

# The Ambassador

News  
and Views  
From the Hill



March 2011

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



## More news inside:

- \* Meet our Interim Pastor...
- \* Dr. Judy Allbee preaches on Sunday, March 13th
- \* Last call: Pastor Cal's Last Sunday is March 6th
- \* News from our Church Boards
- \* Lenten Journeys Begin at First Congregational Church

Join us for  
worship every  
Sunday morning  
at 10:30 a.m.



Check out the First Baptist Church web page at [www.fbcnorwich.org](http://www.fbcnorwich.org)

We are looking for help with the Monthly Church Newsletter.  
See Sandy Stone.



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

**Join Us As We Worship This Winter**

**Upcoming Sundays in MARCH**

March 6, 2011

**Communion Sunday**

Pastor Lord's Last Sunday with us.

March 13, 2011

Guest Preacher: Dr. Judy Allbee

ABCCONN Executive Minister

March 20, 2011

Pastor Bill Huegel begins his service as the Interim Minister at First Baptist Church

March 27, 2011

Celebrate worship together

**Ministry Helpers in March**

As Ushers & Greeters

Mar. 6 - H. Calkins, L. McFalls, B. & P. Adams

Mar. 13 - G. Strouse, K. Barber, K. Beavan, M. Kane

Mar. 20 - F. Royce, C. Brockway, N. & G. Schuster

Mar. 27 - H. Calkins, L. McFalls, B. & P. Adams

As Worship Assistants

Mar. 13 - Lori Lord                      Mar. 20 - George Strouse

Mar. 27 - Bob Walker

As Counters

Mar. 6 - Nancy Allen & Amy Rezendes

Mar. 13 - Mary Brockway & Ray Deptulski

Mar. 20 - Dick Strouse & Mark Rogers

Mar. 27 - June Deptulski & George Strouse

As Nursery Attendants

Mar. 6 - Kristen Deptulski & Chelsey Calkins

Mar. 13 - Rachelle Weimer & Kelly Bolin

Mar. 20 - Sandra Lucien & Jesly Souvenance

Mar. 27 - Kristen Deptulski & Chelsey Calkins



**Rev. Dr. Judy Allbee Will Lead Worship**



The Rev. Dr. Judy Allbee, the Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut, will be with us to lead worship on Sunday, March 13th. Dr. Allbee has served as our Executive Minister since January 2005. Her responsibilities call for her to be a bridge between the 120+ American Baptist Churches in Connecticut. She is a resource in times of transition for churches as well as a point person for our mission endeavors. She is here to serve and support both pastors and congregations as they do the will of God in the local communities.

Dr. Allbee began her ministry here in Connecticut as pastor of the Main Street Baptist Church in Meriden. While serving the congregation she added the role of Area Resource Minister and served the churches of the South Central Association in Connecticut. In the early 1990's she left and accepted the full time position of Area Resource Minister for the American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky where she established herself as a denominational leader.

We are delighted to have her agree to be with us to speak about the call of God and times of transition for churches.



**Midweek Lenten Services begin March 9th**



This year we will do it again. We will suspend our normal Wednesday night services and join our sister churches on the Lenten Journey. The theme this year is "Six Living Words" The first week we will be at the First Congregational Church at 7:00 p.m. The service lasts about 40 -45 minutes with a time for fellowship and refreshments afterward. Here is the complete schedule.

**Six Living Words**

March 9 - First Congregational Church, Norwichtown

March 16 - Lee Memorial United Methodist Church

March 23 - Central Baptist Church

March 30 - United Congregational Church

April 6 - Park Congregational Church

April 13 - First Baptist Church

We will be looking for help with the reception following worship when we are here at our church. Can you bake cookies, cupcakes, desserts and pastries? Please let us know if you can help.

**Welcome to our Interim Pastor**



The Diaconate met with four excellent candidates in their search for our Interim Pastor. They were looking for someone who would be a source of inspiration in worship, with a heart for mission and a love of people. They found all of these qualities in Pastor Bill Huegel.

Rev. William A. Huegel was born in Erie, PA, where he became a follower of Christ at the age of 16. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Nyack Missionary College in 1964 and a Master of Divinity degree at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 1972. He was ordained to the ministry in 1974 by the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts and served as pastor in that state for 20 years before coming to Connecticut. Bill has served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Wallingford, CT since 1995. He retired in June, 2009.

Pastor Bill and his wife, Deborah, live in Wallingford, CT. His e-mail address is billhuegel66@gmail.com and he can be reached at 203-294-4609.

Pastor Bill began leading mission trips to Haiti and to the Dominican Republic in 1996 and has taken hundreds of people to the Island of Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic) where people are given the chance to see some of the world's worst poverty. These short term missionaries helped construct churches, schools and a major hospital. They also brought medicine to the sick, and spread the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Bill has also been privileged to lead on-going pastoral training events through the Bethesda Evangelical Mission in Haiti. He continues to do so in his retirement years.



Pastor Bill's first Sunday with us will be March 20th. We hope you will be here to welcome him as he begins his ministry with us here in Norwich.

**Five New Members Welcomed in February**

We welcomed our newest members on February 27, 2011. Erica Corbett, Joshua LaFlamme and Danyel Malboeuf were baptized and Kevin Mariano and Hillary McFalls came by a confession of faith. Mark Kane, the chair of our Diaconate welcomed them and gave them the right hand of Christian fellowship.



Erica Corbett



Joshua LaFlamme



Danyel Malboeuf

**Going Into the Hospital?**

Pastor Bill will be in town a few days a week but he is always available in an emergency. He also plans to visit the sick. So if you would like a visit, or if you are going into the hospital, please call the church so that the Deacons and Interim Minister can visit and pray with you. The number is 860-889-0369



**Join us each week at 10:30 a.m. It will jump start your week and give you a lift!**

**A Word from the Pastor**

First of all I want to thank you for that wonderful party last Saturday. The food, the decorations, the setting was wonderful. It was very nice to see so many friends drop in. Lori and I and our girls were blessed by your special efforts. It was truly a wonderful day.

