

# 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

## PICNIC MARKS CLOSE OF SUNDAY SCHOOL



Mark Rogers and Joel Fishkin served up hot dogs to over seventy people at the picnic.

The excitement of our Children's Day worship service spilled over into our All Church picnic at Fort Shantock on Sunday, June 11. Over seventy people showed up to enjoy a nice picnic lunch and the chance to kick back and relax on a picture perfect afternoon.

While Mark Rogers and Joel Fishkin cooked up the hot dogs, many of the younger children took the opportunity to enjoy the playground. The rest of those assembled either pulled up a lawn chair, scouted out a picnic table or were busy laying out the spread for all to enjoy.

After lunch Brian Goldin got all the kids together for a number of traditional outdoor races and games. The three legged and sack races were met with enthusiasm by the participants. The water balloon toss was a

big hit and the pinata was as hard to break as ever. It took almost two times through the order before one of the girls whacked it hard enough to break it open. With great delight, the kids rushed in to capture one of the bundles of candy that was set free in the process.



## The Henry Family Gives Thanks For Their Precious Daughter



*Hannah Henry has been in church quite regularly since she was born. Her parents, Ray and Wendy, asked God's blessing on her in our service last month.*

Ray and Wendy Henry were all smiles as they came forward with Hannah Catherine on Sunday, June 3rd in a service of Family Dedication. Big sister, Sarah, was also on hand to help if needed.

One of the ways we minister to families is in our promise to stand with them as they try to raise children in a Christian environment. As Pastor Lord carried Hannah down the aisle, he asked the congregation if they would promise to do all they could to welcome and provide a safe place for her and her parents in the years ahead. With our affirmation, we promised to pray for them and to support a Sunday School program and youth ministry that would compliment what they will do in the home.

As part of the service, Ray and Wendy affirmed that their daughter was a gift from God and that they would raise her to understand that God loves her and wants to be a part of her life.

## A New Chapter Begins For Our Graduates



*Becky, Fred and Emily were together again in church on a special Sunday.*

Becky Lord graduated from Ithaca College and will be teaching in New York City in the "Teach for America" program. She will also go on to Pace University for her Master's Degree in Education.

On Sunday, June 17 we recognized our graduates. Three of them were on hand to receive a small token of our esteem and to receive our applause. Emily McFalls graduated from Griswold High School and plans to go on to Eastern University. Fred Green Jr. graduated from New England Tech with his Associates Degree and will be working at Cardinal Honda.



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

### Join Us As We Worship

July 1, 2007

Guest Preacher: Rev. Jorge Morales

### A New Sermon Series Begins -

**A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments:  
Are They Still Relevant Today?**

July 8, 2007

Scripture: Exodus 20:3

Sermon: "Who's Number One In Your Life?"

July 15, 2007

Scripture: Exodus 20:4-6

Sermon: "What Is The Object Of Your Affection?"

July 22, 2007

Scripture: Exodus 20:7

Sermon: "That's His Name!"

July 29, 2007

Scripture: Exodus 20:8-11

Sermon: "God's Way To Recharge Your Battery"

*I have learned it is just as important to forget a wrong as it is to remember a kindness.*

*-Anonymous*

### 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:



- July 1 - Laura Kreger and Cindy Briggs
- July 8 - Sandra Lucien and Brian Goldin
- July 15 - Sandy Stone and Sharon Fishkin
- July 22 - Kelly Bolin and Cassie Kane
- July 29 - Wendy & Ray Henry and Kristen Deptulski

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.

## Becky Lord Is 2007 FBC Scholarship Winner



During our worship service on June 17 Becky Lord was chosen as the sixth recipient of our FBC Scholarship. She will be attending Pace University in the fall as she begins work on her Master's degree. She joins previous winners Adam Barber,

Jennifer Kane, Lindsey Adams, Jonathan Vanase and Casey Rezendes. As the winner she received a check for \$400.

## Wedding Bells

We celebrate with the following couples who have announced their engagements this year... Allison Walberg and Jason Beit, Lindsey Adams and Kevin Mariano, Lee McFalls and Hillary Griffith. Kristina Howe recently announced her engagement as well. On July 14 Adam Barber and Courtney Brown will be married here at church.



