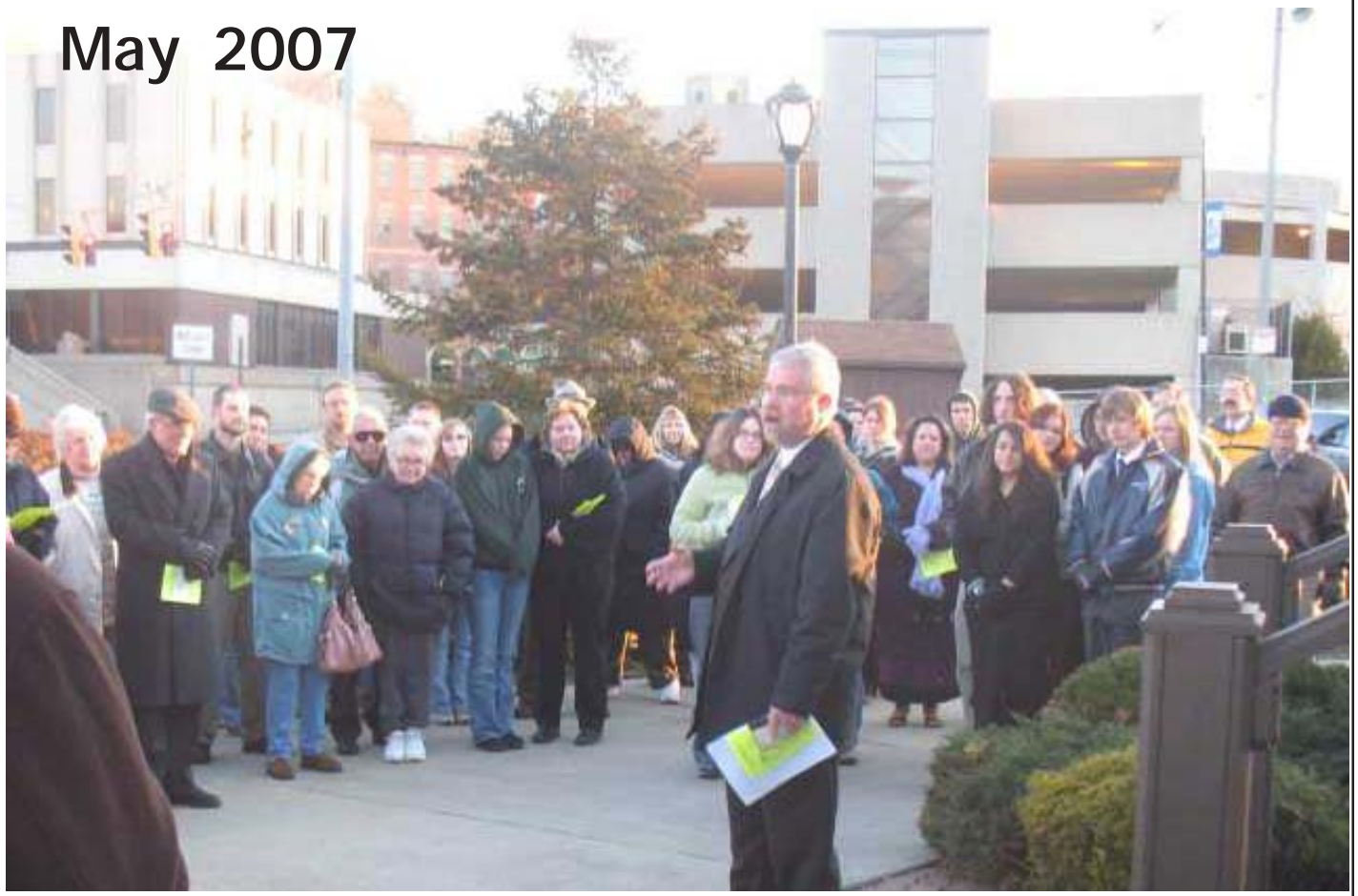


The Ambassador

May 2007



The Son Rises In Norwich

On a beautiful Sunday morning in April, the sun came up over the city of Norwich as 115 people gather to

worship the risen Lord at Howard Brown Park. Katie Hollis and Jennifer Brockway handed out bulletins as people arrived. The Easter band from the Norwich Alliance Church played "Christ Arose" as a prelude to the service. Rev. Sheldon Keller greeted everyone and Amy Hollis opened with prayer. We sang Christ the Lord Has risen today as the sun rose over the city. It was almost as if the moment had been scripted to happen that way. Rev. Jerry Davis followed up with the Easter Scripture and Pastor Chuck Tyree offered a pastoral prayer.

We sang God's praises again and Pastor Cal Lord delivered the Easter message of how God left us an empty tomb to remind us that he is with us forever.

