

The Ambassador

News
and Views
From the Hill



November 2010

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



Constructed with the Love of Jesus!



Kathy Spielman was one of 15 volunteers that participated in the Baptist Build on Saturday, October 30, 2010. The group worked on the Fuentes Home on Cape Ann Street in New London. They sanded, painted, laid down a floor and did some landscaping. Cynthia Strouse even stopped by with some goodies to keep the crew motivated.

More news inside:

Including photos of many of our activities over the last month.

To get an ongoing and fun report of happenings at FBC check out First Baptist Life at www.firstbaptistlife.blogspot.com



Worship
10:30 -
11:45 am

Join Us As We Worship This Fall

Upcoming Sermons and Scripture Readings in November.

November 7, 2010

Communion Sunday

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:1-10

Sermon: "Living The Good Life"

November 14, 2010

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:14-19

Sermon: "Are We Supposed To Share?"

November 21, 2010

Thanksgiving Sunday

Scripture Reading: Acts 3:1-10

Sermon: "It Doesn't Add Up, Does It?"

Advent Begins

November 28, 2010

First Sunday of Advent

Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon: "Not Just Another Decoration"

Ministry Helpers in November

As Ushers & Greeters

- Nov. 7 - G. Strouse, K. Barber, Z. Earle, M. Kane
- Nov. 14 - F. Royce, C. Brockway, N. & G. Schuster
- Nov. 21 - H. Calkins, L. McFalls, B. & P. Adams
- Nov. 28 - G. Strouse, K. Barber, Z. Earle, M. Kane

As Counters

- Nov. 7 - June Deptulski & George Strouse
- Nov. 14 - Bob Walker & Bob Sullivan
- Nov. 21 - Nancy Allen
- Nov. 28 - Mary Brockway & Ray Deptulski

As Nursery Volunteers

- Nov. 7 - Kristen Deptulski & Chelsey Calkins
- Nov. 14 - Kelly Bolin & Ellis VanNiekerk
- Nov. 21 - Bonnie Ambruso & Fran Rogers
- Nov. 28 - Sandra Lucien & Jesley Souvenance



As Worship Assistants

- Nov. 14 - Nancy Allen
- Nov. 21 - Lori Lord
- Nov. 28 - Lee McFalls



Adventures in



Thanksgiving

Worship With Thankful Hearts.

Join us for worship in November as we give thanks to God for the blessings we enjoy in our lives, in our church, and in our wider community.

We will also look ahead and lift up our hopes and dreams for the future. Come be part of the experience this month.

If you haven't received your "Adventures in Thanksgiving" Wish booklet, please pick one up at church or call 860-889-0369 and we will send one to you. We are looking for your wishes concerning future ministry programs, building issues and mission outreach efforts. These will be the focus of our energy and resources in the coming months.

Celebrating the Lord's Supper as Family



On November 7 we will gather to observe the tradition known as Communion or the Lord's Supper. Have you ever wondered what it is and where it started? We talk about it in membership classes but assume that most others know all about it. Well here is the short version of why we celebrate each month.

Most Baptist churches celebrates communion services as one of its two acts of faith-obedience. We often call this an "ordinance" rather than a "sacrament" for we believe you cannot receive salvation or grace through communion. Instead, these are purely symbolic acts that were commanded of Christ's followers by Jesus Himself.

It is patterned after the Last Supper, which was recorded in the Gospels as a celebration of the Passover and a remembrance of God's grace and mercy. At the end of the celebration we hear Jesus say to "do this in remembrance of me." With this in mind, participants in communion break and eat bread and drink a small "shot of wine." These items are symbolic of the body and the blood of Jesus, respectively. They remind us that his body was broken as the payment for our sin. His blood was shed to ink the new covenant of grace and eternal life.

Traditionally, Baptists serve communion to participants wherever they are seated. However, each individual church decides how communion is arranged, because the arrangement itself has no theological significance. More important than seating or arrangement is the communion itself. Bread cubes, wafers or small crackers are passed around on plates to those who wish to participate in communion. Of course, it is also acceptable to do the "breaking of bread" from loaves. In some churches they use "unleavened bread" which reminds us of its origins in the Passover seder.

The cup is filled with grape juice. However, the Gospel passages only mention the "fruit of the vine." Usually small individual cups are used to represent the "cup." A "common cup" that the entire congregation drinks from can be used, but it is usually reserved for small gatherings for practical reasons.

Most of the time, both the bread and the wine are served by the pastor to the deacons. The deacons then serve the congregation, followed by the pastor. Once the entire congregation has been served, everyone takes the elements at the same time. This symbolizes unity.

Finally most of the time communion takes place during a regular worship service and is taken by those who have been baptized as a reminder of what Christ has done for them. Of course, as Baptist we always reserve the right to follow the Spirit's lead.

Concrete Love: The Baptist Build in New London



We worked on the Fuentes home on Cape Ann Court in New London. It was a refurbishing project that ended up being an extreme makeover.



Marc Vaillancourt had a "power tool."



Cynthia Strouse brought the "goodies."



Rachelle Batter & her friend, Emily, learned how to put down a floor.

