

The Ambassador

Queen For A Day:

Mothers & Daughters are treated to a Royal Banquet at Annual Banquet

June 2007



Ray Deptulski was one of eight men who served the ladies at the 2007 banquet.

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*

Sixty four ladies came out to enjoy a feast fit for a queen as the men served up a turkey dinner and a group of young ladies provided first class entertainment. Hosted by Melinda Maynard and Lora Mineau, the group enjoyed a complete turkey dinner and apple crisp for dessert.

After the meal the dancers from Luis Pabon Dance Arts Center took over and shared some of their award

winning solos and small group numbers to the delight of all in attendance.

Lori Lord and her daughters, Sarah and Rachel, began the evening by providing a musical grace. Melinda and Lora took over and presented the annual awards.

Special thanks to George Rezendes, Oliver Bray and Don Walberg who did all the cooking.

The Church At Worship



Worship
10:30 -
11:45 am
Join Us As We
Worship
In June

June 3, 2007

Communion Sunday
 Dedication of Hannah Henry
 Scripture: Romans 5:1-5
 Sermon: "Finding the Formula for a Fortified Faith"

June 10, 2007

Children's Day

June 17, 2007

Recognition of our Graduates
 Scripture: Galatians 1:11-24
 Sermon: "Where's Your Diploma From?"

Morning Worship Service starts at 9:30 a.m. beginning June 24.

June 24., 2007

Scripture: Luke 8:26-39
 Sermon: "Wrestling with the Devil"

Coming this summer "The Ten Commandments" Sermon titles to include: "What is the Object of Your Affection", "Unearthing Buried Treasure" and many more.

New Nursery List Is Available

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



- June 3 - Kelly Bolin & Cassie Kane
- June 10 - Children's Day
- June 17 - Rachele Weimer & Cheryl Dutrumble
- June 24 - 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.

Children's Day and All Church Picnic

Our Sunday School will celebrate Children's Day during worship on Sunday, June 10, 2007. Please come and celebrate the end of another wonderful year with all our Sunday School Children. The theme this year is "Jesus is our Friend!" and all of the children will share readings, songs and skits that speak to that truth.

Attendance awards will be distributed and Bibles awarded for those moving from second to third grade and eighth grade to high school.

The Annual All Church Picnic will be held at Fort Shantock following the morning service. Plan to bring along a picnic food to share with the group. Hot dogs and cold drink will be provided by the Sunday School. It's going to be a fun day for the whole entire family, so be sure to come along!



We Will Recognize our Graduates on June 17, 2007



We will recognize our High School and college graduates on Sunday, June 17 during morning worship. We have Emily McFalls, Ben Fuller and Ashley West graduating from High School and Rebecca Lord, Emily Dutra and Stacy Wolinski graduating from college. If there are any others, please call the church

Central Baptist Church Invites You

The Central Baptist Church congregation invites you to the dedication and inaugural recital of their new Trillium Masterpiece 4 Manual Rodgers Organ. With guest artist: Dr. Gordon Turk. It will be held on Sunday, June 10 at 4:00 p.m. and a reception will follow.



Farewell Reception for Pastor Sheldon Keller

Central Baptist Church has extended an invitation to the entire FBC congregation to attend a reception for Pastor Keller. It will be held on Sunday, June 24, at Central Baptist Church after morning worship, approximately 10:30-12:00 p.m.

Saturdays in the Park

Join several of our churches in the city as we present open air worship services at Howard T. Brown Park on several Saturday evenings at 7:00 p.m. this summer. The series begins on June 23 and runs through July 21. We will be hosting the service on July 7.

Looking Back At May

The Mother Daughter Banquet



People, Places and Possibilities



The Eastern University Choir from St. David's, Pennsylvania performed for us on Monday, May 14.

We lift up the Carignan family after fire destroyed their home. We continue to remember Donna Weimer as she heals from surgery last month... We lift up Oliver Bray as he considers surgery this summer... We pray for continued good results for Dave Murray as he continues his treatments... and is doing well. Lift him up in your prayers...



We rejoice with Courtney Brown and Adam Barber as their wedding day draws near. They will be married in the church on July 14th... Guy and Karen Brown are grandparents again as their daughter, Tonya, gave birth to a healthy little girl, Roslyn, last month...

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

We think of the family of Keith Heidtman in our prayers. Keith was a member of our FBC Hoops team back in our inaugural season of 1996-97. He was the MVP of our Championship team.

Norwich in Bloom

Sue Vanase and a small group of volunteers have been busy planting and watering our yard 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. The church looks great thanks to Carol Calkins, Bruce Thornton, Patricia Ohlund, Phil & Maureen Postler and Cliff and Sue Vanase.