Saying good-bye is hard ,especially if you haven't had to do it very often. I'm not good at it. I keep avoiding the reality that our relationship will change in the next few days. On Sunday I will no longer be able to do so.

Come Monday morning I will no longer be the Pastor of the First Baptist Church. Our nearly 26 years of walking together will come to a fork in the road. I will head south to Westerly. You will continue on in your ministry to the city here. You have blessed Lori and I and taught us how to love and how to serve. You have been more than a church. You have been family. In many ways that family connection will continue. The ministry connection will not.

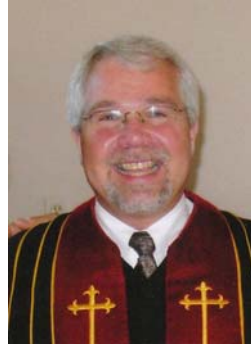
The Deacons have chosen an excellent man to be your Interim Pastor. Rev. Bill Huegel will love you and serve you well in the gap between my leaving and the call of your next pastor. He will be there to visit, to pray for you, to lead and challenge you, to serve and care for your needs. Call on him and be blessed by his experience and love of the Lord.

I have informed the Deacons that I will not be available to do pastoral services beyond those commitments I have already made. You will always be in my prayers but I do not want to be a stumbling block in God's plans for our church here in Norwich. He wants you to get to know and embrace the new pastor. Pastor Bill, and eventually a settled pastor whom you will embrace and love, will be here to lead and serve. That's God's way. We will always be friends and nothing will ever take away from the relationships that we built over the years. I look forward to returning for anniversary celebrations. I will rejoice as I hear news of what is happening. I will be the biggest cheerleader for the ministry that happens here going forward. That's my new role.

If we meet on the street or connect by e-mail or facebook, I will celebrate what is happening in your lives and encourage you with my prayers. I will not entertain a lot of talk about the ministry though. I will urge you to stay involved, support your pastor and love one another. I'll do this because I want the ministry and the new pastor to have the same success I enjoyed while we were together.

I have dropped over 400 friends from my facebook account and have also radically cut the number of people receiving my weekly epistles. The reason is twofold. First, I added most of the people to both of these accounts as part of my outreach ministry through First Baptist. It was a way to connect with people and promote what we were doing here. I chose most of the people on the lists because of their connection to the church or as a way to minister to them through the internet. Since I am no longer the Pastor, I decided to sever the tie and let you be free to choose. Which brings me to the second reason. My focus now will be on building up the ministry of the Central Baptist Church of Westerly. It doesn't mean I won't still love you. I have a new call now. A lot of my comments, a lot of my references, will be to the ministry I am doing down there. You may not be interested in that. I understand and honor that. That's why I am setting you free to choose. Some have asked to be on the new list. If you change your mind, just let me know. I won't be hurt or offended. If you unfriend me, that's ok. We will always be friends in the real world.

We will be living in Norwich for a while and Lori will continue to work at Greenville Drug Store. Rachel has another year and a half at Norwich Free Academy. You may run into me or one of the girls at Lori's store, at Shop-Rite or at Dodd Stadium. When that happens it won't be the Pastor you see, it will be plain old Cal. So tell me about the family and rant about the Yankees or Red Sox. Complain about the weather if you want. For this will be the new reality. It will be ok because God has already begun to work his new thing at First Baptist Church. God bless! Cal



Members of our FBC Diaconate met with ABCCONN Executive Minister, Dr. Judy Allbee, on February 3rd to talk about our transition. She gave us a list of candidates.

As a result, the Deacons met with four very qualified candidates and interviewed them about the Interim Ministry position. All four brought different gifts to the table. After prayer and a very thoughtful discussion, the board chose Pastor Bill Huegel. Some of you may remember him. On December 6th he filled the pulpit while Cal was in Germany with the USA Tap Dance Team.

The Interim Minister's job is to provide stability and guidance during the search process. He will help us get ready to accept a new pastor and the gifts that he/she will bring to the ministry.

Now that we have an Interim Minister in place, our next task will be to put together a Pastoral Search Committee. Curt Brockway, our moderator, will choose a committee of between 5-9 members that accurately reflect the many different facets of our congregational life and interests.



The Search committee will begin their work by surveying the congregation to discern what we are looking for in our next Pastor. They will ask us to share

what aspects of our ministry are important and which new ministries we might want to consider. They will ask questions about pastoral gifts and leadership styles. These surveys will help us find possible matches in a master data base of ABC Pastors.

By next Fall/Winter the committee may be in a position to begin calling potential candidates. We have been told to expect the process to take between a year and a year and a half. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to speak with Curt. Once a committee is formed, they will be giving you regular reports on their progress.

The most important thing members of the congregation can do during this interim period is pray. The second is to get involved. Look for a need and fill it. We are the church. It will only succeed as long as





Dr. Attiya Ahmad, Assistant Professor of Religion at Wesleyan University, will speak on the topic: Quiet Revolution--Muslim Women's Activism in North America. She will address the evolving roles of Islamic women within the North American context.

The lecture is free and open to the public at the Noank Baptist Church on Sunday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m.



**WE NEED YOU!**

Rehearsals every Tuesday night from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

**WE ARE PREPARING OUR MUSIC FOR LENT & EASTER!**



Talk to Sandy Stone to see How You Can Help. We are looking for photographers, reporters and people with new ideas.



**Women's Retreat at Camp Wightman**

Come away for a weekend of experiencing the Holy One. Through prayer, Bible Study, Music, Art and in laughter and fellowship around the table, we will open that sacred door and enter.

Make time in your busy life to come away and be with us. Women unite-it is time for your annual retreat to Camp Wightman, during the weekend of March 18 - 20, 2011.

Rev. Lisa Gustafson will lead retreaters through the doorway with a weekend of Spiritual Growth and Renewal. The weekend will begin with dinner Friday evening and close following lunch on Sunday.