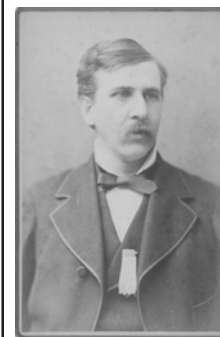


Peter and Betsey Adams learned a skill they could use at home. Painting hard wood doors!



Great-grandson of our former pastor drops in.

C. C. Frost was the man who had big dreams. He was called to serve the First Baptist Church in 1879. He came on the heels of a revival that saw the church grow and reach out in a way that it hadn't done since its beginning.



He was part of the group that decided that we needed a new building that intersected the growing population on the main street of the West Side.

In 1880 the church began work on our building here on the corner of West Main Street and Fairmount Street. Rev. C. C. Frost left in 1882 shortly after the sanctuary was dedicated. In his three years he had done as much as any Pastor in our history to insure the long term viability of our First Baptist Church. He gave us a vision for big things.

Last month Rev. Frost's great-grandson, Thomas Dodge, dropped in to see if we could give him any information on his great grandfather. We had a nice visit and I gave him a tour of the building. He is currently working in Boston and works for Arbor commercial Mortgage Company.

Remember to Set Your Clocks Back One hour on November 7th at 2:00 a.m.



The Norwich Area Clergy Association and Norwich Churches Together invites you to the Thanksgiving Interfaith Service Thursday, November 18, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.



THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Central Baptist Church Fellowship will follow the Service

The Annual Festival of Choirs

Sunday, November 14

7:00 p.m.

at St. Marks' Lutheran Church
Washington Street



Come join us and enjoy the music of the City's most prominent churches as they come together to sing God's praises. It is always a great night out.

Slow Down and Join us at our 45 MPH Services



Join us on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. for a series of messages based upon the Gospel of John. Each week we enjoy some special music, a time of prayer and a word of hope as we slow down to spend a little time with the Lord.

Youth Group Trip to Galaxy Roller Rink

Friday, November 5
7:00 - 11:00 p.m.



Invite your friends

Camp Wightman Workday

November 13, 2010

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Lunch will be provided.



Come bring your skills to Camp! Our trails need upkeep as do our buildings! Any questions or concerns call Karen at 860-376-2179 ext. 10

Thanksgiving Sunday November 21, 2010



Join us as we give thanks and offer up our wish lists, our pledge cards and our time and talents to the Lord.



Roast Beef Dinner

ROAST BEEF DINNER

NOVEMBER 20

4:00 - 6:30 P.M.



AT CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

ADVANCE SALE & RESERVATIONS
\$10.00

AT THE DOOR
\$12.00

Bob Duntz had double by-pass surgery at Yale New Haven Hospital last month and is heading to a rehabilitation facility soon. Lift him up in prayer... Jane Seder suffered a broken leg and ended up having emergency surgery. She is doing her rehab at Bridebrook in East Lyme... Charlie Rogoff spent time in the hospital last week but is home and getting better now. Think of him in your prayers... Luis Pabon had a little scare but he is back on track now. Continue to think of him in your prayers... Penny Sargent continues her treatments. We pray God will give her the strength to face each one... Alison Beit had surgery last month and was told not to talk for a week. We pray that she can do it and that everything heals up well... Roger Lambert is recovering from his recent surgery. He's hobbling along. Think of him... Nellie Calderon is undergoing therapy for a couple of slipped disks. Keep her in prayer... Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Jenna Smith. She passed away last Saturday night and services were held this week... We continue to lift up Steve Ohlund in our prayers. He has had a few reoccurring dizzy spells... Think of Penny Sargent in your prayers as we pray for strength as she continues her treatments... Elaine Buchowiecki and Amy Rezendes have both been battling bad colds and flu like symptoms. Think of them... We think of Cheryl Dimmock in our prayers as she works with the doctors to solve a few problems she has been having... We think of Frank Roderick as he continues his treatments too...



We think of our men and women in the military. In particular we think of Nicholas Muyres, Brian Grillo, Tim and Aaron Rogers and Danny Moriarty. We pray that God will keep them safe and bless their families as they watch and wait for them to return home...

We lift up members of our extended family who are in need of prayer. They include, Mark Roger's mom, Pam Kane's dad, Doris Adams, sister, brother and niece, Ray Deptulski's mom, Fred Green's dad, and June Deptulski's mom .

In our continuing prayers we lift up James and Shirley Murray, Nancy Oat, Barbara Hayes, Robert Ellal, Ken Taylor, Lois Lopez, Doris Regets, Michelle Lord, Jim Roellig, Robert Ellal, and Jean Roscoe.

People News...