After Pastor Dwight Anderson offered the benediction we got in our cars and traveled to the Norwich Alliance church for a wonderful breakfast. It was a great start to a glorious day.



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*

The Church At Worship



Worship
10:30 -
11:45 am

**Join Us As We Worship
 In May**

May 6, 2007

Scripture: Acts 11:1-18

Sermon: "A Faith That Opens Doors"

May 13, 2007

Scripture: Acts 16:9-15

Sermon: "Walking Through The Open Door"

May 20, 2007

Guest Preacher: Amy Hollis

May 27., 2007

Scripture: John 14:8-17

Sermon: "What's Behind Door Number 3?"

Join Us on May 12
 For Mother's Day!
 We will have a little
 "thank you"
 for all the moms present



New Nursery List Is Available

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



May 6 - Laura Kreger & Cindy Briggs

May 13 - Dad's (Brian -to be announced)

May 20- Sandy Lucien & Brian Goldin

May 27 - Sandy Stone & Sharon Fishkin

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.



Pastor Jorge Morales leads the new congregation.

Las Buenas Nuevas Celebrates First Anniversary In Norwich

On Sunday, April 15 the The Good News Hispanic Church of Norwich came together to praise God and give thanks for a great first year of ministry. Rev. Julio Rodriguez preached the message and Rev. Daniel Martino of the mother church in New London shared the story of how the church was born.

Ms. Magda Lopez offered some special music and the praise team led the assembly in singing. Our Pastor brought congratulations from FBC. It was a moving worship celebration fitting for the wonderful ministry being done through the Church.

Our Easter Flowers



During Easter the following people were remembered with Easter Flowers in the sanctuary...

In Honor Of

Katherine Bromley, Penelope Sargent, Marie Joe, Grace E. Sederquest, Witi, Johly, Emmanuella Jeanly

In Memory Of

Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Stauble; Francis Adams; Dorothy, Pauline, George & Thomas; Mildred Grant; Dorothy & Raymond Barber; Jennifer L. Kane; John & Priscilla Kane; Carl & Helen Benker; Wesley, Herbert, Lewis and Louise Bromley; Dr. Gil Bergendahl; Paul Bray; Otis, Mabel, Richard & William Witham; Robert B., Robert H. & Arnal Bray; Harold & Esther Brockway; Stephen Chesnowitz; Theodore G. Calkins Jr.; Theodore & Florence Calkins; Joseph B. Bober Jr.; Ann & Joseph Bober Sr.; Stella & Edward Kiczuk; Lorraine T. Bober; Kathleen & Raymond S. Deptulski; Ignatius DiBiagio; Anna & Marino DeNovellis; Mr. Harold E. Diehl Jr.; Mr. & Mrs. Harold E. Diehl Sr.; Mr. & Mrs. Gerald K. Shorey; Robin Dupont; Rev. Alvin D. Johnson; Richard Brannegan; Clifford Dutrumble; Bob & Grace Stott; Harry Ferguson; Katelyn Rittaco; Janet Furbush; James Brown; Gwen McMahon; Thomas & Grace Ferrell; Alice Cote; Dina Hoagland; Dr. Ralph Lopez; Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Peckham; Mr. Clifford Peckham; Mr. Kenneth Duntz; Mrs. Gayle Lord; Rev. Dr. & Mrs. John Brooks; Judilts; Les Main; Jeffrey Young; Florence & Wasyl Rusaniuk; Dorothy Gabriele; Lillian Bushey; Clifford Oat; Henry C. Pendleton Sr.; Anders & Marguerite Peterson; Celeste Copeland; Donna Poore; Mr. & Mrs. Amos Russell; Mr. & Mrs. Rossiter Willet; Grace Rico; Charles & Evelyn Roderick; Darlene Roderick; Rev. Walter & Lucy Schoepfer; Francis Delaney; Richard Rogers; Mr. & Mrs. Donald Royce; Mr. & Mrs. James Sypher; Dorothy & Walter Macht; Elise Jeanty; David Jordan; Leonard D. & Doris S. Royce; George H. Strouse Jr.; Louise L. Strouse; Rowland Gemma; Richard Vaillancourt; Anna & Napoleon Vanase; Alice J. Cote; Dina L. Hoagland; Mr. & Mrs. Henry Stewart; Mr. & Mrs. James Walker

Looking Back At April

Baptism Service Sets Stage For Palm Sunday Worship



Jenny Dart professes her faith.

Jennifer Dart, Rachel Lord and Bethany Stone were baptized on April 1 during morning worship. All three of the girls grew up in the congregation and have been a part of Sunday School and Youth Group their whole lives.

Way of the Cross Helps Us To Remember The Passion of Christ



Dr. Lord carries the cross.