## A New Bible Study: Chasing Daylight



Join us this summer as we gather at the new home of Cal & Lori Lord (11 Lincoln Avenue in Norwich) for an eight week Bible study on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. beginning on July 12. Can't make the first meeting? Come when you can.

We will be using Erwin McManus' book, Chasing Daylight as a discussion starter. In this inspiring book Erwin McManus uses the biblical account of Israel's war with the Philistines (1 Samuel 13 and 14) and the characters of Saul and Jonathan to demonstrate the difference between living a life of purpose and adventure, and living one of apathy and missed opportunity. Through this story McManus artfully illustrates the eight characteristics of an adventurer's heart, what he calls "the Jonathan factor."

Using powerful examples from his own life and ministry, along with fresh biblical teaching, McManus asserts that God crafts divine moments specific to each of us — priceless opportunities for us to actively engage in God's plan. By developing the characteristics McManus outlines, Christians can move from mundane to miraculous living.

Check us out on the web at [www.fbcnorwich.org](http://www.fbcnorwich.org). You will find our monthly newsletter in color and lots more.



## In Our Prayers...

We lift up the Christensen family as they mourn the passing of Myra this week. She passed away after a long courageous battle with cancer... We also think of the Bromley family after the passing of Katherine Bromley last month... Conner Fishkin broke his arm and was learning to deal with a cast on his arm. Think of him as he heals up... We think of Zack Buddington. He is scheduled for surgery. Keep his parents, Kevin and Jenni in your prayers too as they watch and wait... We lift up Melinda Maynard as she has surgery... Bob Duntz was back in the hospital for a short stay. think of him as he gets on his feet again... We lift up Nancy Schuster as she continues to battle foot problems... We continue to pray for Donna Weimer as she heals up after her shoulder surgery... 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.



**FBC Quarterly Meeting Scheduled for July 22 following morning worship.**

## Amy Hollis Accepts Call To West Hartford

It is official! Amy Hollis has been called as the Associate Pastor of the First Baptist Church of West Hartford. She will begin her duties there on July 15. We wish her all our best. Now we look forward to her ordination next summer.



## Norwich Says Good-bye to Rev. Sheldon Keller



On Sunday, June 24 we moved our morning worship service to 9:30 a.m. so that we could finish in time to attend the fare-well party at Central Baptist for Rev. Sheldon Keller.

After five years in Norwich, Pastor Keller accepted a call to serve in Westwood, Massachusetts.

At the reception Pastor Lord presented the Kellers with a fancy mirror featuring a color pen and ink drawing of City Hall on behalf of our congregation.

People, Places and Possibilities

# Celebrating Our Children

## Children's Day Was All About Jesus on June 10th



*Mrs. Main's Nursery class celebrates God's love during our Children's Day program.*



*Austin Briggs lead the procession.*



*Katie Hollis receives a Bible for her eighth grade graduation.*



*Priscilla and Chelsea hold the flags.*



*Ms Calkins Class talk about planting the right kind of seeds to enjoy the Christian life.*



*Rachel Lord sings.*



*Ms Rogers class shares their message about God's love and greatness.*



*Sarah Hollis shares the truth.*

# Celebrating Our Families

---

## Fun in the Sun at the Church Picnic at Fort Shantock



*The three legged race is set to begin. Brian Goldin was in charge of games.*



*The Stone sisters were ready.*



*The food is served!*



*Rachelle and Chelsea Weimer go for a walk.*



*Courtney and Summer pose.*



*Melinda Maynard & the Tomlin's find some shade.*



*Nicole West has a turn trying to break open the pinata.*

# Working Together

## Fund raising and mission come together at Tag Sale



*Rosie and Carolyn greet the crowd.*



*Harry, George, Oliver & Bob served on front line and welcomed everyone as they arrived.*



*Geri finds a friend.*



*Joshua was ready to help.*



*The Calkins made it a family day.*



*Cynthia, Geri and Nancy at the check-out line on a busy June 2nd.*



*Brian is ready to help.*

# The Sports Page

## Softball Team Suffers Through Long Difficult Season



*Brian Goldin has had to play all over the field this year to fill in for others.*

Co-managers Brian Goldin and Ken Kreger only shake their heads when asked what is wrong with this year's softball team. With a dismal 3- 10 record the team is showing no signs of breaking out of a season long slump. Last week they lost two games by thirty runs.