Joe Jensen is heading to Florida this month to attend classes. He is excited and ready for the next chapter in his life. He graduated from Norwich Tech last June... Congratulations to Anita Maxim and



Michael Morey who were married last month on October 23rd... Chris and Kate Canada and the girls are moving into their new home this week. Think of them as they get settled in... Shawn Rucker is in the cast of the newest play at the spirit of

Broadway Theater and it is a big hit. Check it out and root Shawn on. It is called "Once Upon A Time in Atlantic City..." Ray & June Deptulski spent a week in Florida and enjoyed the record hot weather while we were complaining about the first frost... We've had a baby boom in the wider FBC family. We rejoice with Hillary and Lee McFalls as they welcomed Cameron and Logan into the family last month. The boys were born on October 10, about a month early. Everyone was healthy and they came home before the end of the month... Congrats to



Mikel and Michelle Brockway on the birth of their first child, Mikel Jr. (to the left with dad) on October 15... Ryan and Michelle (Royce) Williams also welcomed a little one into the family. Kay Royce

Williams was born on October 28 and grandpa, David Royce, couldn't keep his eyes off of her. It's his and Mary's first grandchild... Wendy and Ray Henry and the kids are now attending Park Congregational Church. We wish them our best...



Elizabeth Isenburg has been invited to be a member of The American Antiquarian Society. She and her husband, Matthew, just returned from The Annual Symposium of The Daguerreian Society at The Atlanta History Center. He is retiring as Chairman of The Board as of January 1st, 2011.... Congratulations to both April Rezendes and Lisa Lapointe who qualified, in separate races, to run in the Boston Marathon next spring. Great job ladies! Rev. Richard Strong has retired from his position as Pastor of the Winthrop Baptist Church. We congratulate him and Elizabeth on their service... Rachel Lord will be heading to Riesa Germany on November 28 to compete with the USA Tap Dance Team in the IDO World Tap Dance Championships. Her dad is excited. He gets to go too.

We will welcome Robert Phillips into our membership on November 7 during morning worship. He has jumped right in and become an active part of our fellowship. He is singing in the choir and attending worship and Bible studies. Robert is a graduate of Gordon Conwell Seminary and hopes to be ordained in the coming year.



Awareness

Debbie and Rebecca Ingoglia will be participating in a Shak-A-Thon for Habitat For Humanity up at Eastern Connecticut State University on November 10. They will be sleeping out in cardboard boxes overnight to raise awareness of homelessness. They are also raising money for Habitat. They are hoping to raise \$5,000 because it will be matched by a local business. If you would like to help, speak to Peter, Debbie or the Pastor...



25 Thanksgiving Baskets Are Being Collected

Here's what we need:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 25 turkeys | 25 lbs. of margarine |
| 25 cans of green beans | 25 doz. eggs |
| 25 cans of corn | 25 jars of gravy |
| 25 cans of cranberry sauce | 25 boxes of cereal |
| 25 loaves of bread | 50 cans of soup |
| 25 5lb bags of potatoes | 25 frozen pies |
| 25 boxes of stuffing mix | 50 boxes of macaroni & cheese |
| 50 cans of tuna | |
| 25 packages of dinner rolls | |



Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Your generosity will make someone's week a very thankful one. The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the chapel.

Join Us As We Recognize Our Veterans on Sunday, November 7

Youth Group Meets on November 21 at 3:00 p.m.



YOUTH GROUP

Invite your Friends

Come help us put our Thanksgiving Baskets together and then hand them out to people in our community.



Hanging of the Greens



Saturday, November 27th
Come help us decorate the church and get ready for the season of Advent and Christmas!



Watch the weekly bulletins and our church web site for time.

Join us for the fun. Dessert & Coffee...

**The Pageant...
Santa Claus...**

**All on one special day
Sunday,
December 12
at 6:00 p.m.**

This year we are looking for the kids to bring in bottles of shampoo, bar soap, or tubes of toothpaste.



**Join Us
On Christmas Sunday
December 19, 2010
10:30 am**

Lots of music, Great message, Bring a friend!

Join Us On Christmas Eve!



We will have two wonderful services filled with music, to choose from on Christmas Eve this year.

The early service at 7:00 pm is geared more toward the family and will feature some special music and short message by the pastor.

The late night service will be shorter and feature more carols, and this service will begin at 11:30 p.m. and end just after midnight, as we break in to Christmas morning.

Make plans now to come to one service or both. They will contribute to your Christmas Joy!



New address directories are available now. Please look for one at church or call the office if you would like to receive one in the mail.

www.fbcnorwich.org

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



Old Dogs

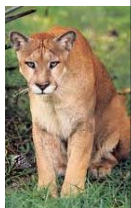


One day an old German Shepherd starts chasing rabbits and before long, discovers that he's lost.

Wandering about, he notices a panther heading rapidly in his direction with the intention of having lunch.

The old German Shepherd thinks, "Oh, oh! I'm in trouble now!" Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the panther is about to leap, the old German Shepherd exclaims loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious panther! I wonder, if there are any more around here?"

Hearing this, the young panther halts his attack in mid-strike, a look of terror comes over him and he slinks away into the trees. "Whew!" says the panther, "that was close! That old German Shepherd nearly had me!"



Meanwhile, a squirrel who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the panther. So, off he goes.

The squirrel soon catches up with the panther, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the panther.

The young panther is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here, squirrel, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!"

Now, the old German Shepherd sees the panther coming with the squirrel on his back and thinks, "What am I am going to do now?" but instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet, and just when they get close enough to hear, the old German Shepherd says...

"Where's that squirrel? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another panther!"