After thirteen years, the Lord family has moved. Their new address is 11 Lincoln Avenue, Norwich, CT 06360

Six Flags Trip

Cost: \$25.00
Advance registration only. Call by June 22.



Scheduled for Monday, June 25

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



First Baptist Struggles To Find Consistant Form Early On

The season is well under way and the First Baptist Softball team's record is 1-5. There are signs that things are coming around though. Jason Mandeville (to the right) has been flashing the leather at first base and Ken Kreger and George Rezendes have broken out of their hitting slumps. The addition of Casey Rezendes, Chris Vaillancourt and Cal Lord have also helped. Up coming games include one on June 6 against Sts Peter and Paul and games on the 13th & 14th against Norwich Worship Center and St Patricks.



Our Ministry To The Family

100+ Activities for Fathers to Do With Their Children



Children need quality time with their fathers, as well as their mothers. Three fathers of daughters got together with their pastor and compiled a list of sixty things dads can do with their daughters. So we asked fathers at another church what they could do with their sons. Numerous items, such as ride a bike and fly a kite, appear on both lists - so we combined the two.

As Chan Hood says, “Each child is different and therefore it is important to work at understanding what each one responds to, what their interest are, likes, dislikes, what motivates them and what discourages them.” We recommend that fathers and children read the list together, and pick out some activities they haven’t done before. The key is to be together and do things together.

- Bake and decorate a birthday cake for someone.
- Cook a four course meal and then eat it.
- Bake cookies, muffins, or a pie.
- Cook a meal and invite people over to eat it with you.
- Make waffles or pancakes.
- Get up early and watch the sun rise.
- Plant a tree.
- Work in the garden together.
- Sit on the porch (or by the window) and watch a storm.
- Go outside after dark to look at the moon and stars (with telescope, if possible).
- Make a card or gift for someone in a nursing home.
- Visit someone in the hospital.
- Volunteer at a soup kitchen.
- Fix a meal for a shut-in and deliver it.
- Write to someone from your community who is serving in the military.
- Listen to music (yours, theirs, and music you both like).
- Take instrument lessons.
- Compose a song.
- Sing.
- Attend a concert in the park or at the high school.
- Help them with their homework.
- Read to your child.
- Listen to your child read.
- Practice vocabulary words (make a game of it).
- Read a novel together and discuss it.
- Read poetry to each other.
- Count coins and practice making change (make a game of it).
- Make a collage from magazine clippings or pictures.
- Make your own greeting cards and send them to someone.
- Take pictures.
- Write a poem or riddle.
- Play with trains.
- Play with toy cars.
- Play with dolls.
- Play with remote control cars or airplanes.
- Have a tea party, real or imaginary.
- Ride go-carts.
- Ride a motorcycle.
- Fix a motorcycle or bicycle.
- Ride a snowmobile.
- Go canoeing (follow muskrats, find mollusk shells and make portages).
 - Shovel snow.
 - Clean their room.
 - Chop wood.
 - Cut the lawn.
 - Do the dishes.
 - Make a snowman.
 - Make a snow fort.
 - Throw snowballs.
 - Go sledding or cross-country skiing.
 - Go inner-tubing.
 - Exercise together.
 - Go biking.
 - Hike through a local park.
 - Fly a kite.
 - Go bowling.
 - Interview the grandparents.
 - Interview your pastor about his or her call to ministry.
 - Interview a 50-year member of your church.
 - Interview a person of a different ethnicity.
 - Interview your next-door neighbors.
- Share in a craft your child enjoys.
- Learn how to make pottery.
- Plan and shoot a movie with a video camera.
- Build a toolbox, birdhouse or bench.
- Collect craft supplies and see what you can make out of them.
- Pray and read the Bible.
- Write a Bible study on women in the Bible (or other topic).
- Work through a Bible study book.
- Paraphrase a Bible story in modern English.
- Make a poster with a favorite Bible verse.
- Compose a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.
- Go to a local council meeting and bring an issue before them.
- Pick up trash on the streets in your community.
- Put together and send a care package to a college student.
- Write an article for your church newsletter.
- Learn a new sport together.
- Coach their youth sports team.
- Throw a baseball.
- Throw a football.
- Attend a Little League baseball game.



Our Ministry To The Family

- Go fishing or swimming.
- Fly a kite.
- Play golf.
- Play miniature golf.
- Wrestle.
- Visit a museum.
- Attend an event (play, ball game, concert) of someone in the church's youth group.
- Go to a high school musical or play.
- Go to a movie and discuss it.
- Take each of your children out to dinner separately.

- Run errands.
- Go to the mall and people watch.
- Do a scavenger hunt in the mall.
- Go to a toy store together.
- Get a pedicure together.
- Assemble a puzzle.
- Build with Legos.
- Play a board game.
- Play "house" or "school".
- Make a scrapbook or photo album.
- Include their friends in family activities.
- If possible, take your child to work sometimes.