On Good Friday we walked with over 150 Christians from across the region in the Annual Ecumenical Way of the Cross. Dr. Lord joined thirteen other clergy and lay leaders as they carried the cross and shared short reflections on the significance of what happened on Good Friday. Amy Hollis assisted our Pastor in the reading for the third station of the Cross. The annual pilgrimage begins at Chelsea Parade and ends in Union Square.

The First Baptist Family Grew By Thirteen in April



Excitement was in the air as Curt Brockway came forward to welcome the largest class of new members since 1996. As we celebrated the coming of Jesus into the holy city on Palm Sunday, we lifted up the proclamation of faith of this group as they put their faith into action and joined the church. The new members included The Adams family, Pete, Betsey, Lindsey and Chris, Jennifer Dart, Ray & Wendy Henry, Rachel Lord, Patricia and Steven Ohlund, Bethany Stone, Audrey Traylor and Lynn Wisniewski.

A Full House For Easter



The parking lot was overflowing and the house was full as we gathered to celebrate the resurrection on Easter. 232 people were on hand as our Easter Band greeted them with the strains of "Jesus Christ is risen Today!"



The crowd sings (top) April Rezendes plays Mary at the tomb (middle) The Lord girls sing (left) Kevin Mariano plays (right).

Gathering At The Table

Pastor Lord and Amy Hollis led us through the last week of Jesus' life and to the communion table with a series of "Were You There?" reflections on Maundy Thursday at the church.



Upcoming Events

Mother Daughter Banquet

Saturday, May 12 at 6:00 p.m.

A nice Turkey Dinner will be served with some great entertainment by Style Extraordinaire Dance Troupe from Luis Pabon Dance Arts Center



The Cost is: \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 children 7-12 years old
Children 6 and under are free.

Reservations can be made with Melinda Maynard at 887-2826.
Or you can sign up at the church

Children's Day June 10, 2007



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

Annual Tag June 2, 2007



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



Join us for a special concert by the Eastern University Choir on Monday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m. Invite your friends for this will be a magical evening.

We are still looking for host families for the students. We need another seven families to step up and volunteer to take a student or two home following the concert and get them back to the church in the morning. Please call the church if you can help.

Six Flags Trip



Tentatively Scheduled for Tuesday, June 19
(depends on School Calendar)

Singing in the choir is fun!
Listening to them is pretty good too!



Worship every week this spring and summer.
We gather at

10:30 in May & June. We meet at 9:30 a.m. in July and August.

People, Places and Possibilities



We lift up the Morse family on the sudden passing of Scotty last month. Our hearts go out to Cindy, Wayne, Wayne Jr., Meghan and Brooke. We also lift up his grandparents, Harry & Doris Calkins.

Two members of our church family lost their mothers this past month. We lift up Guy Brown whose mom passed away in Florida and Phil Postler whose mom died locally... Donna Weimer went in for shoulder surgery and had some complications. Think of her as she heals... Frank Roderick had cataract surgery and after some minor problems is doing much better now... George Strouse had surgery and is coming along very well...

We think of Steve Roscoe in prayer as he continues to recuperate at the Norwichtown Convalescent Home... Dave Murray continues his follow up treatments. He recently had a CAT scan to check his progress. We pray for good results... and is doing well. Lift him up in your prayers...

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

We lift up Amy Hollis as she finishes her student pastorate here at First Baptist. On Sunday, May 6th we celebrated her ministry among us. We have been blessed by having her, Scott, Kate and Sarah with us over the last year. We have invited her back in the fall but we understand that God may have an opportunity out there that will be a two fold blessing for her and the church she is called to serve. so we send her off with our prayers and best wishes...



We rejoice with Kate and Chris Canada over the birth of their first child. Lilian Royce Canada. She was born at 2:59 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 2007. Mom, dad and Lily are all doing fine.



Pictured above is our newest grandma, Cynthia Strouse, holding Lily. Grandpa's smile (Dick) was too big to capture on film.

Norwich in Bloom

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



We got together with Central Baptist and had a wonderful evening as we heard a report from our mission team. A slide show was presented and team members shared some of their experience. The evening ended with Strawberry Shortcake Dessert.



Life Line Screening

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

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



Volunteer Drivers Wanted

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

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





Sports Page



Softball Season Starts Slowly But Shows Signs Of Promise



Dan gets ready to hit.

It isn't horseshoes but coming close has got to mean something. It shows signs of promise at the very least. The FBC Softball team is off to an 0-3 start. The first two games were dogfights all the way and the boys ended up losing both contests by one run.

The third game was within reach until our pitching failed in the top of the seventh inning. With victory in sight, our number two and three pitchers couldn't find the plate. We went into the inning leading 16-11 and after 14 walks and six hits we left the field losing 31-16. Our regular pitcher, Fred Green Sr., was sorely missed.