The cost for the two nights and six meals is just \$140.00. Registration is limited!

**ABCCONN's Lay Ministry Institute**

The Lay Ministry Institute will be a wonderful journey that is aimed at assisting you to develop a deeper and more meaningful relationship with God.

Our journey begins with five classes that make up the core of Biblical Foundations. Each class lays the foundation for good Christian discipleship. The classes in Cycle 1 provide a solid foundation for future growth and Christian maturity.



Biblical Foundations

Friday, March 25, 5:00pm to  
Wednesday, March 30, 2011, 5:00 pm  
Holy Family Retreat Center  
303 Tunxis Rd.  
West Hartford, CT 06107-3119

Cost: \$350.00  
*Scholarship Help is available!*



**ABCCONN's Annual Spring Fling 2011**

**"Witnessing in the Way of Jesus"**

The Missional Church  
Saturday, March 5, 2011  
8:30am to 2:30pm

First Baptist Church, Essex

- \* \$25 per person
- \* \$10 for youth 12 to 18 years
- \* Workshop 1: Cultural Shifts in the 21st Century
- \* Workshop 2: Defining the Missional Church
- \* Workshop 3: Putting the Missional outreach plan into action



Please think of the following people in your prayers.

- Penny Sargent
- Ray Deptulski
- Michelle Lord
- Frank Roderick
- Roger Lambert
- Bob Duntz
- Jennifer LaFlamme
- Doris Adams

**Births:**

Beatrix Darwin Rubino - February 15

**Our Shut-ins:**

- Doris Regets
- Jean Roscoe
- June Coleman
- Lorraine Bober

**In the Military Service:**

- Nicholas Muyres
- Brian Grillo
- Daniel Moriarty
- Tim Rogers
- Aaron Rogers

If you know someone who should be added to the list please call the church office (860-889-0369)

**Refrigerator needed**

We are looking for a new refrigerator for our kitchen at church. The one we have now is not long for this world.



If you have one that is in good shape or would like to make a donation for a new one, please call the church office. (860-889-0369) Thank you.

**Congratualtions to Sarah Lord!**

She was accepted into Iowa State University, College of Veterinary Medicine for the class of 2015



If you have any scheduled meetings, or know of any upcoming events, or any other items that should be listed in the Sunday Bulletin, be sure to get the information to the church office by Wednesday, and we will be sure to have it listed in the upcoming Sunday bulletin.

**Do you have news you would like to see in our newsletter?**



We are always looking for new and exciting articles, announcements, upcoming events to share with our church family, so if there is something you would like to share, please get the information to us by the 20th of the month and we will be sure to include it in our monthly newsletter.

**The Mary R. DiBiagio Music Fund**

This fund is being established by Lori & Cal Lord in memory of Mary R. DiBiagio in recognition of her love and support of the music ministry of the First Baptist Church.



Mary never missed an occasion to express her appreciation over the dedication and hard work of the choir and the love they showed her daughter. She was our biggest fan for many, many years.

Beginning in 2011 a gift of \$200 shall be made available to Adele DiBiagio from the fund. This money may be used at her discretion to purchase music, accessories or decorations to assist her in her duties as organist and choir director.

**Cancellations**



In the event we have to cancel worship services, meetings or Sunday School classes due to inclement weather, there will be a message on the church

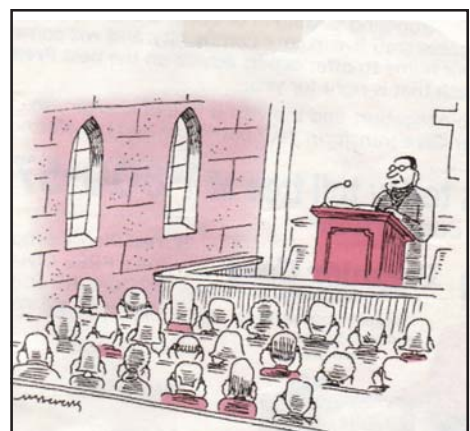
answering machine and on the church web site.

There will also be a notice sent to Channel 3 WFSB and WCTY/WICH radio

**Parking at Church**

The parking spots along the rear of our building are reserved for visitors and/or those with special needs.

There are plenty of parking spaces behind Firestone and at Midas Muffler for those who are able to walk. You can also park up at the Oak Tree Plaza if the other spots are full.



“Please select hymn number 637 on your i-pods.”

**Lauren Bethel**  
**Global Consultant for ABCUSA**



There are some trips that I make that I can't write too much about on-line. One such recent trip was to a small country somewhere between The Netherlands and China. I went as part of a team representing the International Christian Alliance on Prostitution (ICAP), invited by local Christian women to raise awareness about human trafficking.

The country is poor and violence against women is endemic. Girls and women in large numbers are being trafficked out of the country to Asia and the middle east into labor and sexual exploitation.

Before we could even begin to talk anti-trafficking strategy, we had to start by talking about our value and worth in God's eyes. And we could barely get past that topic. The stories poured forth: women forced to marry at young ages because the only value they have as women is their value as a wife and mother.

On our first day in the country, we were honored to be invited to a "bride party". It offered a humorous, yet sobering moment. In the family home of a new bride, our group sat on the floor with about 20 local women around a large square of beautiful embossed satin. We were plied with soft drinks and tea, delicious snacks, soups and meat. Not being able to speak their language, we sat, smiling across the fabric floor-table at each other. Finally, one of the particularly extroverted local women told another bilingual woman that she wanted to know who we were—and she wanted us to know about them. The bilingual woman began translating for us all, and we were delighted to take turns sharing about ourselves. They identified themselves by their name, age, number of children. When it came my time, and having lived in a culture similar to theirs with regard to attitudes about marital status, I decided that I would provide a "shocking" moment. "My name is Luran and I'm 60 years old and never been married", I declared. Without missing a beat, the lovely extroverted woman who had gotten us talking to each other countered "My father is 60 and you can be his 2nd wife!" We all dissolved into laughter! But the reality of her immediate response to my declaration wasn't lost on us: women have value only in relationship to a husband.

