

The Ambassador

News

and Views

From the Hill



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

October 2005

Rally Day Marks The Start Of Another Year of Fun and Inspiration at FBC



Worship



Dr. Cal Lord is preaching a series of sermons entitled, "Portraits of Jesus"

October 2, 2005

Communion Sunday

Scripture: John 6:22-35

Sermon: "*Jesus Is The Bread Of Life*"

October 9, 2005

Guest Preacher

Reverend Frank Murdock

Scripture: Job 42:7, 19:25-27, 26:14, 2:10B and Luke 11:2-4

Sermon: "*The Honor Of God*"

October 16, 2005

Scripture: Psalm 23

Sermon: "*Jesus Is the Good Shephard*"

October 23, 2005

Scripture: Ephesians 6:12-17

Sermon: "*Jesus Is The Mighty Warrior*"

October 30, 2005

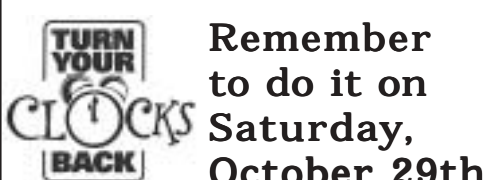
Scripture: John 9:1-11

Sermon: "*Jesus Is The Light of the World*"

Upcoming Sermons in this series will include the following:

"Jesus, A Vine You Can Cling To"

"Jesus, The Savior of All"



Remember to do it on Saturday, October 29th

Pastor Lord Issues Bible Challenge on Rally Day!

As we gathered to celebrate the work of the Sunday School on September 11, the Pastor issued a challenge to the congregation. He lifted up his Bible and asked everyone to make a commitment to read the four Gospels between now and Easter.

Pastor Lord had just finished preaching about Jesus as the Word of God. He said, "If you really want to know God, then you need to know the Word."

Over fifty people signed cards saying they would join him and read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John this winter.

After the service he was heard telling someone that it really breaks down to just three or four chapters a week. He also encouraged others to read it even if they didn't sign a card.

Next March we will install a bulletin board with the names of all of our members and friends who met the challenge and celebrate the fact as we approach Easter.

It is not too late if anyone who



wasn't there wanted to join in the challenge. As of this weekend, we are up to Matthew 10-12. So far we have read about Jesus birth and the appearance of the star to the Wise Men. We have seen Jesus' family flee to Egypt and return to Nazareth. We read about

John the Baptist's ministry and witness to Christ through his baptism. We saw Jesus tempted by the devil and emerge victorious. We read about the beginning of his ministry and his calling of the first disciples.

The highlight of these first few chapters was the Sermon on the Mount where we learn so much about what God really expects of us. In the last few chapters we watched Jesus in action as he healed the sick and prepared his disciples to go out and minister in his name.

Finally, in chapter 12 Jesus talks about himself, who he is and what he was called to do.

It is great reading! We have extra Bibles available at church if you need one. Ask the Pastor or Oliver Bray for one.

Walk With Us Through the Gospel of Mark in Wednesday Night Worship Services This Fall

On Wednesday nights we offer a mid week worship service each week at 7:00 p.m. that features contemporary music and a time of prayer.

The preaching has always



been timely but this Fall we are walking through the book of Mark and exploring the life of Jesus up close through the eyes of this young companion of Peter.

We dive into a new chapter every week so you can come as you are able. You will be glad you did.

Looking Back

"Turning Point" Was A Highlight Of September

As the young people took the platform and began to sing, it was easy to see that they loved what they were doing. As they spoke, it became clear that they loved the Lord.

On Sunday, September 18 members of "Turning Point," a gospel choir from Eastern University in St. David's PA presented the message through their music in our worship service.

The fourteen kids arrived the night before and enjoyed a dinner at Olde Tymes with Cliff and Sue Vanase, the Pastor, his daughter Rachel.

In the morning the youth were at the church early and ready to lead as worship began.

a picnic at the parsonage and had a chance to relax, watch a little football or catch up on homework.



They returned to Church at 4:00 p.m. to sing for the Fall Inspirational Meeting of the SUNL Association.

A lovely dinner was prepared for them and the

rest of our guests by Karen Barber, Cynthia and Dick Strouse, Ken Taylor and Don Walberg. It was a great day.

After church the group enjoyed

rest of our guests by Karen Barber, Cynthia and Dick Strouse, Ken Taylor and Don Walberg. It was a great day. Special thanks to the Brockway and Vanase families for hosting the kids.

Sports Recognition Sunday Completes 2004-2005 Season

It seemed appropriate that a no name team (Team #6) should walk away with the Bowling Trophy this summer. Their captain and team leader was being named to the Sports Ministry Hall of Fame in a special worship service on September 25. Ken Kreger finished the year with a 199 average to lead the league. But over the years he has set some pretty amazing marks, including high average for a season (209), three of the top four series (763, 720 & 715) second and third highest series with handicap (781 & 768). He has also bowled on four championship teams and served as the League President the last three years. He bowled this year with Nancy

Schuster, Mark Pelletier and Gary Arzamarski and won a roll-off against Harry Calkins team, the All Kins.

