teams did very well.

The Varsity team coached by James Brown finished the year at 5- 4. The Varsity team coached by Julio Sanchez ran the table and was undefeated even though they began the year as a JV team and got bumped up to the tougher division. Coach Leonard Miller's Junior Varsity team finished the year with a 8-2 record. The FBC Heat team, coached by Jim Volpe and Jack Greenwood, finished with a 7-2 record as well.

Shareef Champlain was recognized and presented as the newest inductee in our sports Ministry Hall of Fame. Sha played for three years and was a two time MVP and Co-Captain of one of our best teams ever. He is a senior at Norwich Free Academy and just completed a very successful run with the Wild Cats basketball team.

We took a few minutes to remember Coach Brown who died suddenly last week. James was the program co-ordinator the last two seasons and was in his third year of coaching our kids. He will be missed as he helped us keep our focus on reaching out to the kids. A fund has been set up in his memory that will benefit the future of the basketball ministry.

Do You Like To Bowl?



The Holy Rollers will open their sixteenth season in June and you are invited to join us. You do not have to belong to the church to join. Invite your friends and let's have a ball.

We have mixed teams of four in an handicap league. We bowl through the summer on Sunday nights at 6:30 p.m. beginning on June 3, 2007

The cost is about \$14 a week and that includes the price of a banquet at the end of the season.

Sign up at church if you want to bowl. We will have a League Meeting sometime after May 1.

Softball Season Is Here Again!

Find your glove, put on some sweats and join us as we celebrate our 21st season in the Church League. We will have our first practice soon. The team is open to anyone over the age of 16. Games are played on week-nights at 6:00 p.m. up at the Taftville Reservoir Fields.

Speak to the Brian Goldin or Ken Kreger if you are interested. Registration is \$40.00 per person.



Engaged In Mission

Serving God's Love



Bobby Adams was one of six who waited tables in March.

Cindy Carchidi and Sue Ferguson in the kitchen.

On the third Sunday of every month volunteers from our congregation roll up their sleeves and put on a community meal up at St. Mark's Lutheran Church on Washington Street. About fifty to sixty meals are served to many of the disadvantaged in our community.



Jeffrey Goldin and Rosie Main serve fancy desserts to guests.

Each month two or three people are needed to cook the meal and another 2-4 are needed to wait tables, serve and clean up. Cynthia Strouse is the program coordinator. If you would like to get involved call her (886-0025) or speak to her at church. We serve lunch on the third Sunday of every month. Call now and choose the month that works for you. Grab a friend and work on it together and you will walk away feeling blessed.

Join Us In The Annual CROP Walk

on Sunday, May 6, 2007



Walking to raise money to feed the hungry. 25% of funds raised come back to Norwich

See George Strouse for sponsor forms.

Bring in your non perishable food to fill up our pantry at church.

Suggested donations include:

Cereals	Spaghetti Sauce	
Soups	Beef Stew	
Canned Pasta	Juices	Instant Potatoes
Boxed Pasta	Coffee	



We Are Going To Mexico

Nancy Allen Carol Calkins, June Deptulski, Sharon Fishkin and the Pastor will be representing our congregation in our trip to Mexicali, Mexico. The actual cost of the trip will be just over \$8,100 but we have raised over \$6,400 so far.

If you would like to help out, you can make a donation. The cost of the trip including transportation is about \$400 per person. We are also renting cars and purchasing building supplies and bringing a love gift for the churches.

Looking for a concrete way to make a gift? Sponsor one day of lodging for someone at \$17 or the whole week at \$136. You can pay for one day of the rental car at \$70.00. You could pick up the cost of someone's airfare for \$259. Or you could just throw a five or ten dollar bill in the jug at the back of the church. Anything you do will make you one of our mission partners as we work together to share the Good News in Mexico.

Our Ministry To The Family

Honey, I Shrunk the Clothes!

What a laundry mishap taught me about peacemaking.

Norma has told me she prefers I stay away from the laundry, since I have a habit of messing up things. But if I “must” help, she’s instructed me to put her clothes in the dryer for no more than five minutes, then hang them up.

One day I noticed that Norma was washing a load of her clothes. Since she was busy on the phone, I thought I’d do something nice for her: I’d surprise her and help do her laundry.

When the washing cycle finished, I removed the load from the washer and put it in the dryer.