A combination of injuries, vacations and tough luck have plagued the team all season long. For example Doug Bartkowski started off strong but then was sidelined with back and knee problems. On another occasion our only real pitcher, Fred Green, went away on vacation and our pitching suffered a 17 run first inning and put the game out of reach before we got to bat.

On the other hand the hitting has been good. Armin Harris continues to tear up the league with extra base hits. Casey Rezendes has been a breath of fresh air and Fred Green, at 48 years old, remains the biggest threat in our line-up.

As we head down the stretch the team is hoping to get Dan Dutrumble, Ray Henry, Doug Bartkowski and



*Without Fred Green on the mound the team has struggled through 3 blowouts.*

Steve Moon back in the line-up. Then maybe a few wins will follow.

## Fishtones lead the Holy Rollers after the first Four Weeks

They are the defending champs so it should come as no surprise that the Fishtones have pulled out to an early lead in the Holy Rollers. Led by Fred Stone and Sharon



Fishken, the team has also gotten some very good games out of Sandy Stone and Joel Fishkin.

Two of the season's biggest surprises come from two of the top bowlers this season. Gary Arzamarski and Cal Lord's averages are both way up from last year. Gary is second in the league with a 187 average and Cal is fourth with a 165 average.

We have several newcomers this year including Don and Sharon Rapuano, Dave Squires, Maureen

Couture and Zelda's fiance Bruce.

We also have a few veteran's returning after a few years off. They include Adele DiBiagio Cofer, Scot Rapoza and

Zelda Earle.

In second place are the runner ups from last season. The Green Team featuring Gary Arzamarski, Al and April Phillips and Tony Antonino. The Littles are in third place and they are led by Ken and Laura Kreger and the Rapuanos.

Stay tuned for the announcement of the newest member of the Sports Ministry Hall of Fame. We will honor that person on Sports Recognition Sunday.

YOU'RE  
INVITED



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

BOWLING

# Training for the Long Haul

Marriage is a lot like running a marathon-  
but the rewards are even better.

Any athlete will tell you that the glamour event of Olympics track and field is the 100-meter sprint. Just watch these runners at the starting line-they strut like peacocks, showing off their muscles; mugging for the cameras; getting ready to explode from the blocks for 10 seconds or so of amazing effort. Nearly everyone can name a great sprinter-Jesse Owens, Carl Lewis, Linford Christie.

Now, how many truly great marathon runners can you name? Not many, I'll bet. The 100-meter sprinters get the glory, but they're useless at any distance over 400 meters. They certainly couldn't run a marathon, despite being very fit. Professional athletes will tell you that the people they really admire aren't the sprinters. They admire the marathon runners.

One of the main reasons sprinters won't run a marathon is that they just can't wrap their minds around running 26 miles in one go.

When I began running, I started doing just a few miles. Running a marathon seemed inconceivable. But I thought I might be able to work up to a 10k race. The day I finished my first 10k I thought, "*I cant believe I did it! How on earth does anyone run more than four times this?*" I had a 10k mentality, so that's all my mind would accept.

Later on I raised my target to a half-marathon, and all too soon the big day arrived. I ran the race and as I crossed the line, guess what I was thinking? "*Thank goodness I reached*

*the finish line. How on earth does anyone turn right around and run this all over again? Impossible!*" This time I had a half-marathon mentality.

When I eventually ran my first marathon, I stood at the starting line thinking, 26.2 miles. Not 10k. Not 13.1 miles. I'd made up my mind that I was going to run 26.2 miles and not a single yard less! It was difficult; my whole body wanted to stop-many times. But I'd made up my mind, so there was no option but to keep going until I succeeded.

## Developing a marathon mentality

Why do so many marriages fail? Quite simply, couples start their married life with a sprinter's mentality. When the reality of the commitment hits them, they bail. They aren't thinking marathon -they're thinking sprint. They're thinking, *Glamour and glory*, when they need to think, *Guts and graft*.