Lori Lord took top woman bowler honors this year with a 150 average and a high game (204) and high series (557).

The Softball team recognized Fred Green Sr. as the MVP for a team that started strong but hiccupped to an 8-12 record. The Most Improved Player was Dave Mehlinger, the

Eleventh Player was Casey Rezendes and the best defensive player was Mike Staron.

Mark Ferguson was inducted into the Sports Ministry Hall of Fame with his lifetime batting average of .649 and on base percentage



Wesley Murphy and the Pastor

of .700. Although he wasn't present to receive the award, the Pastor noted his outstanding contribution on the field and his leadership and encouragement on the team as a player and manager.

We also recognized a third member of the Sports Ministry Hall of Fame coming out of our basketball program. Wesley Murphy was a dominant force on the court as a two time MVP and all star. He was also an example to the rest of his teammates of what Christ could do for you.



The Pastor and Ken Kreger.

Ministry To Youth

Why Your Kids Should Attend Sunday School and Youth Group

The world we live in is becoming more and more secularized. As a result there is less talk about god at school, at work and in all aspects of public life. Our children are growing up in a world that thinks God is irrelevant.

The one place where God is talked about, studied and invited to be a part of our children's lives is in the church. In Sunday School the kids study the Bible and learn about the heroes of our faith. They learn the Bible stories of Abraham, David, Joseph and Jesus. Values are taught and God's hope for their lives is shared with them. We start that



at an early age and continue right up through High School.

In our youth ministry we take it a step farther and talk about the issues facing the kids. We pray and play with them and give them a place to ask tough questions.

So why aren't your kids taking advantage of this? Let us be a resource to you as parents. Take advantage of our youth programs.

Sunday School Verse
of the Month

God demonstrates his
own love for us in this:
While we were still
sinners, Christ died
for us.

Romans 5:8



"WE DON'T REFER TO A BOUNTIFUL
COLLECTION AS HITTING THE
JACKPOT."

Transforming Power

Did you know that many current leaders among Connecticut Baptists grew up at Camp Wightman? We have both clergy and lay leaders in our churches who attended camp as children, worked at Camp as teenagers, and still volunteer as adults. A large part of a successful camping and retreat program consists of great facilities. The addition to the Raff Dining Hall will offer greater flexibility and more options for leaders who are touching lives in many faithful ways.

If you would like to get involved, make a pledge or one time contribution, ask your Pastor, or visit one of our websites.

The Campaign for ABCCONN and Camp Wightman

The foundation is in and the steel beams are in place. The walls are going up this week



The People Page



Les Main passed away on Sunday, September 25. A nice funeral service followed that week. Our prayers are with Rosie and the family... Ruth White, our oldest member at 95 years old, passed away on September 27th. Ruth was a sister-in-law to Edith Robinson... We lift up Kay and Jim Lautzenheiser on the passing of Jim's mom... We continue to remember Elaine Buchowiecki in our prayers. Bob passed away the first week of August...



We think of Barbara Bray who had surgery this week... We lift up Michelle Lord, the Pastor's mother, who began her radiation treatments this week... We think of Myra Christensen as she had surgery this week... We remember Lori Lord and Bob Duntz's mom, Beverly Duntz in prayer as she continues her chemo treatments... We lift up Doris Royce, Edith Robinson, Doris Regets, Steve and Jean Roscoe in our continuing prayers...

Ken Taylor will be joining the church in the coming month. We lift him up in prayer... We pray for those still displaced by the hurricanes along the Gulf Coast...



"I DON'T CARE IF YOU DIDN'T LIKE THE SERMON—YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR YOUR MONEY BACK."

Sandy Stone Is New Administrative Assistant

Sandy Stone accepted the opening in the Church office last month and will be working with the Pastor. She is in the office most weeks from 9 - noon Monday - Thursday.



Our College Students

We think of our college students as they gear up for mid-term exams. They include, Jon Vanase, Bethany Brown, April Rezendes, Adam Barber, Becky Lord, Cassie Kane, Lindsey Adams, Emily Dutra, Carl Soderberg, Allison Walberg, Casey Rezendes, Jaclyn Vanase, Tara Wolinski, Amanda Brown, Kristina Howe and Mark Kane. Parents, we are looking for addresses so we can send care packages again. Please e-mail the pastor with them or drop them off in the office

Heating Concerns Are On Our Minds

Everyone is talking about the rising oil prices this year. No one likes it. We are all coming up with strategies to minimize the pain. The same is true for us here at church. The Budget Committee met last month and figured that even with some efforts to conserve, we will be facing a \$5,000 increase in our budget just for this one line item.

As we talked about this, the Committee decided to put it out there for you and tell you what we are going to do. Then you can give us your added suggestions.



*First, we are going to be more diligent with setting the thermostats to go down when the building is not in use.