Please, please pray...that in the midst of everything, God would show His face.... that the innocents would be protected from harm, that fear would be overcome with Love, that evil will be forced to surrender.... Thank you for your caring, your support, your love.

**St. Vincent de Paul Place**

Since 1979, St. Vincent de Paul Place has been fulfilling its primary mission to serve the poor through the works of mercy. Over the past three years, they have continued to experience significant increases in the number of people coming to St. Vincent de Paul Place for services. This is a double whammy for service organizations like St. Vincent de Paul Place where more people are seeking services at the same time as fewer people are able to contribute. Norwich/New London was tops among the state's four major areas in percentage of job losses the winter 2010 edition of the Connecticut Economy reported. Casino slowdowns were responsible for one-third of Norwich area job losses, the report states.



Despite this dismal scenario, St. Vincent de Paul Place was able to serve more people with more services this past year. That's because churches like ours have decided to partner with the ministry by giving more money and offering more services. In 2010, St. Vincent de Paul Place conducted scheduled food distributions on 154 dates, and at other times for emergencies. Over 1,100 households were provided with food, including over 3,200 distinct individuals. The households visited the pantry a total of 7,364 times, receiving an average of 10 meals per person on each visit. A total of 25,531 people were supplied with food, when each member of each household is counted on each visit. This is a 19% increase over the total number of people for 2009. In all, the food pantry dispersed over 236,000 meal equivalents. Their hot meal program served 77,770 meals, a slight decrease (4.5%) from 2009.

In addition to their food programs they have added a number of programs to link patrons to programs and benefits that will lead them toward self sufficiency. One of the programs that is a great benefit to our community is offering free clothing through the generous donations from our own First Baptist Church. So many of the folks that come to St. Vincent's are looking for help with more than just food. Being able to come here and pick out clothing for themselves and their children is a real cost savings and is so helpful when they have children growing out of sizes quickly. Our church, through Erica's Clothing Closet, donates clothes that are clean and appropriate to the current climate making the process very beneficial to all. So next time you wonder if the clothes you donated are going to a good cause, just ask Erica.

We also help with volunteers and financial support. Cynthia Strouse and Zelda Earle have been volunteering at the Soup Kitchen for a while now. At the same time we have upped our mission giving to the center to \$1,000 a year. It is a ministry that we believe in and support. Talk to Cynthia, Zelda or Erica if you want to get involved.





## What is ABCCONN?

The better question is this: "Who is ABCCONN?" ABCCONN is the 124 American Baptist Churches of CONNecticut working together to glorify God. Since the early 1800's we have voluntarily come together to send missionaries, to encourage and support each other in our local mission, and to provide training and education for the leadership in our churches. A few years ago the Board of Managers of ABCCONN came up with the following mission statement.

### THE CORE MISSION:

The Churches of ABCCONN are a gathering of congregations called to invite and encourage people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and proclaim in all areas of life the saving love and truth of God. In the power of the Holy Spirit we carry out Christian ministries of service and support to one another and to an ever-changing world into which we are sent.

### CORE PURPOSE

The Churches of ABCCONN express their partnership in ministry by working together to:

1. provide mutual support, encouragement, celebration, and opportunities to listen and learn;
2. sustain the wider mission of the churches through ABCUSA and its world-wide engagements;
3. plan and implement mission endeavors.

### MISSION ENDEAVORS

The American Baptist Churches of Connecticut focus their mission in these areas:

1. developing and equipping servant leaders among youth, adults, lay, and clergy for the local church and various ministries;
2. inviting and encouraging people to become and grow as disciples of Jesus;
3. providing specific assistance to churches at expressed points of need;
4. building healthy and mission-oriented congregations and planting new churches;
5. fostering faithful stewardship for local congregations, the region's ministry and the ABCUSA;
6. encouraging the use and development of the facilities and programming associated with Camp Wightman;
7. encouraging and supporting participation and partnerships among local ecumenical and interfaith communities and other organizations.

124 churches, 28,792 resident members  
Executive Minister: Rev. Dr. Judy G. Allbee  
Website: <http://www.abcconn.org/>

## Care Net Ministry

In 2010 there were two couples, each excited to hear the words "you're pregnant"; each began planning for the arrival of new life. However, those tears of joy would soon turn to tears of anguish. Each couple heard the words that every parent dreads to hear, "I am sorry, but there are some congenital problems with your baby; and you should consider ending the pregnancy." Neither couple ever thought abortion would be something they would ever have to consider.

One couple, Greg and Lynn, through the advice of their pastor came to see us here at Care Net; and the other couple, Rich and Tina, anguished at home about their decision. Each couple was given the news that their child had birth defects so severe that survival outside the womb was not possible. The doctors went on to say that termination was the most humane act they could do for their child.



Greg and Lynn came to see us each week after their doctor's appointment for support; they were determined that they would allow God to decide when and if their baby died. Sadly, at 22 weeks gestation their little girl's heart stopped beating; and they had to say good-bye to a daughter they never saw face to face.

Rick and Tina chose to listen to the doctor's advice, and they terminated their pregnancy at 14 weeks. Rick and Tina then found their way into our office and were consumed by the grief and the guilt that they made the decision that ended the life of their child. They also now question, "what if the doctors were wrong?"

God wants to do a healing work in both these couples as they deal with the loss of their babies. Praise Him we are able to be a part of that miraculous process because of donors like you. We are the hands and feet for the money that you have entrusted us with to do this work.

We are so blessed to be yoked with you and your faithful giving and prayers.



Our Mission trip to Louisiana has been cancelled and the Pasta Dinner Fund Raiser postponed. The committee felt that it was just too much to consider in light of Pastor Lord's leaving. The committee hopes to resume talk about the Pasta Dinner in the fall. The group's emphasis will now be on putting together a team to travel to Mexico next February.

## Blankets

We are making blankets to give to the families at Thames River Family Place. Erica has purchased some materials. Pick it up at church when you come.