I really did intend to take them out and hang them to finish drying. But, something distracted me, and two hours later, I remembered, “Oh no, Norma’s clothes!” I rushed to the dryer, but it was too late. For a moment, I was tempted to put them back in the washer, thinking she’d never know. I guess I wanted to believe I could rehydrate them.

With fear and trepidation, I told my wife, “I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that I dried your clothes that were in the washer.”

“What!” she said, and I sensed the tension rising.

“But the good news is,” I quickly interjected, “Taylor (our five-year-old granddaughter) has a whole new wardrobe!”

My attempt at humor didn’t defuse the problem as much as I’d hoped.

“It take me a long time to find nice clothes that will fit me properly,” she said, frustrated.

I felt embarrassed and ashamed. I had never realized that it takes her extra time to find clothes that will work. I’d



been thinking it wasn’t a big deal—mostly because it takes me about 30 seconds to buy clothes.

It would have been easy for me to sulk in self-pity, thinking, *Yes, I messed up, but she should look at the thought behind the action. I meant to help her; to show her I was thinking about her.*

She didn’t view it that way, though. “I ask only that you respect my desires,” she told me. “I appreciate your willingness to help. But you don’t follow through. And now this will cost me more time and money because I have to go out and buy something new.”

As Norma shared her frustrations about what I’d done, I had to make a choice. I could get defensive and angry, or I could really listen to her side. I chose the latter. I decided to assess, *What is Norma going through? What is she feeling? What is she thinking? Is there any damage to our relationship? Does anything need to be repaired? Where was I wrong?* As I reflected on the situation, I knew there could be damage to our relationship, and it was my responsibility to make things right. I

realized, *Yes, I knew. I’ve been told a million times not to touch her clothes.*

I asked for her forgiveness and handed her my wallet as a gesture of repentance. While she was still hurt, she forgave me.

“Thank you for apologizing,” she told me. “I know you want to make things right. Thank you for that.”

To ask for forgiveness is hard, because pride, by its nature, doesn’t want to let go. It wants to prove it’s in the right. Men in particular seem to struggle with this issue. Often, even when they recognize the importance of asking forgiveness, they’ll react first, then later admit they were wrong. That was me!

Yet, even if it’s delayed, admitting your wrongs is better than trying to cover them up.

Doing Norma’s laundry reminded me that to keep marriage flowing smoothly, we need to make things right as soon as possible. In Romans 12:18, the apostle Paul writes, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” I discovered that applies even to doing laundry.

By Gary Smalley

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Check out this and other magazines on our literature table in the chapel area of church.

A Powerful Witness

DESTINY'S MANCHILD

Orlando center Dwight Howard believes in Magic-and miracles

Dwight Howard is hard to ignore even in the NBA's land of giants. The 6-foot-11-inch, 265-pound center stands out. Just look at what his peers say.

Two-time league MVP Tim Duncan, said he's glad he'll be retired by the time Howard is peaking. Minnesota Timberwolves MVP Kevin Garnett has referred to him as "a freak of nature."

Halfway through his third season in the league, it's easy to see why the veteran big men are gushing. At only 21 years old, Howard is having an All-Star season, averaging 17 points, 12.5 rebounds and two blocks per game.

Howard's presence in the paint has put Orlando squarely in the playoffs mix. On January 22, he had his best game yet, pulling down a season-high 25 rebounds. That's right, 25 rebounds.

But if not for a miracle, his absence from the planet could have been very real. After Howard's older sister was born, his mother, Sheryl, suffered through seven tragic miscarriages. Not much hope was given for his parents to have any more children. Then Dwight Jr. was born -a premature miracle child.

For that reason alone, Howard has no problem understanding the concept of purpose. "I'm really thankful to be alive," he says. "I'm a person who's always smiling, always joyful, and I've always been that way because of the struggles I went through."

FAMILY MATTERS

"Mom and dad have always been there," says Howard. Orlando Magic Senior VP Pat Williams won't disagree. "Dwight's so fortunate to have grown up in a two-parent family," Williams says. "There's not a hole in his soul.



His dad is there as part of his life and was there to discipline him-as well as love him and coach him."

You hear a lot about strong NBA moms, and Sheryl Howard is no different. A talented athlete herself, she attended Morris Brown College where she played for the school's inaugural women's basketball team.

But when it comes to Howard's maturity and strong sense of responsibility, much of the credit goes to his father, Dwight Sr. As a state trooper, the elder Howard spent more than a decade patrolling Georgia's highways, and maintaining an active role in his son's athletics.

