

THE AMBASSADOR

NEWS
AUGUST 2007

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



It's A Blooming Nice Place!



It is amazing what you can do with a love of gardening and a few dollars. A group of a dozen members and friends of the church have turned our front yard into a flowering landscape.

When Sue Vanase heard about the "America in Bloom" contest she decided to speak to the Pastor to see if she could recruit a few members to do something with the church grounds. A little over ten weeks later the front of the church was alive with color.

Patricia Ohlund, who designs gardens with her husband, Steve, made some suggestions, donated some plants and helped set up an automated watering system. Phil and Maureen Postler donated some seed money in his mother's memory to get the project moving. Betsey Adams, Carol Calkins, Nancy Allen, Cynthia Strouse, Cliff Vanase, Don Walberg, Bob and Marge Booth all chipped in and did the digging, planting, and watering. They scattered grass seed, and

placed window boxes and urns on the steps and on the landings. The crowning touch came as Tag and Noah Griffin jumped in to scrape and repaint the



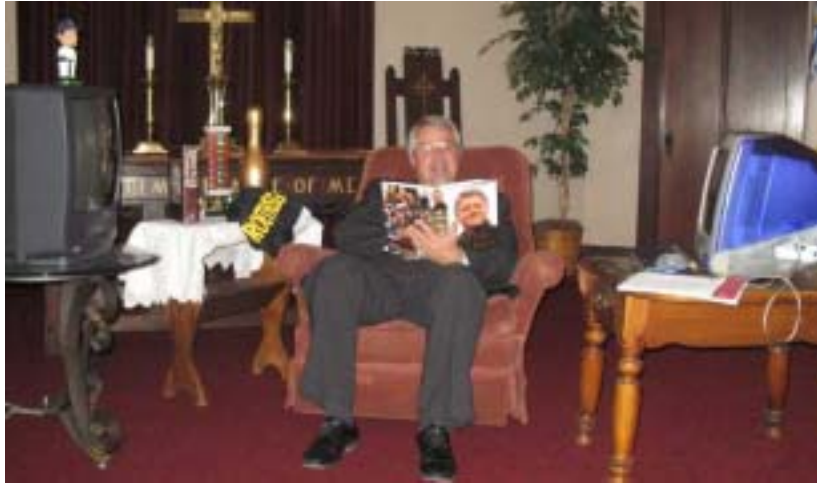
peeling posts on our sign to make it look like new again. Finally, Guy Brown came along to mow the grass to put the final touches on the landscaping.

The national judges came to Norwich in July and no matter what they decide about our city, our church has been blessed by the efforts of our "FBC in Bloom" team members. If you would like to help keep things going, speak to Sue or one of the other members of the group.

Series on Ten Commandments Provides Food for Thought For Us This Summer

In the wildly successful movie series, The Pirates of the Caribbean, there is a running joke about the Pirate's Code and whether it is a set of rules to be obeyed or a series of useful guidelines. Oddly enough, for many contemporary Christians the same debate takes place concerning the Ten Commandments. If we are living in Christ are we still bound by them or are they no longer needed or useful?

In a summer series at church Dr. Cal Lord has decided to look at the Ten Commandments and explore their relevancy for 21st Century Christians. The scaled back version of the first four sermons



The Pastor used a dramatic moment in a mock living room to reflect on the number of "idols or objects of worship" we find in a typical home."

can be found on the website. Of course these messages are much better when heard live at church and you never know what the Pastor will say or do.

On July 15th Dr. Lord recreated a living room scene on the platform and

preached part of the sermon from his easy chair.

The series continues in the coming weeks with titles like, "Am I My Brother's Keeper?" and "Being True to the One You Love."

Worship begins each week at 9:30 a.m through Labor Day. If you are not away, plan to join us and let's learn more about the Commandments together.



**Summer
Worship
9:30 -
10:45 am**

Join Us As We Worship

August 5, 2007

Communion Sunday

Scripture: Exodus 20:12

Sermon: "Unearthing Buried Treasure"

August 12, 2007

Scripture: Exodus 20:13

Sermon: "Am I My Brother's Keeper?"

August 19, 2007

Sports Recognition Sunday

Scripture: Exodus 20:14

Sermon: "Being True To The One You Love"

August 26, 2007

Scripture: Exodus 20:15

Sermon: "Who Are You Robbing?"

On July 8 Chris and Sally Huntington brought their children, Simon and Luna, forward in a service of family dedication.

They had their family friend from California here to celebrate with them. The Huntingtons are friends of Mark and Bonnie Ambruso and they will be leaving for the Boston area soon.



New Nursery List Is Available

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



- August 5 - Rachelle Weimer & Cheryl Dutrumble
- August 12 - Fran Rogers & Penny Sargent
- August 19 - Laura Kreger & Cindy Briggs
- August 26 - Sandra Lucien & Brian Goldin

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.

Summer Visitors



Brianne Jones was here for a visit last month.

Dan and Tina Perry also dropped in with the family this summer. Tina is Fred Green's sister.

The summer months are a great time to visit and we have had a few "old friends" drop in here at church. Brianne Jones was up from Alabama for a few days. She was baptized earlier this year in her new church. We also got to see Maxine Erickson. Maxine was a regular here about ten years ago.