# Tyler Perry the actor, writer, producer, and director of films and stage plays



The filmmaker and actor talks about faith and family.

Tyler Perry may be best known for his role as "Madea"--an over-the-top, pistol-packing grandmother--in "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" and "Madea's Family

Reunion," and for his 2007 movie, "Daddy's Little Girls." Now, he's making the move to television with a new sitcom on TBS called "Tyler Perry's House of Payne" about a family who is brought together under one roof who have different views on work, child-rearing, and just about everything else.

In 2005, Perry spoke to Beliefnet entertainment editor Michael Kress about the roles of faith and family in his life and movies. And, because so much of what he had to say about his movies also applies to his new series, we are re-posting parts of the interview, complete with photos of the "Payne" characters.

## The Definition of Family

Family is a recurring theme in your work. Why is it so important to you, and what is your definition of family?

Family and faith are both very important to me, and forgiveness. I think that with everything I've done, in the end, whoever the central character is, they would find a way to forgive, because that's really important to me. Forgiveness is important in families, especially when there are so many secrets that need to be healed--for the most part, every family's got them.

## The Role of Faith in Film

In your work, faith is integrated seamlessly into your characters' lives, in a way that a lot of movies don't do. What is the role of faith in your work?

The thing about it is, I don't know why it's never talked about in film. There are people [making films] who believe, but I think they're people who believe in the closet. They believe very quietly. There's this huge separation of church and state. I'm not afraid to mix the two.

I'm not afraid to have a character say, "I am a Christian," or, "I believe in God," because I think they represent real people on this earth.

## The Healing Power of Humor

What is the role of faith in your life?

It is extremely important. I am a Christian, I am a believer, and I know had I not been a person of faith, I wouldn't be here in this place, and I wouldn't be walking the path that I'm on now. And I think the greater good of the path I'm on now is to teach people to learn to forgive and move on, in a way that's done through the healing power of humor.

What I've been able to do with my character, Madea, and the other characters, with the jokes, is use it as an anesthetic to get to the heart and soul of real issues. And what I've found on stage over the years is that, while making people laugh, I can drop in pearls of wisdom. That's like tilling the soil for the seeds to be planted. And that's what I've tried to do, to plant seeds that will grow into good situations, seeds that will grow into abundant life for many people.



## Perry on God

How would you describe your relationship with God?

I've always believed in God, from the time I was very, very young. I always knew there was something with me, not necessarily knowing what to call it. But I've got aunts and uncles and cousins who were pastors and ministers, and growing up around them, I've always had this close connection, and I've always prayed, and I've always felt my prayers were answered in time. So I've always had that close connection, and I am grateful for it, because I've watched--because of my faith in God, because of my love and my belief--everything in my life, no matter how bad, work together for my good.

## The Generation Gap

You've said that you are "passionate about mending the disconnect" between generations.

What is that disconnect and how do we overcome it?

I don't know how it happens for the world, but I can tell you how it happens for what I'm doing. Through humor and comedy, I've been able to bridge the gaps and speak to both about the same things but on different levels at the same time.

The great thing about the gift that I've been given, and only God could have done this, I'll stand on the stage every night--I see about 35,000 people a week--and the other day I asked, "Who's the youngest in the audience?" There was an 8-year-old sitting in the front row. And I said, "Who's the oldest?" There was a woman who was 91 sitting in the balcony. So it's such a wonderful thing for me to be able to speak across generations to all of these families. That's a gift, and I don't know too many people who can do it on this earth in this manner. What it means to me to be able to do that is absolutely just one huge blessing. The disconnect between the two is because the older generation's morals and values are very different from the younger generation, and trying to find a way to bring them together has been a challenge, but it's also been something that has been done, so I am pretty excited about that.

## Life Lessons

You've overcome major odds, including rising from homelessness to find the success you have now. How did you find the strength to overcome those obstacles, and what lessons did you learn?

The most important thing that I learned in growing up is that forgiveness is something that, when you do it, you free yourself to move on. And in finding that in my own life, I wanted to share it with other people.



"This article first appeared on beliefnet.com. Used with permission."

# The Experiment

I wanted to simplify. But could I really put a stop to all my spending?

by Celeste Palermo

"I've stopped spending completely," my sister-in-law, Lori, announced one day. "I'm going on a spending fast."

"You're doing what?" I asked, almost choking on my latte.



"I'm going on a 40-day fast," she explained. "I'll buy groceries but nothing for myself. No shoes, no clothes, not

even lipstick. I'm going to break myself of my spending habit."

I hung up the phone challenged. I always counted on Lori to support my spending. She'd tell me, "Indulge a little; you're worth it." Her spending hiatus made me think about my consumption habits.

I've never considered myself a big spender. In fact, when I was a newlywed, I kept my checkbook balanced to the penny and budgeted every purchase. Yet as my income increased, so did my propensity to spend.

These days, I don't really think about what I need, just what I want. I have to admit, I spend impulsively. Perhaps, I thought, I should go on a 40-day spending fast too.

## The Plan

Surely I could give my credit card a rest for 40 days. If Jesus could resist the Devil that long, I could resist the mall. But it proved harder than I thought.

The first thing I did was mark the 40 days on my calendar. This took some planning, as any given 40-day stretch included birthdays or holidays. What would I do about gifts?

I made a budget, giving myself a cash allotment for groceries, gas, and basic necessities. For the special events during my spending hiatus, I'd find a way to make do. And on all personal expenditures, I decided to go cold turkey—including even what I call my "paper-cup habit," the feeling I got from holding a coffee-shop drink made just for me.

Just as Lori announced her no-spending resolution to me, I told my close friends and family. I knew if I was to stick to my plan, I needed support. I got instant buy-in from my husband who, after I advised him of my hiatus, was as happy as a man at the Super Bowl.

Friends and extended family provided encouragement by limiting their invites to fancy restaurants and shopping excursions, and by holding me accountable.