Moral of this story...

Don't mess with the old dogs. Age and skill will always overcome youth and treachery! Baloney and brilliance only come with age and experience.

- Submitted by former Pastor, Rev. Orice Gracey

The Power of an Encouraging Word

A study was done by psychologist Henry H. Goddard on energy levels in children. He hooked children up to a device called an ergograph to see how they would respond to the words of others. He found that when tired children were given a word of praise or commendation, the ergograph showed they experienced an immediate surge in energy. But when the children were criticized or discouraged, the device showed their energy took a sudden nosedive.

Never underestimate the power of an encouraging word.

God's love for us gives us the reason to encourage others.

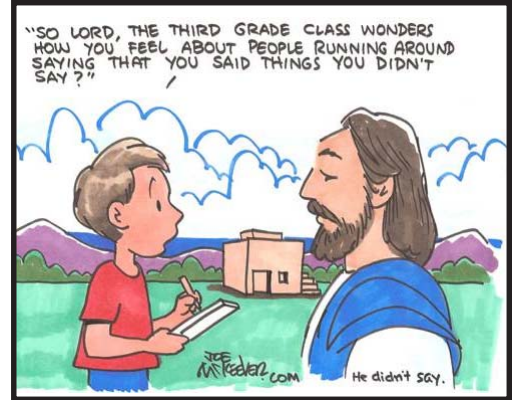
God's love in us gives us the ability to encourage others.

God's love through us gives us the way to encourage others.?

John Maxwell

"...Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

- Philippians 3:13-14



A parapsodokian is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to re-frame or reinterpret the first part. It is frequently used for humorous or dramatic effect.

I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way. So I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness.

I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather. Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening,' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. My desk is a work station.

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand at the pool and throw them fish.

A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.

Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says "In an emergency, notify:" I put "A DOCTOR."

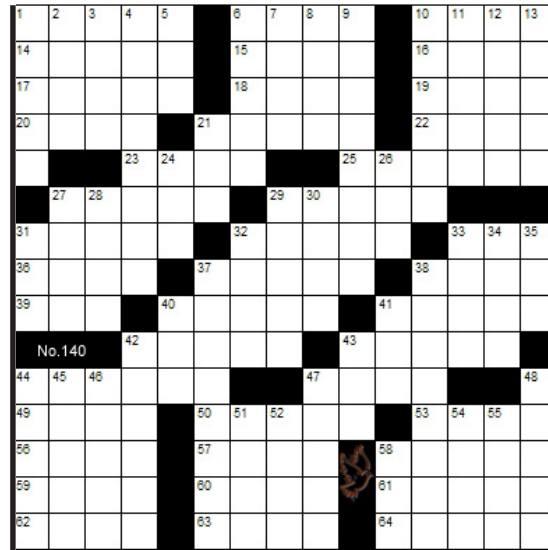
Church People by Franko



I feel like I get blamed for everything I do these days, Dad!

ACROSS

1. ten ___ of vineyard shall yield one bath (Isa 5:10) KJV
6. Wilt thou not ___ us what thou meanest by these? (Ezek 37:18) KJV
10. Moses brought their ___ before the LORD (Num 27:5)
14. At midday you will ___ about like a blind man in the dark (Deut 28:29)
15. Like a lion I will devour them; a wild animal will ___ them (Hos 13:8)
16. Every grain offering baked in an ___ or cooked (Lev 7:9)
17. Whosoever sins ye ___, they are remitted (John 20:23) KJV
18. Men at ___ have contempt for misfortune (Job 12:5)
19. Ascribe to the ___ the glory due his name (Ps 29:2)
20. female sheep (Gen 33:13)
21. ye shall be able to quench all the fiery ___ of the wicked (Eph 6:16) KJV
22. Jesus replied. "Do this and you will ___." (Luke 10:28)
23. a man who ___ him ten thousand talents (Matt 18:24)
25. The men of Rhodes ___ with you (Ezek 27:15)
27. for God did not ___ her with wisdom (Job 39:17)
29. A ___ who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain (Prov 28:3)
31. The ___ who lives among you will rise above you (Deut 28:43)
32. God's judgment against those who do such things is ___ on truth (Rom 2:2)
33. ___ love and faithfulness never leave you (Prov 3:3)
36. holy offerings in pots, caldrons and ___ (2 Chr 35:13)
37. as a guilt offering to be ___ to make atonement (Lev 14:21)
38. Get rid of all bitterness, ___ and anger (Eph 4:31)
39. Blessed are ___ merciful: for they shall obtain mercy (Matt 5:7)
40. clothed in purple and fine linen, and ___ sumptuously (Luke 16:19)
41. a King who will ___ wisely and do what is just (Jer 23:5)
42. Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is ___ (Mark 16:6)
43. by the roes, and by the ___ of the field (Song 3:5) KJV
44. No man, having put his hand to the ___, and looking back (Luke 9:62) KJV
47. They sound like the roaring sea as they ___ on their horses (Jer 6:23)
49. those who ___ against me use my name as a curse (Ps 102:8)
50. the ___ shall wait for me, and the ships of