People News

Two of our former basketball stars graduated from college. Terry Dunn graduates from college this summer and will continue on toward his Master's degree. Right now he is working part time at Yale-New Haven Hospital... Malek Champlain also graduated from college and will be teaching this fall.

Congratulations to Ken and Debbie Diehl. Eric was born on July 17th. Mom and baby are doing well. Grandma (Geri) is pretty happy as well.

Cynthia Strouse joined the ranks of the newly retired this summer. After over twenty years in the Norwich school system she is going to start the next chapter of her life and she is looking forward to it.

Stacia Green and her fiancé, Nick Grange will be moving to Florida in September. Think of them in prayer but also remember her mom and dad. They will miss their little girl...

Kate and Chris Canada are planning a service of family dedication here at church on September 30. I know many of us will be happy to meet little Lilian.

Congratulations to Dave and Mary Royce as they anticipate the upcoming wedding of their oldest daughter, Michelle. Dave said he doesn't think there will be a dry eye in the church as he gives away his little girl.

Bethany Brown was home for a few days this summer but she has now returned to the Gulf coast to continue her service with Americorps.

Rosie Main traveled to Georgia earlier this summer to attend the High School graduation of her grand-daughter, Chirley Marie Quillian. Brian Goldin kept her company on the way down.

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



In Our Prayers...

Jenny Dart had a seizure and was rushed to the hospital. Everything looks ok but the doctors are monitoring her progress... Jeff Brockway's department at work has been eliminated and he will be looking for a job soon. Think of him... Conner Fishkin is coming along well after his broken arm earlier this summer. He has adjusted quite well to wearing a cast... We think of Zack Buddington. His surgery has been postponed but he is still under the watchful eye of the physicians... We continue to lift up Nancy Schuster as she continues to battle foot problems and Donna Weimer as she heals up after her shoulder surgery... Pane Kane will have to have surgery. Think of her as she and the doctor set the date... Rich Morgan, one of our softball players will need knee surgery. Think of him... Chip Welch, one of our former bowlers had shoulder surgery. Lift him up in prayer... Think of Matt Murray in your prayers... We continue to think of Andy Seder in our prayers as he recovers from severe burns received at work...



We continue to remember Bill Rossoll, Michelle Lord and Dave Murray in our prayers in their fight with cancer... We lift up Daryl Alves in Iraq and pray for all of our troops overseas.

Finally we think of the following members and friends in our continuing prayers: Ken Taylor, Helen Moore, Myrtle Henry, Steve & Jean Roscoe, Al Damien, Doris Regets, Jimmy Marino, and Edith Robinson.



Ed and Karen Barber share a moment with their son, Adam, on July 14, 2007: His wedding day.

A New Bible Study: Chasing Daylight



Join us this summer as we gather for a Bible study on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. at the Lord's home on 11 Lincoln Ave.

We will be using Erwin McManus' book, Chasing Daylight as a discussion starter. Using powerful examples from his own life and ministry, McManus asserts that God crafts divine moments specific to each of us — priceless opportunities for us to actively engage in God's plan.

People, Places and Possibilities

Team Work

Journal by Richard and Mercedes Barnes

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor?' The expert in the law replied 'the one who had mercy on him.' Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'" (Luke 10:36, 37 NIV)



Usually in our role as missionaries, we are perceived as the ones who provide. In our setting in Baja California, we try to strike a balance with our partners, so that they can be provided with genuinely needed resources without always looking at us with only dollar signs in their eyes. But I have had a couple of experiences, thanks to a usually very dependable vehicle misbehaving, that have put the shoe on the other foot, so to speak.

Part of what I do is drive, lots. Some missionaries can do their work within the confines of a town, and can use a bicycle as their transportation. Mercy and I are related to one convention, but this convention still covers a fair amount of area. And, something for which we give thanks, we are being invited not only to work in the Mexicali and Valley areas of Baja California, but are now being invited to participate often in the areas of Tijuana-Tecate and Ensenada.

I had just replaced the transmission in my pickup (nearly having to sign away my firstborn for the expense) and headed to Ensenada to do a presentation to a pastor's group. It was an enjoyable time and the pastors seemed to respond well. On the way home, I was debating about driving to Mexicali and crossing the border there, or crossing at Tecate and driving on the US side. I decided I would cross at Tecate. I had just entered the town of Tecate when all of the sudden, the engine quit. Hmm. After a quick diagnosis, I suspected it was the alternator. Problem was, I had no transportation to get another alternator, nor did I have any tools with me to work on it.

Thankfully, in Tecate live the president of the convention, Isai, and his brother, Adriana y Isai Morelos Misael. Isai was at work, but his wife Adriana contacted Misael, who came to help me. Misael brought his son, who stayed to help, with his tools. We got the alternator out, tested it (sure enough, it had expired), purchased another one, installed it, and I was on my way, grateful for the grace of God and the graciousness of God's people.

I like to think of myself as pretty capable. But God taught me something in the midst of my need. I need my brothers and sisters in Christ. It may be for a hand with my truck, or for teaching lessons about life, but I am reminded that no one is truly self-sufficient. We really do need one another.