Armin Harris and Dan Dutrumble have been carrying the team offensively early on. Armin is batting .800 with 10 RBI after the first three games. Dan is batting .769 and has 9 runs scored and ten hits. Other hot hitters include Doug Bartkowski with a .500 average and 5 RBI and Fred Green Sr. with a .500 average and a .714 on base %.

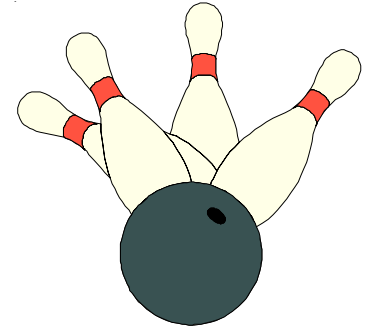
This year's team includes Dan, Armin, Brian Goldin, Ken Kreger, Jayson Mandeville, George Rezendes, John Wisheart, Chris Adams Casey Rezendes, Cal Lord and the certain comeback player of the year, Doug Bartkowski.

Newcomers this season include Jeff Goldin, Ray Henry, Paul Labreque and Chris Vaillancourt. There is still room on the roster for a few more. Interested in joining the team? Speak to the pastor, Brian Goldin or Ken Kreger.



Armin is ready to play wherever the coach puts him.

Do You Like To Bowl?



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

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

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

We will have a League Meeting on Sunday, May 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the Norwich Bowling and Entertainment Center.

Mark Your Calendars!
Sports Recognition Sunday - August 19, 2007

Who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame?
Who will be recognized as bowling champs
or Softball team MVP?

2007 Softball Schedule

DATE	FIELD/TIME	OPPONENT	DATE	FIELD/TIME	OPPONENT	DATE	FIELD/TIME	OPPONENT
May 3	T2 - 6:00 pm	Sts. P & P	June 6	T2 - 6:00 pm	Sts. P & P	July 13	T1 - 6:00 pm	Norwich Worship
May 4	T1 - 7:00 pm	St. Mary's	June 13	T2 - 6:00 pm	Norwich Worship	July 16	T1 - 7:00 pm	Sacred Heart
May 7	T1 - 6:00 pm	Norwich Worship	June 14	T2 - 6:00 pm	St. Patrick's	July 18	T2 - 6:00 pm	Mission Alliance
May 16	T2 - 6:00 pm	Mission Alliance	June 18	T2 - 6:00 pm	Mission Alliance	July 25	T2 - 6:00 pm	Central Baptist
May 18	T1 - 7:00 pm	Central Baptist	June 22	T2 - 6:00 pm	Sacred Heart	July 30	T1 - 6:00 pm	St. Patrick's
May 22	T2 - 6:00 pm	Sacred Heart	June 29	T2 - 6:00 pm	Central Baptist			
May 30	T2 - 6:00 pm	St. Patrick's	July 6	T2 - 6:00 pm	St. Mary's			
May 31	T2 - 6:00 pm	St. Mary's	July 11	T2 - 6:00 pm	Sts. P & P			

Engaged In Mission

Mission- Mexico April 17-24



Our mission team from Central and First Baptist.



Working with the kids at Vacation Bible school.



Hands on work at Iglesia Cristiana Bautista "Sion".



Sunday lunch with the Pastor Gregorio and his family.

Interfaith Luncheon is a way to serve Jesus.



"When did we see you Lord?" That was the question they asked Jesus. He told them that when they fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited those in prison and sought justice for the oppressed, they were seeing and serving him.

That's why we are engaged in feeding the hungry at the monthly interfaith luncheons.

Dave Murray, Stephanie Mattos and Bobbie Adams cooked up a meatloaf dinner last month.

There is a sign up sheet for volunteers at the church. If you would like to serve, take this as your formal invitation.



CROP Walk 2007
12 Walkers and two toddlers from FBC
Total raised in Norwich- \$6,000+

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

Suggested donations include:

Cereals	Spaghetti Sauce
Soups	Beef Stew
Canned Pasta	Juices
Boxed Pasta	Coffee
	Instant Potatoes
	Powdered milk
	canned vegetables



Our Ministry To The Family

Honoring the Other Mothers

I had the good fortune of being raised by not just one excellent mother but also an entire community of them. And I'd have to say I'm the better for it.

By Anita Renfroe

I remember when Hillary Clinton's book *It Takes a Village* came out several years back, the uproar from conservatives was deafening. Many people saw it as a communal manifesto for socialism-where society takes over raising our children and we give up our parental power.

It is hard for me to admit that there might be something my daughter needs in her life that my limited experience or expertise cannot provide for her. But I truly believe that no one should have to mother alone.