- Enter a competition together.
- Do whatever your child would like to do with you!

Engaged In Mission



Cindy Carchidi and Sue Ferguson cook the lunch at a recent community meal.

On the third Sunday of every month we provide a meal for the hungry here in Norwich. People come from all over to share a hot meal and enjoy some company in a friendly atmosphere. We began serving the meal in February of 2006. Since that time several people have volunteered to take a turn purchasing groceries, cooking, setting up tables and serving.

Cynthia Strouse coordinates the program and she is always looking for volunteers who want to do something that makes a difference in the lives of people around them. This certainly fills the bill. If you are interested in helping out, sign up for a month at church or talk to Cynthia (886-0025) to hear more about this special ministry.

The next Community meal will be served on Father's Day, June 17.

Volunteers Bring Hope in a Time of Need

This prayer of thanksgiving was written in February by Pearlington, Miss. resident Ken Short on the side of his new home in an area hard-hit by Hurricane Katrina.



Volunteers who worked on the house alongside Ken and his wife

Volunteers who worked on the house alongside Ken and his wife Cathi inscribed their names and good wishes on the boards.

Cathi inscribed their names and good wishes on the boards. National Ministries coordinated volunteers who worked on this and other homes in Pearlington, and contributed funds that were donated on behalf of hurricane recovery efforts. Nearly 1,000 American Baptist volunteers have participated in ongoing relief and rebuilding projects in communities like Pearlington—all along the hurricane-devastated Gulf Coast.

Interfaith partnerships with Habitat for Humanity's Operation Home Delivery

project, have benefited scores of people left homeless after this destructive hurricane. A number of families have now moved into their new homes, and building projects have continued through the spring. Both skilled laborers and those with no construction experience came to help, including men and

women from groups from Quaker Hill and Wallingford, Connecticut. They worked at building projects for over 100 mission settings where volunteers were needed.

"The volunteers gave us hope and something to look forward to in our time of need," wrote another Pearlington resident, a single mother of two young children. "We lost everything, and lived in a tent for weeks," she wrote. "Not a day goes by that I don't think of everyone who has helped us, and we thank God for them."

A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing is worth nothing. *Martin Luther*

New Floor Installed in Fellowship Hall

When we invited La Buenas Nuevas to worship in our building we never imagined that it would reap benefits in so many ways. Last month a member of their congregation donated his time and

talents to install a new floor in our fellowship hall. It was done just in time for the Mother Daughter Banquet and it looked great. The saying is true: "Give and it will be given back to you!"

A Powerful Witness

TO IRAQ AND BACK



By Ken Walker

After being blinded by a suicide bomber in Iraq, Scott Smiley learned to rely on God as he fought to get his life back and stay in the military.

Scott Smiley felt no fear as he approached the vehicle. The U.S. Army first lieutenant and the 35 men in his Stryker platoon were conducting a sweep of an area in Mosul, Iraq, in April 2005. That morning, authorities had learned Iraqi ship owners had been told by locals to clear the area. During the sweep, Smiley noticed a car parked in an odd place and approached it.

“I yelled at the driver to get out of his car,” Smiley recalls. “He started pulling forward. I then shot a round in front of his vehicle. He lifted up his hands and looked at me. Then he started pulling forward again. Then it blew up.”

The explosive device sprayed shrapnel over the 30-yard distance to Smiley, hitting him in the eyes. The exploding car would be the last thing the lieutenant would ever see.

Blinded and temporarily paralyzed by the suicide bombing, Scott Smiley decided to keep fighting. He fought to regain his health, he fought to adjust to his new life and he fought to stay in the military. Today the 27-year-old is a captain, one of a small group of

seriously injured soldiers who have convinced the military to let them stay in uniform and continue serving.

A DIFFERENT BATTLE

Throughout his ordeal, Smiley credits God with giving him the courage and strength to fight. The battles Smiley fought during his six months in Iraq were nothing compared with those he faced while lying in Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Placed in a medically induced coma after the Apr. 6 incident, he wouldn't regain consciousness for several weeks.



When he woke up, Smiley learned he had been paralyzed on his right side. He was able to move his right arm, but he couldn't move his right toe for two weeks. It

would take weeks longer for him to regain complete movement, and then only with a walker and two aides to support him.

But that wasn't the bad news. Two weeks after his injury, surgeons toiled more than eight hours trying to

repair Smiley's eyes. The next day, Tiffany, his wife of 17 months, shared the doctors' verdict with her husband: He had been permanently blinded.

As anger flooded in, he admits he didn't react like a loving husband. “It was hard,” says Smiley, “I just wanted everyone to leave. I was confused.”