The marathon runner doesn't stop running when he gets a stitch in his side-even though he may really want to. He doesn't give up because of a few blisters. They run on through the pain. And when the runner is on the final stretch, the sense of accomplishment is almost overwhelming. Yet many give up long before the glory.

In my last marathon I was really suffering around the 20 mile mark when two guys stepped to the side of the road and held up a banner. It read, "Pain lasts but for

a moment; glory for a lifetime!" Reading that infused me with fresh energy, and I finished the marathon in my best-ever time. And the glory of the final stretch was as sweet as ever!

## Secrets for a marathon marriage

Many couples mistakenly believe that if you love someone, marriage will be easy. Every couple who's achieved a healthy longevity in their marriage has recognized that there are times of pain when they want to give up, when they even think they don't love each other anymore. But they don't quit. Why? Because they've

developed the "marathon mentality"-in which pain doesn't divert a marathon runner from the goal.

Don't be a sprinter-develop a marathon mentality and get set for a great race. Here are some secrets that marathon-marriage couples have discovered.

## Pain isn't always a bad thing

While nobody likes pain, it's there for a purpose. A marathon is one of the supreme tests of endurance that average people can undertake. We can learn to acknowledge the pain and still run.

One of the greatest acts of heroism I've witnessed was during an Olympic marathon when the Tanzanian representative fell, badly injuring himself. He got up and struggled on in obvious pain while all the other runners passed him. Although it must have been demoralizing, he refused to give



up. He struggled on and entered the stadium with only a few people left in the stands to cheer him home. He finished the race with blood pouring from his leg wound just as they were taking down the finishing line. A television reporter asked why he hadn't given up after falling so badly. He replied, "My country did not send me here to start a race. They sent me to finish a race!" Too many of us start the race but are not so committed to finishing.

If a couple acknowledges that there will be times of pain, then they'll be better able to cope when it happens.

When we feel pain in our relationship, we can stop and analyze why we're feeling that pain. Early in my marriage, one of the things I'd do when I feel pain was to throw money at it. My wife and I would take a vacation, go for a nice meal, buy some clothes. I tried to buy off our pain, hoping it would disappear. The problem was that it didn't make the issue disappear long term. It only put a bandage over a wound. When there's pain in marriage, that's a great opportunity to talk with your mate to get to the source of an issue.

### **Displaced pain can lead to trouble**

Tell your spouse when you feel under pressure. Your spouse isn't a mind reader. So often we can be under pressure at work, only to come home and take it out on our partner. This is called displacing the pain.

One of the things I had to learn when I came home after a difficult day was to say to my wife, "I had a bad day and I'm feeling stressed and tired." At first it felt like a confession of weakness. But when I confessed this to my wife, she was able to understand and take a bit more of the

household pressure for a short time.

On other occasions, after a difficult day of dealing with young children, my wife would sometimes take out her frustrations on me. If I failed to recognize this was happening, the result would be a full-blown argument over displaced pain.

It's important to ask your spouse for help. If you don't, the pain will inevitably come out in your marriage.

**He replied, "My country did not send me here to start a race. They sent me to finish a race!" Too many of us start the race but are not so committed to finishing.**

You're married-it's okay to share the difficult things with your spouse. Why not just admit that you're finding something difficult and ask for support? It might be the very thing that draws you together.

### **Pain isn't a signal that your marriage is over**

When I'm running a marathon, I keep reminding myself that pain is a totally natural and expected part of the race. I don't give up at the first twinge, or ever at severe pain. I battle through it. I know I have to put up with some pain if I want to finish the race.

As Christians we forget that Jesus told us that in this life we will have trouble (John 16:33). When some couples hit bumps or pain, they split up, citing "Irreconcilable differences" as the cause. What they're really saying is that they encountered a bit of pain and just gave up!

If you never learn how to put up with pain, every relationship you enter into will head down the same path. Pain isn't the end-it's a sign

that something needs to be done. In fact, the presence of pain can be a turning point to better things, if you let it.