"He told me some horror stories about the times he could have been killed and God spared his life," Howard says. "It was tough. A lot of people in the world don't care too much for police officers, but he was a great

cop. He always gave people second chances."

During Howard's senior year at Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, his father retired from the force and became the school's athletic director, a position he still holds today.

"You meet his parents and you know why he's turned out as he has," Williams says.

A MAN-CHILD'S WORLD

Howard started playing basketball when he was just 2 or 3 years old. By the time he was in eighth grade, people were starting to notice him. Then in ninth grade, he hit a massive growth spurt and stretched from 6 feet 2 inches to 6 feet 9 inches.

As an eighth grader he wrote down several goals for himself, including leading his team to the state title and becoming the first overall pick in the NBA draft. Howard attained both goals.

"I always wanted to come out of high school and go into the NBA," Howard says. "I prepared myself physically and spiritually. I felt that it was time and God wanted me to do it.

Howard's high school numbers were ridiculous. Over 129 career games, he accounted for 2,146 points, 1,728 rebounds and 811 blocked shots.

He averaged 25 points, 18 boards and 8 blocks a game as a senior.

That season put him high on every one's 2004 draft list, particularly the Orlando Magic, who held the top selection in the NBA



A Powerful Witness

draft. According to Williams, it wasn't just Howard's physical ability that had them excited. He and owner Rich DeVos loved the fact that the young player was outspoken about his faith.

"There were some around the basketball world who thought he was a religious fanatic," Williams says. "But we just viewed him as a young man who knew who he was and why he was here."

When he first met Williams and DeVos he felt a kindred spirit with the two Christian men who would use their top pick to revitalize their organization. In 2005 Howard became just the third high school athlete selected No.1 in the draft. He followed Kwame Brown in 2001 and LeBron James in 2004.

Dubbed the "Man-Child" as a rookie, Howard quickly became a legitimate force. He made history as the first high school rookie to start in all 82 games. He became the youngest player to accomplish several feats, including 20 or more rebounds in a game and 20 points and 20 rebounds in a game. He was also the youngest player to average a double-double for a season with 12 points and 10 rebounds during his rookie year.

In his first two seasons, Howard played in all 164 games while averaging 13.9 points and 11.3 rebounds. He led the entire NBA in total rebounds last season with 1,022 and also led the league in total dunks.

"(Dwight) stepped right in," Williams says. "He never gets hurt. He's probably one of the best young rebounders to come along in decades."

During the summer of 2006, Howard received the ultimate honor and joined the USA basketball team for the World Championship.

SPIRITUAL CHALLENGES

Despite his success, Howard says it was a difficult adjustment playing against bigger and stronger athletes.

As an outspoken Christian, he was keenly aware of struggles he might face from a spiritual perspective.

"I knew that I was going into a league with a lot of grown men," he says. "They have problems. They've got families. They don't want to listen to an 18-year-old that just came out of high school."

"We grew up in the church," he says. "But just because you grow up in the church, that doesn't mean you're a Christian."

Howard first made a commitment to Christ when he was 13 or 14.

Howard admits that a couple years later he was back to his old ways. But when a broken leg took him away from the sport he loved for a while, it was just the wake-up call he needed to develop a closer relationship with the Lord.

Howard says it's not easy being one of a handful of dedicated Christians in the NBA. He looks to guys like Grant Hill and Michael Redd as examples. "It's been a bit of a problem," Howard admits. "I've had some people that feel they couldn't be around me because they thought I was going to beat them over the head with Christ. But my friends know that I'm still human and I like to have fun and enjoy myself and make people laugh."

Howard does not pretend to be Superman. He readily concedes that his struggle with sin is the same that all youth must confront every day.

"The flesh is one of the weakest things," Howard explains. "That's the biggest temptation that we all face. The only way to avoid temptation for me is to run from it. I stay away from those types of situations.

"You need to be around people that lift you up and do not bring you down."

Howard also has the support of DeVos and Williams—a unique pair of

Christian NBA executives that have their star player's back in more ways than one.

"I'm always trying to encourage him," Williams says. "I don't deal with the players day to day. But anything I can pass on to Dwight that might help him in his walk, I'm always interested in doing that."