MOTHERS, MOTHERS EVERYWHERE

My mother's guidance was important to me, but I also had the input of my grandmothers, aunts and family friends. I am old enough to recall when you could get in trouble everywhere in your town. If someone caught you doing anything immoral, illegal, disrespectful or even questionable, they were not deterred by the fact that they did not share your particular DNA. If you were wrong, they felt a social obligation to step in and mother you correctionally.

This might have involved giving you a good talking to, possibly applying some immediate form of discipline and assuring you that, should you choose not to confess to your own mother upon your arrival at home, your mom would be told. When you did arrive home, it was old news and your mom already had her speech ready and some form of discipline lined up.

You could waste your breath explaining, but the shame of someone else catching you misbehaving was unbearable for her. It was now her job

to make it equally unbearable for you.

That was the downside of a community full of mothers. The upside was that you could also have a cadre of women who would love, support and encourage you in areas where your own mother did not have a background for input. This is the aspect of having "Other Mothers" that allows young women to excel and spread their wings beyond their own heritage.

SPIRITUAL MOTHERING

Sometimes it's easy to discount the praise or encouragement of your own mother because you suspect that it isn't exactly objective. But when women who are not bound to you by relational duty look into your life and tell you that you are gifted you tend to believe them.

I believe it is a tragedy that we are losing our sense of this in our society. In some church cultures they appoint "church mothers," and these powerful, God-fearin' women are deputized to get up in your business. It's their spiritual imperative.

My friend Skip is a spiritual mother. She is single and has no biological children, but she has many people who look to her for wisdom and guidance.

One special relationship with someone who asked Skip to step in and help her to heal from the estrangement from her biological mother has been particularly rewarding. Skip's "daughter of choice" is a woman whose life looks very different from her own, but they have mutually chosen to enter into this relationship and have the freedom to be honest with each other at all times.

Skip was an adopted child and describes her own mother as godly,



gracious and tied in to her community as she taught school for decades and kept up with her students through the years. Many of these same traits can be said of Skip, and her life purpose is to nurture believers in to mature disciples.

Her own mother's example coupled with Skip's vocational choices (she is a nurse, speaker, author and life coach) point to her love for helping people. But when Skip was approached about being a spiritual mother to a younger friend her first reaction was reluctance. But as their bond grew deep, Skip realized that spiritual mother/daughter

Our Ministry To The Family

relationship” more accurately defined what was happening than anything else.

A GRANDMOTHER IS A GIFT

Sometimes your Other Mother is there out of necessity. My mom’s mom was my first Other Mother. Nana wasn’t highly educated in book learnin’ (I think she may have finished the eighth grade), but she had done her “post grad” in The School of Hard Times and had her honorary doctorate in How the World Works.

The great thing about spending time with our grandmother is that, (1) she thinks you are The Cheese, and (2) she is the only one who knows all the dirt on your mom.

This could explain the unspoken bond between grandmothers and grandchildren. Grandmothers are powerful. I am planning to use this power whenever I have grandchildren of my own. I have already ordered those T-shirts for kids that say, “What happens at Grandma’s stays at Grandma’s.”

I was privileged to have two very different types of grandmothers in my developing years. I had my Nana in Texas, and when my mother remarried I got the bonus of another type of grandmother. Ludie Pulliam was a chemist who was chosen to work on the development of the hydrogen bomb during World War II.

Their family relocated to Los Alamos when my stepfather was young, and their life was quite different from Nana’s. Ludie had a housekeeper and cook and worked her entire adult life as a scientist until she retired and move back to Laurel, Mississippi, to be near her family.

She was my grandmother who loved sports, card games and frying shrimp. My Nana, didn’t know the first thing about sports, considered playing



cards a sin and never peeled a shrimp in her life. But my life is the richer for the diversity of my grandmothers.

I am grateful that my daughter is experiencing the same thing with her grandmother. My mom loves all things domestic and my husband’s mom loves all things educational.

Elyse has one of each: a cooking grandmother and a read-aloud grandmother. That doesn’t mean that either could not do both, but why not just let everyone flow in their areas of giftedness?

VERY SPECIAL HONOREES

There is a group of women who are thrust in to Other Mother status: stepmoms. Of all the Other Mothers, this role requires the most patience, tenacity and understanding. The children of the first marriage feel that the entrance of the stepmom signals the death of the first family, so they can’t help but view her with distrust and suspicion.

Stepmoms are often perceived as intruders, unwanted love-stealers interloping through a house of hurt, trying to build new relationships with children who don’t even want her there, much less in their lives. I have seen some navigate with grace and other crack beneath the incredible strain of being rejected day after day. God bless the stepmothers of the world. Theirs is a difficult row to hoe.

Then there are the mothers-in-law, the women who raise the men we

marry. To them we owe a debt of gratitude for raising a son who knew a good thing when he saw it!