### **Pain can't be the focus of your race**

Whatever you focus on will define who you are. If all you can see are the bad things in your marriage, it won't be long until your marriage accurately reflects your focus.

In a marathon, if I keep thinking about how painful it is, there's a big temptation to give up. So I try to focus on more pleasant things-the scenery, the joy of running, the anticipation of finishing, other runners (especially those dressed in silly outfits), anything to

divert my attention from the pain. It's amazing how often the pain is actually more mental than physical.

It is true in marriage too. Instead of focusing on the annoying habit, such as a spouse's snoring or struggle keeping the checkbook balanced, focus on your partner's great sense of humor or his willingness always to switch off the lights, or any of a hundred other endearing qualities. It's amazing how trivial the irritations become when we remove them from the center of our thoughts.

Make sure that the thing you think is causing you pain is actually as bad as you're making out. Have you just become so used to whining about something that it's come to dominate your thinking unnecessarily? Don't let a small pain obliterate your view of a great marriage.

by Billy Milton

# Derrick Williams' Life is Grounded in Music and Faith

Music and faith has been a part of Derrick Williams' life for as far back as he can remember. Whether he was performing with the city's drum and bugle corps as a kid or being within reach of a musical recording contract as an adult, Williams has had the belief that everything happens for a reason. Had he and his band, "Final Mixx," finalized a singing contract in the early '90s, he might not have been living and working in Delaware, where he met his wife, Vivian, with whom he later had three daughters. Had they not met, Williams might not have returned to his hometown where he renewed his friendship with Nichelle Rollins, whom he originally met 20 years ago.

The pair worship together at Miracle Temple Church, where they sing in the musical group "Miracle Temple Voices." Williams also looks to Rollins to work with him numerous times a year when he is hired as a vocalist to perform at area wedding ceremonies.

And if Williams wasn't spending time at Miracle Temple, he might not have been inspired to write, direct and create original music, with the help of producer Troy Oliver, for an original play called "He Is Risen." Based on the gospel of Jesus Christ's Easter resurrection, Williams and a cast of 20 performed the two-act production last spring at New Life Christian Fellowship in Ledyard.



Williams and his friend, Sinarda "Bubba Lee" Tyler, took on the roles of Cornelius and Junius, respectively, two men asked to stand guard outside of Jesus' tomb. The pair added levity to a play that was dominated by themes of mistrust, grief and fear.

"I just thought 'What would I do if I were a guard at the tomb?' I would have been scared to death. But I wanted to get a little away from the standard Easter play, we wanted some humor," explains Williams of the guards. "They represented people who knew but chose not to believe."

Williams wrote "He Is Risen" in December 2005 and presented the first act the following Easter to his home church.

"I'm looking to take this on the road," he says. "To get more churches involved and have auditions for additional parts. I might even add a chorus song for the men."

### Starting out

Williams' musical career began with local drum and bugle corps. He learned to read music and play a baritone horn as a young member of the Whalers, the training corps for the former world championship corps, the Surfers, both based in New London.



The dream of any dedicated member, he says, is playing in the Drum Corps International World Championships, which Williams calls the Super Bowl of musical performance competitions. In 1985 he was a member of the Garfield (New Jersey) Cadets when they won the championship.

Williams graduated with degrees in marketing and music from Delaware State University where most of his time revolved around performing in step shows with his fraternal organization, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., or playing gigs with his band, Final Mixx, which included some members of the marching band.

He held a lead position with the university's marching band and was step champion of his fraternity for two years running. After graduating in 1986, he returned to New London for two years where he worked as a long-term substitute. He often left mid-week to do shows with his band back in Delaware.

"I'd leave after school on Tuesdays and get there about 8 or 9 o'clock. We'd do the gig and it'd be over around 1. Then I drove back home and would be at school by 8 a.m.," he recalls. "I'd be exhausted. We'd watch a lot of videos about sharks in (science) class the next day."

He returned to Delaware in 1988, where he worked as a long-term substitute and in banking, Williams says the band booked tons of gigs then.

“But we weren’t into the typical party scene. God’s influence was over us,” he says. “Our role, as far as being musicians, was sharing our gift and have people enjoy themselves. We prayed every night before we played.”