- Tarshish (Isa 60:9) KJV
53. Instruct a ___ man and he will be wiser still (Prov 9:9)
56. keep away from every brother who is ___ and does not (2 Thess 3:6)
57. Evening, morning and ___ I cry out in distress (Ps 55:17)
58. the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the ___ that shrank (Gen 32:32) KJV
59. Then will the lame leap like a ___ (Isa 35:6)
60. I ___ half of my possessions to the poor (Luke 19:8)
61. "When you ___ a house, first say, Peace to this house (Luke 10:5)
62. From the ___ of the earth I call to you (Ps 61:2)
63. Cain, who was of that wicked one, and ___ his brother (1 John 3:12) KJV
64. O LORD, heal me, for my bones are in ___ (Ps 6:2)

DOWN

1. But neither so did their witness ___ together (Mark 14:59)
2. Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock ___ (John 18:27) KJV
3. testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in ___ (Acts 23:11)
4. a series of related events
5. he shall ___ engines of war against thy walls (Ezek 26:9) KJV
6. he took his eldest son that should have reigned in his ___ (2 Kings 3:27) KJV
7. My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted ___ and rejoice (Ps 34:2)
8. saw his star in the ___ and have come to worship him (Matt 2:2)
9. a man ___ with him till daybreak (Gen 32:24)
10. There shall be a woven edge like a ___ around this (Ex 28:32)
11. But ___ foolish controversies and genealogies

- (Titus 3:9)
12. Worship the Lord your God, and ___ him only (Matt 4:10)
13. So he ___ their days in futility (Ps 78:33)
21. because of you the heavens have withheld their ___ (Hag 1:10)
24. And Esther ___ the favor of everyone who saw her (Est 2:15)
26. or goat hair, ram skins dyed ___ (Exod 35:23)
27. Hoshea the son of ___ made a conspiracy against Pekah (2 King 15:30)
28. "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other ___ (Luke 17:17)
29. he sent forth a ___, which went forth to and fro (Gen 8:7)
30. Show me the coin ___ for paying the tax (Matt 22:19)
31. A man finds joy in giving an ___ reply (Prov 15:23)
32. he tore the lion apart with his ___ hands (Judg 14:12)
33. they ___ their hands on him, and took him (Mark 14:46)
34. They hatch the ___ of vipers and spin a spider's web (Isa 59:5)
35. forty kine, and ___ bulls, twenty she asses (Gen 32:15) KJV
37. a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial ___ (Heb 9:10)
38. but be transformed by the ___ of your mind (Rom 12:2)
40. "Rabbi, look! The ___ tree you cursed has withered!" (Mark 11:21)
41. I will ___ evil beasts out of the land (Lev 26:6)
42. Then one of the synagogue ___, named Jairus, came (Mark 5:22)
43. in the shadow of ___ hand He hid me (Isa 49:2)
44. I know thy ___, and the naughtiness (1 Sam 17:28) KJV
45. He brought out Israel, ___ with silver and gold (Ps 105:37)
46. one loaf of bread, and one cake of ___ bread (Ex 29:23) KJV
47. they will ___ the ruined cities that have been devastated (Isa 61:4)
48. whom the king my father brought out of ___ (Dan 5:13) KJV
51. It sprang up quickly, because the ___ was shallow (Matt 13:5)
52. Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and ___ (Ps 25:6)
54. Go ___ all the world and preach the good news (Mark 16:15)
55. filled with awe and said, "We have ___ remarkable things (Luke 5:26)
58. As Jesus walked beside the ___ of Galilee (Mark 1:16)



We Are Looking for Mission Mississippi Team Members



On Sunday, October 16 we met after church with representatives from both Central and First Baptist Church to talk about our plans for a 2011 mission trip. We decided earlier that we would not return to Mexicali this year while Rick and Mercy Barnes were on home assignment. We do hope to send a gift to El Buen Samaritano though.

We talked about heading west to work with some of our Native American partners or heading south to work with others who are still working to rebuild on the Gulf Coast after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

At our meeting Melanie Schueurmann reported that we did not have much success in locating a place needing our help out west. Every phone call produced a dead end. On a positive note she did manage to find a great program sponsored by the United Methodists that is co-ordinating efforts to rebuild homes in Louisiana. So we voted to work with them.

We will be heading to Slidell, Louisiana between August 9th -16th to work on the Epworth Project. This program works in conjunction with the Northshore Disaster Recovery Inc to provide spiritual, emotional and physical resources to those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Projects include carpentry, cabinetry, framing, insulation, drywall hanging, flooring, plumbing and roofing.

The group will fly down to New Orleans and drive 30 minutes to Slidell to a dorm facility where it will be housed for the week. We will be cooking our own meals and be responsible for our own transportation. More information on the Mission work and the project can be found at www.epworthministries.com. There is also a facebook page at Project Noah.

We have limited the group to 20 participants between the ages of 14 years and up. We estimate the total cost per person will be about \$750 per person. There will be fundraisers to help offset the cost for the trip, including our annual Pasta Dinner and Auction tentatively scheduled for February 5 at Central Baptist.