Allow your mother-in-law her own special

place among your Other Mothers and let her know that she is appreciated. Without her perspective you may never fully understand what makes your man tick.

Other Mothers are a gift we give our daughters and ourselves. To have Other Mothers does not diminish your own mother.

There is a richness in the many women who can step in and care for us, impart life experience and wisdom to us, and give of themselves to another generation. We are the better for them. And so are our daughters.

I can’t see that my mother or I would be the women we are without the lingering influence of Nana in our lives. She taught us about tenacity in tough times and the rewards of faithfulness in the life of a believer.

You may be a woman who needs an Other Mother. You might be a woman with Other Mothering to give.

Truth is, you’re probably both. I hope that you will seek out the Other Mothers you need and give Other Mothering liberally to the girls coming up the path behind you. Maybe, in that case, if it’s not one thing, it’s your Other.

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April May 2007
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Check out this and other magazines on our literature table in the chapel area of church.

A Powerful Witness

TOP GUM

WAS IT NATE ROBERTSON'S RALLY GUM THAT IGNITED THE DETROIT TIGERS, OR WAS IT SOMETHING ELSE?

By Jeff Arnold

The letters are a permanent fixture on the inside lid of Nate Robertson's navy blue cap. The collection of consonants and vowels, written in permanent ink, are not only a testimony of God's work in the Detroit Tigers' left-hander's past but also a reminder that nothing in life is guaranteed.

P-E-R-S-E-V-E-R-A-N-C-E. "It's such a powerful word," At 29, Nate Robertson finds himself nearly on top of the baseball world. His 13 victories last season played a substantial role in helping land the Tigers in the playoffs for the first time in 19 years. His win over the Oakland Athletics in Game 1 of the American League Championship Series started a stretch of four straight Detroit victories that put the Tigers in their first World Series since 1984.

Yet, in the face of success, Robertson is reminded often of the adversity that his relationship with Christ carried him through. The elbow injury that nearly ended his career before it had really started, the struggles of putting baseball ahead of his Christian walk, and even a trade that took him from a team destined for a world championship to a team that went on to lose 119 games.

By enduring though, Robertson now finds himself on a championship team and, more important, on a daily journey in which his faith in Jesus not only impacts his life but also the lives of people around him.

"I've been down the road where things can change real quick," Robertson says. "I've learned that you're never where you need to be. There's always room to grow."

And to truly understand just how much Robertson has grown, one must first appreciate the road he has traveled.

Growing up in Kansas, Nate Robertson had a love for baseball that started young. Robertson was drafted by the Chicago

White Sox while also being recruited by Wichita State, a program rich in baseball tradition. But when Nate sustained an elbow injury that limited his summer exposure to scouts, he ended up in college, where he believed his baseball talent would carry him to the next level.

The next 4 years were anything but predictable. Nate missed his freshman season by breaking his foot. That meant missing the College World Series with his Shockers' teammates.

Strike one.

As a redshirt freshman, Robertson was invited to the Team USA trials, providing him a chance to put his skills on an international stage. But early on, Robertson felt a twinge in his pitching elbow—a symptom doctors diagnosed as tendonitis. Following treatment, Robertson went on to a successful season and was invited back to compete with the national team in the summer. One game in, his elbow gave out.

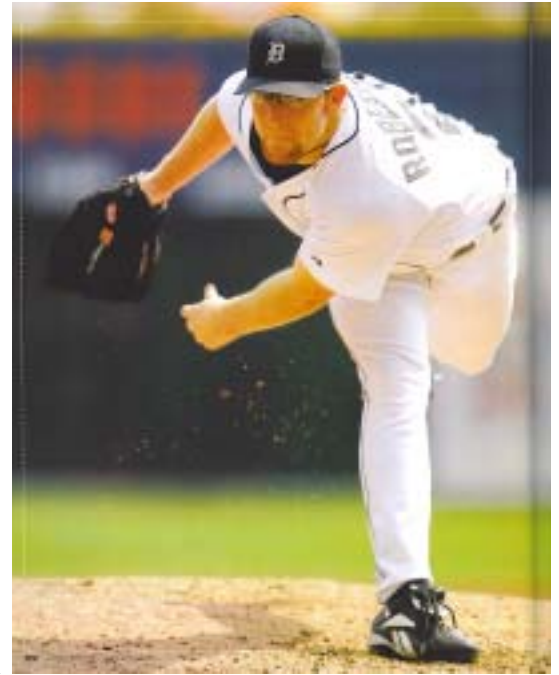
Strike two.

Reconstructive surgery forced Robertson to miss most of his next season at Wichita State. Robertson again fought back, using the summer to work his arm back into shape and placing him in line for the Major League draft.