During that time, Final Mixx topped 15,000 other bands to win the 1989 Budweiser Showdown in Indiana. The prize? A Motown recording contract. With other male group and single acts on the scene, however, Final Mixx never got its chance to record its own album.

Years of performing with the band led Williams back to Southeastern Connecticut, where he began working at Mohegan Sun soon after it opened in 1996. He is now in VIP reception, where he works with casino’s top clients, including music artists.

His group, D’ Williams & the Gospel Family has sung background vocals for the Doobie Brothers and Josh Groban. He’s won numerous employee talent competitions and two years ago beat out 1,500 people to sing the National Anthem at a Boston Red Sox game.

So between the weddings and concerts, years with his band and church choirs, doesn’t he ever get tired of singing? “No,” says Williams, who has added writing and producing to his repertoire. “It’s more fun now. I have a gift and I enjoy sharing it.”

By Katrina T. Gathers  
Marketplace Staff Writer

Copyright Marketplace, The Day  
Sunday, May 20, 2007.  
Reprinted with permission.

# A Powerful Witness

## What Can I Do To Make A Difference?

It may not seem like a big deal, but when you volunteer at the interfaith luncheon, you help feed sixty or more hungry men, women and children right here in our own city.

Remember the scripture where the people asked where they had seen Jesus? He told them when they had done something for a person in need, they had done it for him?

Ask Oliver and Shirley (pictured to the right) and they will tell you that is why they volunteer. They want to serve Jesus.

You don’t have to go to Mexico to get involved with mission. You can do it right here. Sign up to help out this month on July 15 and feel the blessing.



## Carmen’s Story

By Lisa A. Maloney, Executive Director

Have you ever faced a difficult situation where you can only see one way out, and that path looks painful and hard? Have you ever felt alone and hopeless in your trials, and that those around you have perfect lives while yours is falling apart? I’ve certainly had these thoughts before, and that is how many women feel when they first visit the Center.

Just recently Carmen\* came into the Center with her two young children for a pregnancy test. Carmen said right away, “If the test is positive, I have to get an abortion.” The test was positive, and Carmen softly began to cry.

A few days later, she returned for an ultrasound and Dr. Shaw introduced Carmen to her child and pointed out all the parts, including a strong heartbeat. Carmen was touched by what she saw, and decided to return with her boyfriend to continue talking about her options,

even though she was still steadfast in her decision to abort.

Soon Dr. Shaw met with the couple, answered their questions and talked about the life growing inside Carmen. Her boyfriend admitted that he wanted to keep the baby, but Carmen could still see only one way out of her situation. With two small children, Carmen already felt stretched and overwhelmed. I took this opportunity to let them know that disagreement on this issue might drive a wedge in their relationship.

On her exit form, Carmen indicated that she would like to speak with someone who already had an abortion. So I arranged a meeting with Jill\*, one of our volunteers, who shared her story with Carmen. After hearing about Jill’s experience, Carmen became very emotional. The two ended their meeting



in prayer, but Carmen remained unsure.

The end of this story is still being written. We are in regular contact with Carmen and are praying for her every day. Carmen could still decide to abort, but every day brings her closer to choosing life. Each time we talk, we remind Carmen of how much God loves her and that He will help her cope with the stresses of another child. As we watch her interact with her two children, it’s obvious that Carmen is a caring mother who loves her children. I know how difficult her decision is, and I know the fear that she is feeling. When people feel trapped, they will do anything to get out. Part of our job at Care Net is to help women like Carmen find the right path by pointing them to our Lord.

*\*Name has been changed.*

Care Net is one of the local ministries that we support with our mission giving.

## Psalm 23 - - EXPLAINED

The Lord is my Shepherd  
That's Relationship!

I shall not want  
That's Supply!

He maketh me to lie down  
in green pastures.  
That's Rest!



He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
That's Refreshment!

He restoreth my soul  
That's Healing!

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness.  
That's Guidance!

For His name sake  
That's Purpose!

Yea, though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death.  
That's Testing!

I will fear no evil.  
That's Protection!

For Thou art with me  
That's Faithfulness!

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me,  
That's Discipline!