Deposits of \$100 will be needed by January 12 to secure your spot. All spots are on a first come, first served spot so get your deposit in early to insure your participation.

We have three meetings scheduled for participants from now through the beginning of the year. The dates are Nov 16, December 14 and January 12.

Please pass the word to other potential team members. This should be another great experience for those whom God has called to go with us.



Kathy Spielman and her friend, Tom, cooked up a wonderful meal for the Community Luncheon on October 17. They were aided by Mark and Donna Salomon in the kitchen, Amanda Duntz and Jake Shanks, Amy Rezendes and Rosie Rakowicz in the dining room.



As Part of our "Adventures in Thanksgiving" Stewardship campaign we asked members of the church to write down their wishes for our church on big tablets at our Brunch on October 24th. Here is a few of the things that were listed:

- Under Mission:
- * More Outreach to our own community
 - * More help to Haiti
 - * Support Erica with her clothing mission
 - * Support amanda with her housing mission
 - * Provide financial seminars so people can be good stewards
 - * More local mission trips

- Under Ministry:
- * Active Youth Ministry & Minister (Awana)
 - * Prayer & Fasting initiatives
 - * More adult functions/activities
 - * Movie nights with Christian themes
 - * More altar calls
 - * A bass player for band
 - * Visiting elderly
 - * More after service luncheons (pot lucks)

Please fill out your wish booklet and get it back to church to echo these thoughts or to add others.

- Under Maintainance:
- * More janitorial hours
 - * New kitchen
 - * New furnace
 - * New carpet in back entrance
 - * New lighting in fellowship hall
 - * Fix parking lot



Border Reflections

By Rick and Mercy Barnes

“And they say it's dangerous in Mexico”

As you may know, Mercy and I are on US/ Puerto Rico assignment this year. As we travel to different places to talk about our ministry, we are asked many questions. A recurring one is “how dangerous is it in Mexico?”



Joshua at Memorial Fence

Because of all of the media coverage of the terrible violence happening in Mexico, there is a tendency to think that Mexico is a very dangerous place. Well, parts of Mexico are dangerous. There are areas that are suffering terribly right now. Fortunately where we serve in Mexicali, we have never felt any sense of danger. As I joke with the Short Term Mission groups that visit us, "If you are looking for trouble, I can help you find it. Otherwise things will be fine."

There is a tendency to think that once we are in the United States, that we are automatically safer. There is a sense of orderliness and stability here that can lead to this thinking. And then something reminds us that is just may not be so. For us, it was an alarming phone call two weeks ago from Joshua's school telling us that there was a tragedy involving the "school community," and that the children would be bringing home information. An hour after that call, we got a personal call from the school telling us that Joshua's teacher had been shot and killed on her way to work.

As it turned out, the teacher had become a victim of domestic violence. She was shot and murdered by her husband/partner who then proceeded to commit suicide, all this in the presence of their ten year old son. Fortunately, the boy was not injured physically.

The whole city of El Centro has been dealing with this for a couple of weeks now. There was a very large funeral for

the teacher. There have been memorials made by the kids at the school fence. And the outpouring of support has been amazing. But one point must be underscored... "it can happen here."

And that leads to another point. This land, our country, needs to see hope. Mercy and I were commissioned by you and like minded brothers and sisters in Christ to proclaim the Gospel. We were invited to partner with a convention in Mexico to help them in planting churches, so that Good News could be extended to more and more places. And we have seen examples of Good News that has indeed transformed individuals and families and neighborhoods.

But as the Good News is being proclaimed in places like Mexico, we are reminded that this land, our country, needs to see hope. When it becomes common to hear of another domestic violence incident that leaves a family and a community shattered, we need to see hope.

We have all been called by God to be agents of transformation in our world. Some pack up and head to Mexico to do this. Some go into the ghettos. And some do it from their rocking chairs as they love children they have "adopted" to give stressed-out moms and dads a hand. There are myriad ways to do this. But two weeks ago, we were reminded that mission is for all of us, because each part of our world needs to see hope, and we are the ones called to do it.

May God encourage you as you act on the call God has given us, and may we all be the aroma of life in a world that truly needs that transforming scent.

Rick.

The Annual Coat Giveaway



November 13
in Columbus
Park

November 20
at Oakwood
Knoll

Drop your clean,
gently used coats
off at church.

10 a.m. -Noon

For more information or to help, contact
Erica at 860-705-9957 or
edouble00@comcast.net

No Sew Blankets are a Hit



Since we started giving our “no sew” blankets away to those who have hospital stays we have received many “thank yous.”

One person noted that every time they wrapped themselves in the blanket they felt surrounded by the love and prayers of their church family.

We have more material at church if you would like to make a blanket and bring it back here so we can share it with someone in their time of need. Just check with Sandy in the church office.

Christ Episcopal Church is the distribution site for Angel Food Ministries. This is ministry helps families expand their buying power by ordering food in bulk quantities. A typical box will typically save a family of four an average of \$15 or more. Call 860-886-9075 or go to the website at www.cecnorwichct.org

Would you like to become a mission partner with Rick and Mercy Barnes in Mexico? We are looking for 12 families who will give a gift of \$50 to directly support the ministry in Northern Mexico. Your gift will help Mercy and Rick continue the great work they are doing. Speak to the Pastor if you want to accept the challenge and take a month in the coming year.