The Florida Marlins selected Robertson and signed him to their Single A club, putting him on track. But after pitching well in his first season, Robertson blew out his elbow again. This time, doctors thought his career could be over.

Strike three.

Frustrated, Robertson—who had trusted Jesus as Savior at age 13—began to wonder if the aggravation of the last few years was worth it. He had become



tantalized by what the world had to offer and by the life baseball could provide. Although he maintained a steady prayer life, he knew his relationship with Jesus was suffering.

Publicly, Robertson said all the right things. God first, then family and friends, then baseball. Inside, he knew differently. "You can't sit there and fool God," Robertson says. "He knows what's going on."

After his second elbow surgery, Robertson's arm wasn't responding. Tired of dealing with the injuries, unhappy with the way he was living his life, and ready, once-and-for-all, to turn his life wholly over to God, Robertson went to church on a Sunday night.

Through tough times, Robertson often found himself in the book of James, where he found instruction.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance," Robertson read in James 1. "Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" (vv.2-4).

Broken, Robertson opened his heart to Jesus, uttering a simple, but profound prayer. "If it's your will to take baseball away, take it," Robertson told God that night. "But if you get me back on track health-wise, I'll live for you."

A Powerful Witness

For the first time in his life, Robertson was ready to surrender baseball. “You make those promises, and He’s going to keep you accountable,” Robertson says.

After praying that night in church, Nate found himself surrounded by several church leaders, who laid their hands on him and prayed for him.

A week later, the pain in Robertson’s elbow was completely gone. And he felt that God was telling him, “Okay, now you hold up your end of the deal.”

Robertson finished the end of the 2002 season on the Marlins’ big-league roster, finally finding himself on pace to realize his major league dreams. Off the field, his life was also flourishing. He fell in love, and he became engaged to Kristin, whom he married in early January 2003.

The morning after he and Kristin were married, Robertson was traded to the Detroit Tigers. In his first year with the Tigers, Robertson, started eight games and posted a 1-2 record-losing two of Detroit’s 119 losses that season. Meanwhile, the Marlins went on to win the World Series.

Off the field, Robertson began to sense that God was providing him ways to share his faith with his teammates. He became the team chapel representative and took an active role in daily services while leading his teammates in Bible studies on the road.

Teammates suddenly discovered how important Christ was in his life. Robertson began to notice a change in his witness.

“He’s a man who stands for Christ, and it shows,” teammate Jason Grilli says. “He walks the walk-he doesn’t just talk the talk.”

Over the next two seasons, Robertson’s role continued to increase. In 2006 as part of a pitching staff dominated by youth the Tigers revitalized baseball in Detroit by winning on a regular basis and making believers out of the national media.

Robertson won a career-high 13 games while also making a name for himself in a way he never had planned.

Prior to a nationally televised game against the Yankees, Robertson was asked by television producers to wear an in-game microphone. Robertson agreed, warning



them that overall, he wasn’t very interesting.

After the Tigers fell behind in the game and with the cameras on him, Robertson shoved an entire pouch of Big League Chew chewing gum into his mouth, hoping to ignite a rally by Detroit hitters.

Tigers’ catcher Pudge Rodriguez immediately hit a home run. Still trailing, Nate repeated the gum ritual on two or three more occasions, each of which led to Tigers success.

“If Pudge would have never hit the home run, this whole thing would have never taken off,” Robertson says.

The next day, prior to making a starting appearance, Robertson started noticing signs, with sketches of him that included big wads of gum increasing the size of his jaw. Marketing gurus jumped on board, printing “Gum Time” T-shirts and coming up with the idea of Robertson keeping an Internet blog, which he maintained through the rest of the season.

But the personal attention also led to more opportunities for Robertson to share his faith in Christ.

Now when he receives fan mail at Comerica Park or a baseball card in need of an autograph, Robertson returns the signed souvenir along with a testimony card, which tells of his faith in Jesus and how Christ’s presence in his life has made him who he is today.

“The thing about me is that I don’t try to play some role,” Robertson says. “I just try to go out there and be me. I’m not very special. I’m pretty ordinary, but that’s just how I am. I just want people to understand why I live my life the way I do.”

Robertson’s Christian walk remains evident to teammates like Grilli, who spends a great deal of time off the field with Robertson. In the midst of crazy schedules and a life that forces players to spend time away from their families and live out of a suitcase for 8 months, Grilli says the constant is Christ.

Robertson, along with pitcher Mike Maroth, make sure that ample time is spent in God’s Word and in prayer, helping to establish a bond that not only keeps players in tune with the Lord but also



makes them accountable to one another.

“Iron sharpens iron, and I know I’m a better person because of the way Nate lives his life.” Grilli says. “Our time is extremely valuable and extremely limited, but to know that we’re taking the time-that hour we spend together-is really important, and I always look forward to it.”