Thou preparast a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
That's Hope!

Thou anointest my head with oil,  
That's Consecration!

My cup runneth over.  
That's Abundance!

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
That's Blessing!

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord.  
That's Security!

*submitted by June Pendleton*

## FAMILY

I ran into a stranger as he passed by,  
"Oh excuse me please" was my reply.  
He said, "Please excuse me too; I wasn't  
watching for you."

We were very polite, this stranger and  
I. We went on our way and we said  
goodbye. But at home a different story is  
told, How we treat our loved ones, young  
and old.

Later that day, cooking the evening  
meal, My son stood beside me very still.  
When I turned, I nearly knocked him down.  
"Move out of the way," I said with a  
frown. He walked away, his little heart  
broken. I didn't realize how harshly I'd  
spoken.

While I lay awake in bed, God's still  
small voice came to me and said, "While  
dealing with a stranger, common courtesy  
you use, but the family you love, you seem  
to abuse. Go and look on the kitchen floor,  
You'll find some flowers there by the door.  
Those are the flowers he brought for you.  
He picked them himself: pink, yellow and  
blue.

He stood very quietly not to spoil the  
surprise, you never saw the tears that  
filled his little eyes." By this time, I felt  
very small, And now my tears began to  
fall.

I quietly went and  
knelt by his bed; "Wake  
up, little one, wake up," I  
said. "Are these the  
flowers you picked for  
me?" He smiled, "I found 'em, out by the  
tree. I picked 'em because they're pretty  
like you. I knew you'd like 'em, especially  
the blue."

I said, "Son, I'm very sorry for the way  
I acted today; I shouldn't have yelled at  
you that way." He said, "Oh, Mom, that's  
okay. I love you anyway." I said, "Son, I  
love you too, and I do like the flowers,  
especially the blue."

## FAMILY

Are you aware that if we died  
tomorrow, the company that we are  
working for could easily replace us in a  
matter of days. But the family we left  
behind will feel the loss for the rest of their  
lives. And come to think of it, we pour  
ourselves more into work than into our  
own family, an unwise investment  
indeed, don't you think?

- Submitted by Jesse Abel

**Wit,  
Wisdom &  
Wackiness**

## Pastor Jorge Morales Preaches on July 1st as Two Sister Congregations Worship Together at FBC



*Pastor Morales shares the Word!*

While Pastor Cal Lord was away attending the Biennial meeting of the American Baptist Churches, USA in Washington D.C. we used his absence as an excuse to get to know Pastor Jorge Morales and the members of the Buenas Nuevas congregation a little bit better. For Pastor Jorge preached the morning message in Spanish while his wife, Wanda, translated it for our people.

Sarah Lord and George Rezendes served as worship leaders from our congregation and our Praise team made the members of our sister church feel right at home by leading us in singing two songs in Spanish.

We also sang two very familiar hymns during the worship service and

gave the combined congregation the option of singing, "How Great Thou Art" and "Amazing Grace" in either English or Spanish.

Buenas Nuevas was established in April of 2006 and recently celebrated their first anniversary as an American Baptist mission congregation as the daughter church of the First Hispanic Baptist Church of New London. Pastor Daniel Martino of New London led the congregation in its first days. Pastor Jorge Morales was called as their first permanent Pastor and began serving the congregation in October of 2006.

Hopefully the joint worship service will be the first of many things we do together as we serve God in Norwich.

**The First Baptist Church**  
**239 West Main Street**  
**Norwich, CT 06360**  
**Vol. 23, No. 1**

**Dated Material**

**Postage Paid**  
**Non-Profit Org.**  
**Norwich, CT**  
**Permit #26**

"The Ambassador" is the official newsletter of First Baptist Church, Norwich, Connecticut. It is published & sent monthly to members, friends, and community leaders.

This is the July 2007 Issue  
Volume 23 Number 1, 2007  
First Baptist Church of Norwich  
239 West Main Street, Norwich, CT 06360  
Phone: 860-889-0369  
web address: [www.fbcnorwich.org](http://www.fbcnorwich.org)  
e-mail: [fbcnorwich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fbcnorwich@sbcglobal.net)

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.