The Date or Not Date Debate

Ask ten committed Christians their philosophy on dating, and you're likely to get ten different answers. I've lost track of the current trend among Christians. Should we encourage our teens to "kiss dating goodbye" or "give dating a chance?" There is, however, one thing that all ten of those Christians likely would agree on: Our culture's model of dating is not a healthy model for Christians. First of all, dating as we know it from our teen years is all but obsolete. Ask a sampling of high school or college girls how many official dates they have, and you're likely to find that few will need more than one hand to count them up. It's sad but true. So what are boys and girls doing if they aren't dating? Hooking up for one. Talk about a win/win for the guys. Girls pay their way; guys get their way, no strings attached.

Of course, as a woman, you know better. There are always emotional consequences for the girls. Whether a girl admits it or not, she wants to think she is important enough to merit a guy working up his nerve to ask her out, pick her up, pay her way, and hopefully, call her the next week. Girls were not wired for casual hookups.

Perhaps, the courtship (i.e. anti-dating) movement among Christians in the late 1990s was a response to the growing trend of hook-up that was all too common. The antidating movement produced happy endings for some and disillusionment for others. At the time of the courtship wave, I was in ministry for college students, speaking to many groups across the country. I cannot tell you how many sharp, wonderful, Christian young men approached me with sad tales of how they had nobly attempted to ask their Christian sisters out on dates only to suffer harsh rejection. Some were even scolded for having the nerve to even think such a thing was possible. They would practically beg me to address the issue among the girls. On the other hand, courtship seemed extreme to me, but as a mother of soon-to-be teens at the time, I

could certainly see its merits. However, as time wore on, the movement died down. It didn't prove to have staying power among the majority of Christian teens and singles. My guess is that it became clear to many that the odds of finding a suitor who embraced the same radical courtship ideals were highly unlikely. In Texas, we call this "slim pickin's." While a noble goal, girls who adhere strictly to courtship and the idea of waiting for a guy to jump through all the necessary hoops required by this model may find themselves waiting indefinitely. Likely, the only way courtship would work is if the environment in which the boy and girl are raised lends itself to such a model.

"Hanging out" now also appears to be popular among teens and is my personal favorite choice for my own sons. So important is this concept of hanging out in groups of friends to my husband and me that we added a game room into our house when my son entered high school. When it was complete, we announced, "This is the hangout, and your friends are

always welcome here." It has been a huge hit, not to mention a safe gathering place for my kids and their friends. While my son has had a few inconsequential girl relationships along the way, the majority of his high school years have been spent

hanging out with his group of friends - both guys and girls.

While it is my preference that my own teenage kids hang out in groups, I am not opposed to them "going out" on occasion. Several years ago I held the position that they would not be allowed to go out. As they got older, I realized that if handled properly with boundaries in place, the going-out experience can actually be a great training ground when it comes to future serious relationships.

Let me stress that this is what my husband and I have determined works best for our family. It may not be a good model in your home. In the end you will have to decide what is best for your child.



Even so, I believe it is important to avoid being too extreme in your approach.

I had many lofty ideals on this subject when my children were younger. I even passed judgment on parents who allowed their teens to go out and silently branded them weak-willed. Once my own kids reached an age where they expressed a desire to go out, God began to show me in my prayer time that my position on dating had more to do with my own fears that my children might make some of the same mistakes I had made in dating. Once I allowed God to minister to my fears, I began to reevaluate my position. I recognized that with the proper boundaries and training in place, going out could provide my teenager with some experiences better learned and better dealt with while under my roof and supervision.

Again, this is the system my husband and I feel works best in our home. God may lead you and your husband to have an entirely different position based on your teenagers' unique temperaments and levels of maturity. The most important thing is that you come up with a system that both you and your husband agree upon effectively communicate to your teenagers. Without a system in place, they will, by default, embrace the world's model of dating.

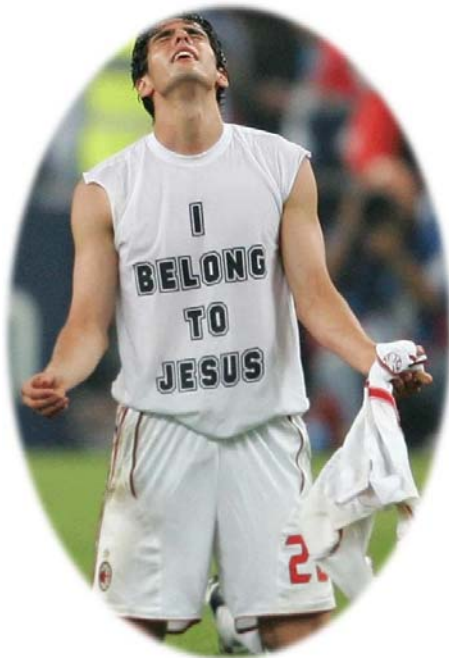
Vicki Courtney is the best-selling author of Teen Virtue, a national speaker, and founder of Virtuous Reality Ministries. A former agnostic and feminist, she professed faith in God during college. Vicki lives in Austin, Texas, with her husband and three children.