DESTINY FULFILLED

Even though he has yet to complete three full seasons in the NBA, Howard has earned the respect of his peers as both a basketball player and as a young man committed to Christ.

He takes his sizeable platform as a role model to fans just as seriously as he does his commitment to rebounding, and he doesn't want to let his youth hinder him.

"Maybe God has raised him up as the next David Robinson," Williams says, citing the San Antonio Spurs center who retired in 2003, but is known for his Christian witness and on-court skills. "David carried that torch for a long time in this league and gave such a wonderful, positive view of the sport."

Every time this gentle giant stares new challenges in the face, all he has to do is think about his destiny and the miracle that has allowed him to fulfill a much greater purpose.

"I know my calling on my life," Howard says. "I know that the NBA is just a way for me to tell people about God, that He is real. My purpose in life, my goal for the NBA, is to preach God's Word by just being a good example in a Christian-like manner.

Written by Chad Bonham

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Wit, Wisdom & Wackiness...

Praying Hands

A new way to think

About it



1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. Pray for our loved ones is. C. S. Lewis once said, its a "sweet duty."

2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our little finger - the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

A Tribute to Teachers

The dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life. One man, a CEO, decided to explain the problem with education. He argued, "What's a kid going to learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?"

He reminded the other dinner guests what they say about teachers: "Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach." To stress his point he said to another guest; "You're a teacher, Bonnie. Be honest What do you make?"

Bonnie, who had a reputation for honesty and frankness replied, "You want to know what I make? (She paused for a second, then began...) "Well, I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could. I make a C+ feel like the Congressional Medal of Honor. I make kids sit through 40 minutes of class time when their parents can't make them sit for 5 without an I Pod, Game Cube or movie rental..."

You want to know what I make?" (She paused again and looked at each and every person at the table.)

I make kids wonder.

I make them question.

I make them criticize.

I make them apologize and mean it.

I make them have respect and take responsibility for their actions.

I teach them to write and then I make them write.

I make them read, read, read.

I make them show all their work in math.

I make my students from other countries learn everything they need to know in English while preserving their unique cultural identity.

I make my classroom a place where all my students feel safe.

I make my students stand to say the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, because we live in the United States of America.

Finally, I make them understand that if they use the gifts they were given, work hard, and follow their hearts, they can succeed in life. (Bonnie paused one last time and then continued) "Then, when people try to judge me by what I make, I can hold my head up high and pay no attention because they are ignorant..."

You want to know what I make?

I MAKE A DIFFERENCE. What do you make?"



The River

Three men were hiking through a forest when they came upon a large, raging violent river. Needing to get on the other side, the first man prayed, "God, please give me the strength to cross the river."

Poof! God gave him big arms and strong legs and he was able to swim across in about 2 hours, having almost drowned twice.

After witnessing that, the second man prayed, "God, please give me strength and the tools to cross the river."

Poof! God gave him a rowboat and strong arms and strong legs and he was able to row across in about an hour after almost capsizing once.

Seeing what happened to the first two men, the third man prayed, "God, please give me the strength, the tools

and the intelligence to cross the river."

Poof! He was turned into a woman. She checked the map, hiked one hundred yards up stream and walked across the bridge.

"Owwwwww!" he said.

Whom Shall I Send? Who Will Go For Me?

For the first time in our 207 year history, we are going to send out an adult team to the mission field. Later this month five members of our congregation will take the historic step and join eight members from Central Baptist in a journey to Mexacali, Mexico. They will be helping with Vacation Bible School, doing some building construction, and working hand in hand to support the work of Mercy and Rick Barnes, our American Baptist missionaries.



Our missionaries include Sharon Fishkin, Roger & Doreen Mainville, Pastors Sheldon Keller and Cal Lord, June Deptulski, Andy Schueurmann, Carol Calkins. Seated are Karen and David Warfield & Eileen Keller. Missing from the picture are Nancy Allen and Melanie Schueurmann.

The team will be heading out of Bradley Airport on Tuesday, April 17 and landing in San Diego, California.

The group will be staying at the Dios Con Nostros Seminary (God with us) and working with the local Baptist convention to build up and

equip the churches in the area. Please pray for the group while they are away.

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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
Amy Hollis, Student Pastor
Adele DiBiagio Cofer,
Organist & Choir Director
Sandy Stone, Administrative Assistant
Harry & Doris Calkins, Carol Calkins, June Pendleton, and Bob Walker are the Production Assistants.