As a long-time believer who decided to follow Christ in preschool, Smiley had to face demons he never dreamed about. His military career had started off with promise. He graduated from West Point and Ranger training and became a respected leader in the field. Now his plans were crushed.

The anger Smiley felt that day would later dissolve into tears when he received the Purple Heart, the medal given to warriors wounded in action.

“That was a hard day,” Tiffany says of the ceremony. “It was kind of the first time that Scotty cried and let his emotions out. To see his real hurt coming through was hard, but in a way it was good. He needed to cry.”

Smiley's rehabilitation was difficult. He had to learn to walk again, live without his sight and face not being in combat anymore.

His first trip out of the hospital with his wife and brothers was traumatic. Sitting in a restaurant later that day, he became suddenly unaware of who was sitting next to him or anything about his surroundings. And he panicked.

“It's really a mind game to try to get yourself to believe and understand that you are injured, you're not in Iraq, that you're in America and safe.”

A Powerful Witness

Smiley had to learn to rely on God's strength and not his own. "I overcame a lot of my fears by praying and asking the Lord to help me," he says.

RETURN TO ACTION

Had the Army followed its initial plans, Smiley would be retired. Just two weeks after he was injured, his wife was advised to sign papers to start his retirement. Tiffany says she sensed the Holy Spirit telling her that He had other plans.

"I had this overwhelming belief that wasn't going to happen. I ended up telling Scotty's best friend, who's a hiring officer, about my situation, and he totally supported me."

From that point on, she says, they determined to stay in the Army. Robert Van Antwerp, a three-star general whose son, Jeff, was Smiley's company commander, took a particular interest in keeping Smiley in uniform.

Smiley has become a trailblazer of sorts, working with the military's new Wounded Warrior Program, which is designed to help people in his situation.

On Apr. 1, 2006, a year after his injury, Smiley's efforts paid off. He reported for duty at Fort Monroe, VA., and was promoted to captain.

Today he is a tactical adviser for basic training policies and procedures. Due to his experience, he relays information about what soldiers are doing in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq. He makes field visits to talk to soldiers about what to expect when they get to the Middle East.

"I'm able to talk to soldiers about areas of concern," he says, "to help them learn to survive to fight terrorism and to make the Army better."

Outside of work, Smiley tries to stay as active as possible. Since losing his sight, he has surfed in Hawaii, skied in Colorado and more.

He and Tiffany, who are expecting their first child in May, and enjoy riding



a tandem bike and jogging regularly. They use a band to connect their wrists when they run.

To anyone who would put him on a pedestal, Smiley is candid about the struggles he endured during his painful rehabilitation. It wasn't easy facing the fact he could no longer stroll around the block or stop at a buddy's house.

Sometimes he secluded himself in his room, trying to pull away from his circumstances. He and Tiffany would often argue about things. Scott's frustration and worries about the future often over-whelmed him.

"It was difficult at times," Smiley says. "But we never went to sleep without asking for forgiveness or praying together and asking Christ to forgive the fight we were just in."

Even though the recovery process was a strain, Tiffany was able to draw inspiration and encouragement from watching her husband's determination to make it through rehab.

"I saw how much he could still do and thought, *Wow, he's more amazing than I ever knew,*" she says. "I could never imagine walking down the street with my eyes closed."

The men in his outfit were just as amazed. They, and many others, have drawn encouragement from his decision to remain in the Army.

Capt. David Uthlaut, a friend from Smiley's graduating class at West Point, initially advised against staying in the military. He is very glad Smiley didn't take his advice. "He would have been very successful outside the Army, but him staying in is such an inspiration, not only to me but to many others he speaks with," Uthlaut says. "He's speaking at basic training installations all over the country, different churches and radio stations. Anybody who know Scotty knows what an upbeat and driven person he is. We all have the greatest respect for him as a leader and an officer."

It's not hard to imagine how easy it would be for Smiley to be bitter over the war and his fate, but he credits God with giving him peace. He says he finds the war in Iraq preferable to fighting terrorists on American soil.

His company commander in Iraq, Jeff Van Antwerp, says Smiley's positive attitude in the face of his injury has brightened other soldiers' outlook and willingness to serve. "I had hard times after he left [Iraq]," Van Antwerp says. "I learned about the importance of trusting in God. He can work through things and a lot of that [lesson] came through Scotty."


LIVING BY FAITH

Faith and prayer have taken on new dimensions in Smiley's life. "It goes back to the Lord giving me strength and power to overcome the fears a lot of [veterans] complain about," he explains.

He sees courage not in whether you feel fear in a situation but in doing the right thing because you know it is what God would want. Which is how Smiley keeps going even when he can't see the way.

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Kids pay tribute to moms on Mother's day



The children had the opportunity to tell their moms and grand moms how much they loved them on Mother's Day.

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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.