## The Period

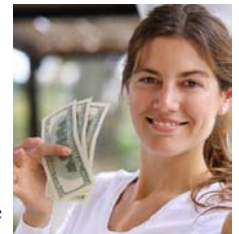
The first few days were a breeze. Delighted by my ability to stay out of stores and make meals at home, I fancied myself a true money maven, sailing on a sea of savings. But by week's end, the winds picked up and the waters got murky. I wanted a paper-cup fix, was asked to host a holiday party, and needed to purchase a new book for my book club. I had to become more resourceful.

I decided to clean out my office in an attempt to locate a gift card I'd received for the local java joint. If I use the card, I rationalized, I'm not really spending. Though I failed to locate the coveted card, cleaning out my office provided its own reward, so I moved on to my closet. Then I cleaned out my daughters' closets. The amount of unused clothing, shoes, and stuff we had was unbelievable. I gathered three large garbage bags of items to donate to charity, and gained a new appreciation for all we already own.

Next, I listed all the things I wanted to accomplish over the next month and brainstormed no-cost options. I deemed the holiday party a potluck and sent e-mail invitations, saving on the cost of paper invites, stamps, and food. I reserved my book-club selection at my local library instead of purchasing it. I plucked my eyebrows instead of having them waxed. I took blank journals I uncovered in my office clean-out and wrote "Things I Love About You" for each family member celebrating a birthday. I packed brown-bag lunches and planned dinner menus based on the plethora of food already in my pantry. I even used frequent-flier miles to purchase airfare for a trip. Finding no-cash options became a game; though it took some work, it was fun and rewarding.

The Payoff

Over the course of my 40-day hiatus, I saved almost \$2,000, based on what I typically would spend in the same timeframe. I could almost pay off my credit card with the money I saved, and I gained a new attitude about making do with less. The personalized journals were a big hit with my loved ones—even better received than my typical collared-shirt birthday offering. My cooking was heart-healthy, as I used the boxes of rice and bags of frozen veggies I'd stockpiled in my kitchen.



I finally located the coffee-shop gift card, but it had only five dollars of credit left on it. At first I was disappointed, but it proved to be a good thing. My latte-free days helped me rethink my paper-cup habit. Had I continued to indulge through the pre-paid card, I would have kept up old habits. Now, though I occasionally have a cup of coffee with friends, my three-times-a-week latte is history. That adds up to big savings!

Though the financial payoff was huge, the biggest benefit from my spending fast wasn't monetary. It was the realization God, not stuff, brings true happiness and peace. I learned to trust him more, even (and especially) with the challenges and temptations of everyday life.

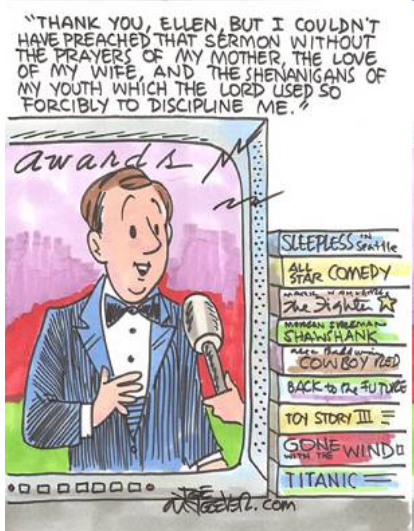
I also was touched by how I can use my life—and not necessarily just my wallet—to benefit others. Donating the bags to charity felt good, but so did giving thoughtful gifts. Sharing

my words and feelings with others was a gift of the heart.

Since my 40-day fast, I'm trying to be a better steward. My hiatus opened my eyes to see a more thoughtful, simple way of living. Now I'm more apt to let Jesus fill my cup—and that's better than any paper-cup drink ever



"This article first appeared on Kyria.com. Used by permission of Christianity Today International, Carol Stream, IL 60188."



### Your Pastor is Leaving?

A pastor was leaving his area and was saying farewell to his congregation at the Church doors for the last time.

He shook the hand of an elderly lady as she walked out. She said "Your successor won't be as good as you." "Nonsense", said the pastor, in a flattered tone.

"No, really", said the old lady, "I've been here under five different ministers, and each new one has been worse than the last."

### Friends by Franko



The trick is that you have to be smarter than your phone is ...

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

See this newsletter in full color and get all the latest news from your church family.



### The Church Corner

*Heard after church:*

"Do you think Madelyn Johnson is tinting her hair?"

"I don't know.. I didn't see her."

"Do you think that dress Mrs. Hansen was wearing should be paraded before God fearing people of the church?"

"I didn't notice that either."

"A lot of good it does you to go to church."

"What was the sermon about this morning?"

"Don't worry. Your quilts will come."

"Don't you mean, 'Fear not, your comforter will come?'"

A visiting pastor arrived at the church with his son. So that his son could see his good deed, he placed \$20 in the "poor box." After the service the deacons said they were sorry but had no money with which to pay the visiting clergyman. They said the crops had done poorly. What crops the grasshoppers missed were knocked down by the hail. Then one of the deacons remembered the "poor box." He brought the \$20 and paid the pastor. "It's not much, Reverend, but it's better than nothing."

On the way home, the pastor told his son, "Let that be a lesson to you – the more you give to the Lord the more you get back. If I had put \$50 in that 'poor box' I would have been paid \$50 for that sermon."

Dad criticized the sermon. Mother thought the organist did a lousy job. Sis didn't like the choir's singing.

Junior thought "All in all it was a pretty good show. I saw what dad paid and you usually don't get much for a buck."

A parishioner offered the preacher a quarter of his home made brandy provided the pastor acknowledged the gift in the church bulletin. The pastor accepted and wrote:

"My hearty thanks to Brother Beavers for his gift of fruit and the spirit in which it was given."

A visiting clergyman came to a city to deliver two speeches. After the first speech in the morning, he told a reporter for an afternoon newspaper, "In your article, don't mention the two stories I told. I want ot use them again this evening."