As much as Robertson has grown in his walk with the Lord, he understands that he must continue to turn to God, now that his baseball life is firmly on track. With success, he realized that more people will want to be around him, giving him even more chances to demonstrate Christ’s presence through the way he lives.

Winning has also allowed Robertson to take stock internally, providing him with some perspective of how the Lord has seen him through the twists and turns of his career, allowing him to find joy in his perseverance, not knowing what he may again need to endure.

“Every night I thank God for everything,” Robertson says. “There’s an appreciation there, but I’m always on guard about allowing God’s blessings to turn into something that could destroy me. What I have is His...but I’m one bad decision away from turning what God has given me into something bad. So I’m always on guard to make sure I don’t do that.”

Praise be to God. The Tigers are winning again and so is God through the testimony of one of his own. It’s God time now!

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Wit, Wisdom & Wackiness...

Imagine if Bible stories were written for tabloid newspapers....

THE FALL OF A GIANT

Goliath Killed in World Championship Fight

**World Champion Goliath was
spectacularly defeated yesterday,
by a young shepherd boy.**

David (17), a shepherd and part-time harpist, accepted the challenge from the nine-foot-tall Philistine, fighting in the colors of Gath.

"I'm very pleased," said David. "In fact the hardest thing about the contest was picking up his sword to hack his head off after he was dead.

"I wasn't afraid. After all, I've fought lions! The trick was to think of him as a big lion, standing up."

"It's amazing," said our single combat correspondent, Harry Ben Carpenter. "We thought Goliath was invincible. I mean, the guy could crack walnuts with his eyelids. Even his muscles had muscles."

Sling

Even more amazing, David went into the fight wearing no armor and carrying nothing more than a sling.

"He'd clearly done his homework," said Harry. "After all, you couldn't hope to slug it out face to face. For a

start you'd need a ladder just to see Goliath's face. No, the answer was to be mobile, quick, and hit on the run."

Cheese

David was certainly an unexpected contender. He only heard about the fight when he came to the camp to deliver some cheese.

"The Philistines made unsubstantiated drug allegations," confirmed on official, "so we've had the cheese tested. It tasted very nice on a cracker."

Monster

Above all, people are praising David for his heroic faith.

"It took a lot of guts for the boy to go out there and face this monster," Harry said.

"Especially when you consider that Goliath was previously undefeated. I mean, never mind bite somebody's ear - this guy would bite your whole head off. But David never seemed to think he could lose."

Adam Names the Animals

**Adam has been given the
responsibility of naming
the beasts in the new
world.**

"It's a big job," said Adam. "Especially the insects. The trouble is they won't keep still."

Names being considered include Elephant, Camel, Simpson's Gazelle, and Norman.

So far all I've managed is cat, dog, and you irritating little swine. Although I think flea may be the preferred choice for the last one."

Reunited!

Brothers Make Up After Years Apart

Twenty years after leaving Canaan, Jacob was reunited with his brother Esau. Old feuds were forgotten, as Esau rushed forward to meet his brother and threw his arms around Jacob's neck.

"For a moment we thought he was going to strangle him, but it turned out to be a hug," said one relieved onlooker.

*These stories courtesy of **The
Tabloid Bible** by Nick Page -
published by Westminster John
Knox Press*



The American Baptists
will celebrate 100 years
of ministry at the Biennial
Meeting in Washington DC

Calling all graduates.
Call the church or e-mail the office if
you are graduating this spring.
E-mail fbcnorwich@sbcglobal.net
Phone: 860-889-0369

Pastor does guest spot on WICH

Art Mueller invited Pastor Lord to do a guest spot on WICH radio on Good Friday and he jumped at the opportunity. "I've always thought it would be fun to be a radio host," the Pastor told a friend.

After hearing him on WICH his friend shot back, "Don't give up your day job!"

Actually the on air interview was used to discuss the Ecumenical Way of the Cross and the meaning of Good Friday and the Easter observances for Christians around the world.



The Pastor had his second stint on the radio in recent months. In January he was on WINY out of Putnam and last month he was on WICH.

The talk radio host also brought up the Pastor's weekly newspaper columns, discussed the nature of ecumenical relations in the country today and the difference between the Jewish Passover and the celebration of the Eucharist.

While on the air, the Pastor even handled a couple of calls from listeners. He had a blast.

The First Baptist Church
239 West Main Street
Norwich, CT 06360
Vol. 22, No. 14

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 May 2007 Issue
Volume 22 Number 14, 2007
First Baptist Church of Norwich
239 West Main Street, Norwich, CT 06360
Phone: 860-889-0369
web address: www.fbcnorwich.org
e-mail: 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.

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Amy Hollis, Student Pastor
Adele DiBiagio Cofer,
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