Excerpted from Your Boy: Raising a Godly Son in an Ungodly World (Broadman & Holman Publishers). Copyright © 2006 by Vicki Courtney. Used with permission. All rights reserved.



I Have The Gift and Capacity To Play Soccer Because God Gave It To Me.

How many of us can boldly proclaim, “I BELONG TO JESUS”?



Kaka, a very popular mid-fielder who plays soccer in Brazil makes that claim. Here is his testimony.

When I was eight, I moved to Sao Paulo, Brazil (from Cuiaba, Brazil) where I began to play soccer (football). I have always loved to play soccer.

I played on the Junior Team for Sao Paulo in 2000. We were in the middle of the Paulista Junior Championships when I received a yellow card. I was suspended for the following game, so I took advantage of the free weekend to visit my grandparents, who lived in Caldas Novas at the time.

My brother, my parents, my grandparents and I went to a water park. As I was coming down one of the slides into the pool, I hit my head on the bottom of the pool and my neck snapped. I fractured the sixth vertebra in my neck. At the time, I had no idea what happened.

I came out of the pool with a strong headache, and my brother who had come down the slide right after me, asked me what happened. I told him I hit my head on the bottom of the pool. He saw that I was

bleeding and convinced me to go to the first-aid center. From there, we went to the hospital where they took an x-ray of my neck. According to the x-ray, everything looked fine. I got a few stitches in my head and that was that.

I returned to Sao Paulo to train on Monday, as well as on Tuesday, all the while with a broken neck. On Tuesday, I called the coach and the physical trainer and told them that I couldn't bear the pain any longer. They sent me to see a doctor at the hospital where they took another x-ray. It was in this x-ray that the fracture in the sixth vertebra was shown. Everyone, including the doctors, told me I was very lucky that nothing more serious happened. They told me that I could have become paralyzed and lost my ability to walk and to play soccer. I believe it was not luck. I believe God was protecting me during that time from anything more serious.

Many people think that I became a Christian after the accident, but that is not true. My parents are Christians and they raised me with biblical values. The accident happened in October of 2000 while I was playing in the “base” position on the Sao Paulo junior team. Throughout November and December, I had to wear a cervical collar and could not play.

I began to play again in January of 2001, and after about 10 or 15 days, I was called to play for the Sao Paulo professional team. Because of this, I believe God had a purpose in that accident. It is something that happened just before I had the great blessing of starring as a professional in Sao Paulo and initiating my career as a professional soccer player.

As I said before, my parents always taught me the Bible and its values, and also about Jesus Christ and faith. I did not have a specific conversion experience, but

little by little, I stopped simply hearing people talk about the Jesus my parents taught me [about], and there came a time when I wanted to live my own experiences with God. One of these experiences with God was when I was baptized at the age of 12. This was a very important step in my walk with Jesus and soon after many things began to happen in my life where I could experience God in a real way.

I need Jesus every day of my life. Jesus tells me in the Bible that without Him I can't do anything. I have the gift and capacity today to play soccer because God gave it to me. The day He wants me to do something else, I will do that something else and this is why I need Jesus in my life every day. I am successful in my financial life and in my professional life, but all this has come from God and is a gift of grace from Him for my life. All that I have, I thank Him for.

The difference Jesus makes in my life is that I know I will always have victory, I will always have joy, and I will always have success. This is independent of the situations I face or will face. This brings me great peace.

I tell the people who ask, that the Bible is like the user's manual that comes when you buy a product. It has everything we need in it. It makes me happy to read the Bible every day, to study it and to be in fellowship with God and learn more and more about Jesus.

I will win many matches and I will lose many matches, but I know that in all of them, God has a plan. This is why I try to understand the plan of God for me in each moment so that I can have peace during times of pressure.

Everyone wants to be a winner, but for me, the true meaning of winning is having Jesus in my life. It is a life of prayer, a life of intimacy and a lifelong friendship, knowing that God is our Father. I can say



ABCCONN Mission Trip to Haiti 2011

“Witnessing in the Way of Jesus”

Where: Deux Croix, Haiti

When: February 19-26, 2011

Cost: \$1250.00 (approximate)

Leaders: ABCCONN President, Jim Meek
and retired pastor, Bill Huegel

Preparation Meetings: Tuesday evenings, 7:00 p.m. Oct.
5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1

The group will be working with The Rev. Joseph Voltaire, Pastor of the 14th Street Baptist Church in Cap Haitian, Haiti. The work will involve helping to restore the Baptist Camp at Deux Croix, and may involve putting a metal roof on the two wings of the Chapel, repairing damaged walls, building/restoring the latrines and some general



cleanup of the site. No particular skill is required. You just need a willing heart and servant attitude.

If interested you may contact:
Billie Lanz or Mary Williams at
(860) 521-5421 or email Bill
Huegel (billhuegel66@gmail.com) or Jim Meek
(james.meek@yale.edu) This is a great opportunity
to meet new friends and to do some meaningful
work for the Lord.

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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.