The newspaper report of the morning meeting read: "Rev. Glickman told two stories that cannot be published."

### 3 Things This Generation Demands

by Steven Furtick

If this generation is lost, it won't be because they lacked friends; it will be because they lacked leadership.

Some people think that this generation is hopeless. And while sometimes all the signs seem to point that way, I have to disagree. I don't think we've ever seen a generation that has more possibility or promise. They are the generation that could change the world.

So if you're trying to reach this generation you need to embody these traits to make your greatest impact.

#### 1. Authenticity

This generation can spot a fake a mile away. And they won't follow one. Be yourself. God made you that way. He's going to use you that way. What they need is the best version of you they've ever seen. You can give them that.

#### 2. Authority

We safely assume that this generation has more potential than any other in history to change the world. We dangerously assume that they know how to unlock it. That's where you come in. God hasn't called you to be their buddy. He's put you in their life to be their leader. Their mentor. Their guide.

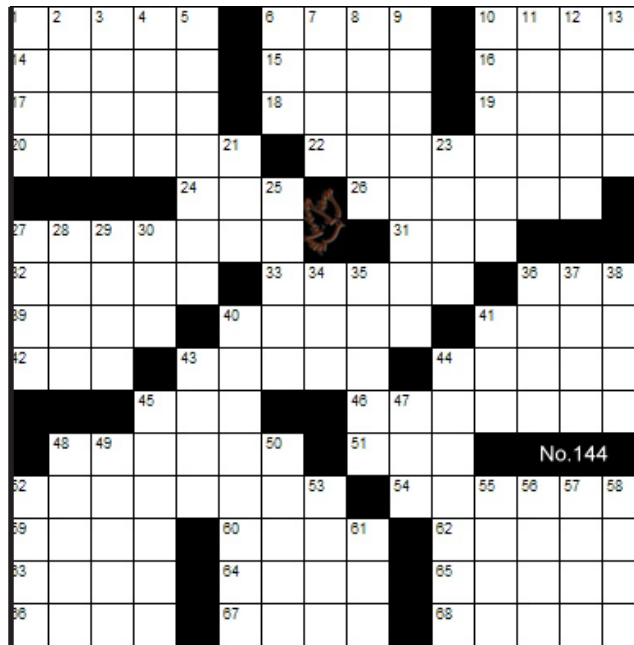
#### 3. Audacity

If you're not challenging this generation to do more than what's humanly possible, you're wasting their time. They believe in miracles. They believe they can do the impossible. And you know what, they're right. With God, they can.

More than any other organization or movement on this planet, the church should be a safe haven and incubator for audacity. Everyone else talks big, but in reality, they have limited resources. For us, there is no limit to what we can see God do through us.

ACROSS

- 1. very poor figs, \_\_\_\_\_ they could not be eaten (2,3) (Jer 24:2)
- 6. is to be based on the \_\_\_\_\_ paid to a hired man (Lev 25:50)
- 10. It sprang up quickly, because the \_\_\_\_\_ was shallow (Matt 13:5)
- 14. then you must inquire, \_\_\_\_\_ and investigate it thoroughly (Deut 13:14)
- 15. in heaven above \_\_\_\_\_ the earth (2,2) (Ex 20:4)
- 16. Let the girl remain with us ten days \_\_\_\_\_ (2,2) (Gen 24:55)
- 17. sew magic charms \_\_\_\_\_ their wrists (2,3) (Ezek 13:18)
- 18. the wicked bend their \_\_\_\_\_; they set their arrows (Ps 11:2)
- 19. the poison of \_\_\_\_\_ is under their lips (Rom 3:13) KJV
- 20. a time \_\_\_\_\_ down and a time to build (2,4) (Eccl 3:3)
- 22. He agreed to pay them a \_\_\_\_\_ for the day (Matt 20:2)
- 24. The LORD will fight for \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex 14:14)
- 26. and \_\_\_\_\_ over thee, saying, What city is like Tyrus (Ezek 27:32) KJV
- 27. Allow \_\_\_\_\_ to your eyes, no slumber to (2,5) (Prov 6:4)
- 31. A fool's talk brings a \_\_\_\_\_ to his back (Prov 14:3)
- 32. But \_\_\_\_\_ foolish controversies and genealogies (Titus 3:9)
- 33. Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two \_\_\_\_\_ from Shittim (Josh 2:1)
- 36. One of the twelve tribes of Israel (Josh 21:5)
- 39. lead and tin into a furnace to \_\_\_\_\_ it (Ezek 22:20)
- 40. the fame thereof was \_\_\_\_\_ in Pharaoh's house (Gen 45:16)
- 41. the wringing of the \_\_\_\_\_ bringeth forth blood (Prov 30:33)
- 42. LORD, how long will it be \_\_\_\_\_ thou be quiet? (Jer 47:6) KJV
- 43. they will never again \_\_\_\_\_ nations or be divided (2,3) (Ezek 37:22)
- 44. We have done \_\_\_\_\_ according to worldly wisdom but (2,3) (2 Cor 1:12)
- 45. have them shut the doors and \_\_\_\_\_ them (Neh 7:3)
- 46. do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the \_\_\_\_\_ there (Deut 18:9)
- 48. He who \_\_\_\_\_ the rod hates his son (Prov 13:24)
- 51. "No one, \_\_\_\_\_," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," (John 8:11)
- 52. break the bow of Elam, the \_\_\_\_\_ of their might (Jer 49:35)
- 54. he took and sent \_\_\_\_\_ unto them (Gen 43:34) KJV