-Rick

The American Baptists Celebrate 100 Years



Baptists from across America gathered in Washington D.C. last month for a big birthday party. 100 years ago a group met to talk about formalizing their relationship as a denomination. These American Baptists had been working together in mission since the early part of the 19th Century and had

weathered some major controversies. In 1907 they declared that they would come together to expand their efforts.

The Biennial Meeting this year highlighted a renewed emphasis on working together to share the Gospel to the ends of the earth.



Feeding the Hungry The First Baptist Way



Avalon and Rosie wait for the action to begin on Sunday.

Avalon Epps, Margie Espallat and Rosie Main cooked up the monthly meal at the Interfaith Luncheon in July. They served salad, turkey and stuffing and green beans to a hungry crowd of nearly seventy people.

Judith Vickers, Dave Murray, and a few volunteers from Christ Episcopal church helped out in the dining hall. You never know who is going to show up. It is always fun and a very satisfying experience.

If you would like to help by cooking the meal or by setting up and waiting tables, please sign up at church.

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
Boxed Pasta	Coffee

Instant Potatoes



The Sports Page

Holy Rollers Wrap Up Sixteenth Season



Gary Arzamarski



Bruce Fellows



Bill Shaw



Carol Calkins

It has been a lot of fun as three or four teams battled it out for first place all season long. Going into the final week it appears that the Green Team from Taftville will claim the Goldin Pin and walk

away with the League Championship. They have a three game lead going into the last week. The bowling Banquet will be on August 19 at the Log Cabin Restaurant in Lebanon.

FBC Softball Closes Out 21st Season with 5- 15 Record



As the most trying season in our history draws to a close, all that is left is a pursuit of some personal awards and milestones. Dan Dutrumble will walk away with the batting title and George Rezendes and Cal Lord will have eclipsed over 800 at bats in their career. Armin Harris, Casey Rezendes, Craig Chapman and Fred Green will battle it out for the MVP award. Ken Kreger will have the satisfaction of knowing he had his best season ever. Rookies, Chris Vaillancourt, Ray Henry, Rich Morgan, Jeff Goldin and Craig Chapman will vie for the rookie of the Year Award.

The FBC team has secured the eighth and final spot in the post season tournament and will play the number one seed. That should happen next week. Call Brian Goldin or the Church office to find out when they play next.



**Join Us on
Sunday,
August 19
as we celebrate
our Sports
Ministries
- 9:30 a.m.**



*Life may not be the party we hoped for,
But while we are here we might as well dance!!!*

STORY OF ELIJAH

The Sunday school teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal.

She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut a steer in pieces, and laid it upon the altar. And then, Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times.

"Now", asked the teacher, "Can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?"

A little girl in the back of the room started waving her hand. "I know! I know!" she said, "To make the gravy!"

LOT'S WIFE



The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mommy looked back once, while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

GOODSAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama. Then, she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied David. "How could he, with just two worms?"



HIGHER POWER

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?"

One child blurted out, "Aces!"

MOSES AND THE RED SEA

Nine-year-old Joey, was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then, he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

"Well, no, Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

Laugh Out Loud!

IF I HAD MY LIFE TO LIVE OVER

- by Erma Bombeck

I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day.

I would have talked less and listened more.

I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained, or the sofa faded.

I would have eaten the popcorn in the 'good' living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace.

I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.

I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband.

I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed.

I would have sat on the lawn with my grass stains.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television and more while watching life.

I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil, or was guaranteed to last a lifetime.

Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later. Now go get washed up for dinner." There would have been more "I love you's"; more "I'm sorry's."

But mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute... look at it and really see it... live it and never give it back.

Quick hits...

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth? A. Ruthless.

Q. What do they call pastors in Germany? A. German Shepherds.

Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible? A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

Q. What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible? A. God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury... David's Triumph was heard throughout the land....Also, probably a Honda, because the apostles were all in one Accord.

Wit, Wisdom & Wackiness

Mission Committee Introduces Drama to Worship

"They are all such good sports," Nancy Allen said as she spoke about the volunteers who performed a dramatic skit on July 15. In her role as our Mission Committee chairperson, she drafted Dave Murray, Chelsey Calkins, Judy Dupont, Bob Walker and Oliver Bray to act out a skit about giving to missions. The cast did fine and the point was made that anyone can give to missions, even a child like Chelsey, who led the way.

During the months of June and July we collected money for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This offering goes to help in situations where natural disasters strike and the need is overwhelming.



Pastor Lord reported that at the American Baptist Biennial meeting he attended in Washington D.C. they spoke about how this money was used to help those who were hit with the devastating tornado that flattened a town in Kansas this spring. He also noted that one of the Pastors in Mississippi reported how the American Baptists were a blessing in the aftermath of

hurricane Katrina. It was funds from the One Great Hour of Sharing that helped when the people were down and out. There is still time to give if you missed the drama at church. Pick up an envelope from the pews and put it in the offering plate any time this summer.

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First Baptist Church of Norwich
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Summer Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.
Fall Schedule includes: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.
Worship at 10:30 a.m.

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