- 10. he \_\_\_\_\_ on the wings of the wind (2 Sam 22:11)
- 11. for no offense \_\_\_\_\_ of mine, O LORD. (2,3) (Ps 59:3)
- 12. the protective shield \_\_\_\_\_ in place (2,3) (Nah 2:5)
- 13. I now consider \_\_\_\_\_ for the sake of Christ (Phil 3:7)
- 21. the gazelle, the \_\_\_\_\_ deer, the wild goat (Deut 14:5)
- 23. the OT book after Joel
- 25. Don't let this \_\_\_\_\_ you; the sword devours one as well as (2 Sam 11:25)
- 27. "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your \_\_\_\_\_." (Luke 10:17)
- 28. I will make thee ruler \_\_\_\_\_ many things (Matt 25:23) KJV
- 29. From the \_\_\_\_\_ of your foot to the top of your head (Isa 1:6)
- 30. your lightning \_\_\_\_\_ up the world (Ps 77:18)
- 34. The LORD who delivered me from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the lion (1 Sam 17:37)

- 24. The LORD will fight for \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex 14:14)
- 26. and \_\_\_\_\_ over thee, saying, What city is like Tyrus (Ezek 27:32) KJV
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- 51. "No one, \_\_\_\_\_," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," (John 8:11)
- 52. break the bow of Elam, the \_\_\_\_\_ of their might (Jer 49:35)
- 54. he took and sent \_\_\_\_\_ unto them (Gen 43:34) KJV

- 59. Tell the Israelites to bring you \_\_\_\_\_ heifer without defect (1,3) (Num 19:2)
- 60. It had large \_\_\_\_\_ teeth; it crushed and devoured (Dan 7:7)
- 62. thy brother was dead, and is \_\_\_\_\_ again (Luke 15:32) KJV
- 63. I have finished the \_\_\_\_\_, I have kept the faith (2 Tim 4:7)
- 64. a \_\_\_\_\_ of bread baked over hot coals (1 King 19:6)
- 65. ram that you saw represents the kings of \_\_\_\_\_ and Persia (Dan 8:20)
- 66. Delilah took new ropes and \_\_\_\_\_ him with them (Judg 16:12)
- 67. Wilt thou not \_\_\_\_\_ us what thou meanest by these? (Ezek 37:18) KJV
- 68. your feet did not \_\_\_\_\_ during these forty years (Deut 8:4)

DOWN

- 1. a rising, a scab, or bright \_\_\_\_\_ (Lev 13:2) (KJV)
- 2. Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, \_\_\_\_\_ (2,2) (Luke 20:22) KJV
- 3. used in Peter's occupation (Matt 14:29)
- 4. God is \_\_\_\_\_ to make all grace abound to you (2 Cor 9:8)
- 5. my salvation will not be \_\_\_\_\_ (Isa 46:13)
- 6. Do not defraud your neighbor or \_\_\_\_\_ him (Lev 19:13)
- 7. I see \_\_\_\_\_ of an almond tree (1,3) (Jer 1:11)
- 8. wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the \_\_\_\_\_ (John 13:5)
- 9. the wicked are \_\_\_\_\_ by the work of their hands (Ps 9:16)

- 35. his feet with shackles, his neck was put in \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps 105:18)
- 36. they can \_\_\_\_\_ harm nor can they do any good (2,2) (Jer 10:5)
- 37. bring forth \_\_\_\_\_, and thou shalt call his name JESUS (1,3) (Matt 1:21) KJV
- 38. fishermen's gear (Mark 1:18)
- 40. religious outcasts
- 41. He answered, " \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ will not go (2,1) (Num 10:30)
- 43. He rebuilt it and put its doors and bolts and \_\_\_\_\_ in place (Neh 3:14)
- 44. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and \_\_\_\_\_ in the desert (Isa 35:6)
- 45. wicked community, which has \_\_\_\_\_ together against me (Num 14:35)
- 47. and \_\_\_\_\_ their words like deadly arrows (Ps 64:3)
- 48. you are no longer to call her \_\_\_\_\_; her name will be Sarah. (Gen 17:15)
- 49. and laid each \_\_\_\_\_ one against another (Gen 15:10)
- 50. Abraham and \_\_\_\_\_ were old and well stricken in age (Gen 18:11)
- 52. is her revenue; and she is a \_\_\_\_\_ of nations (Isa 23:3) KJV
- 53. For my \_\_\_\_\_ is easy and my burden is light (Matt 11:30)
- 55. to kill (Ps 78:34) KJV
- 56. standing at the right \_\_\_\_\_ of the altar (Luke 1:11)
- 57. Do not those who plot \_\_\_\_\_ go astray? (Prov 14:22)
- 58. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ up the words of the prophecy of this book (Rev 22:10)
- 61. A \_\_\_\_\_ command I give you: Love one another (John 13:34)

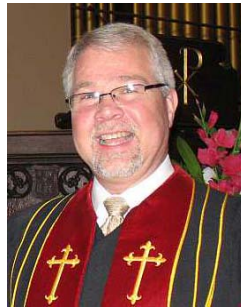
# Last Call!

## March 6th marks Pastor Lord's Last Day in our Pulpit!

You can put it in the books. Rev. Cal Lord began his ministry with us on Sunday, June 23, 1985 and this week he will finished up, almost twenty six years later.

On Sunday, March 6, 2011 you will have your last opportunity to say good-bye as Rev. Lord finishes the chapter on his service as our Pastor.

The service will be very different as we celebrate around the communion table. The Lord's Supper will come early in the service as we celebrate our common bond in Christ. The choir will sing an anthem that reflects our call to follow Christ and Pastor Lord will preach about our resurrection faith. We will close the service as we often have on Easter Sunday. We will sing the triumph of the resurrection and sound the call to share the Good News that Christ arose.



It may seem odd to sing of the resurrection on the eve of the Lenten season but when someone suggested it to Pastor Lord, he commented on the fact that it is the living Christ who brought us together and it is worth remember that wherever we go, he will be there too!

So plan to join us on this special occasion. Worship is at 10:30 a.m. We'll save a seat for you. See you in church!



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Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.  
Mid week worship -  
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Clayton A. Lord, Jr., Pastor  
Adele DiBiagio,  
Organist & Choir Director  
Sandy Stone, Administrative Assistant  
Harry & Doris Calkins, Carol Calkins, Sharon  
Fishkin and Bob Walker are the Production Assis-  
tants.