*Second, we are going to try and shut the building down a few nights a week by holding meetings and events at peoples homes or on specific nights.

*Third, we suggest wearing a sweater or light jacket to worship on Sundays during the heating season, in case it is a degree or two cooler.

*Fourth, we are asking everyone to consider this concern when making a pledge to the ministry in our fall campaign.

*Fifth, We are setting up a special account to accept special donations earmarked for heating oil. If you have been blessed and you want to share an above and beyond offering, just note it on your check.

There is no doubt in our minds that we will get through this if we work together.

The Church Web Page will be update by Tuesday, October 11. Check out the pictures and surf through the links at www.fbcnorwich.org. You can also see this newsletter in full color.



Upcoming Events

Quarterly Meeting Set To Look For God's Leading

On October 16 we will meet after to worship to look back on the year and begin to look ahead at where we are going. We will hear reports including insights from the Pastor's sabbatical.

We will also talk about the effects that higher heating costs will have on our ministry this winter and ways in which we can minimize their impact.

There will also be one item under new business. A motion will be made "to empower the moderator to appoint a committee to meet with representative of Central Baptist Church to explore our common mission and investigate ways we can share in mutual ministries."



Rev. Frank Murdock Will Preach on Columbus Day

While the Pastor in Pennsylvania for the Rezendes' wedding, Rev. Frank Murdock will be in the pulpit. Rev. Murdock is a retired American Baptist living in southeastern Connecticut. He grew up in Ithaca, New York and has pastored congregations in nearby Essex, CT and in New York State. Frank is currently an active layleader at the Noank Baptist Church.

Choir Looking For Cantata Singers



The choir is considering performing a Cantata during worship on Sunday, December 18. Anyone interested in singing in this special musical performance should speak to our choir director, Adele Cofer. Rehearsals would most likely be on Tuesday nights from 6:30 -7:30 p.m.

Choir Festival Set for November 13

Mark your calendar so you can be with us for the annual Choir Festival. It will be at United Congregational Church at 7:00 p.m. It is always one of the highlights of the year.

A Mazeing Trip Planned for Youth

Kids from third to eighth grade are invited to go on a trip to the Preston Corn Maze on Sunday, October 16th after worship. We'll have pizza and then head out to the field for fun and adventure.



Collecting for Hurricane Katrina Continues

We are still accepting offering for the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. To date, our congregation has



given over \$850 to the cause through the One Great Hour of Sharing. To make a donation, place your check (made out to First Baptist) or cash in an envelope marked Hurricane relief.

ABCCONN Offers Christian Education Fair

Have you ever wished that you could attend a workshop on Christian Parenting? How about sitting in on a question and answer session what it is like to go on a mission trip?



On Saturday, October 22 the Annual Education Fair will be held in Bridgeport from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. The Pastor is going if you would like to ride along.

Sample workshops include:

Powering Up : Focuses on Christian parenting skills including building self esteem and social confidence. Stresses the importance of setting goals.

A New Model for Sunday School: This workshop explores the educational theories behind a creative new approach to doing Sunday School. The "Rotation Model" offers interactive and stimulating activities that leave children wanting to come back.

Kingdom Cafe - One church shares how they developed a fellowship/evangelistic gathering for youth through worship, music, games and preaching.

Short Term Mission Trips - One church shares the joy they discovered journeying to other parts of the world for a brief time to build, share faith, learn worship and grow. This is a nuts and bolts "how to do it" workshop for those interested in making it happen.

Combatting Drugs, Alcohol, Media and Internet Dangers - Real, Christ centered solutions will be offered to fight against these insidious evils that confront our children today.

Check the church bulletin board for other offerings.

In Mission

Kimberly Jo Brown Reaches Out To Thailand With Love



Kim's work includes overseeing five Christ-like ministries for tribal people who are coping with the problems caused by AIDS, disabilities, and migration from their traditional villages to urban slums. Lack of land and employment has forced people from rural areas to cities to find work. They are often exploited on the job, and are at risk for being infected with the AIDS virus.

The Thailand Karen Baptist Convention sponsors these ministries. The Health Project for Tribal People, an AIDS education and home care program, provides AIDS and health education in five tribal languages. Teams travel to villages, supporting families and churches as they minister to those living with AIDS.

The House of Love is a home for women and children affected by AIDS. This includes women who had been sold into prostitution, AIDS orphans, and children taken out of their homes by the Social Welfare Department because of abuse. Many of the residents do not have Thai citizenship and have few rights in Thailand.

The Community-Based Rehabilitation Project reaches out to families who are caring for disabled in tribal villages. The disabled are often hidden away. This project is designed to help the disabled reach their full potential and be accepted within their families and communities.

The House of Blessing Day Care Center provides a safe place for slum children to come during the day. It prepares children to enter Thai schools, and also works to strengthen their families. The Chiang Mai Tribal Youth Center works with youth as they migrate to the city and with churches ministering to tribal people living in urban areas.



Population: 61,798,000 (2001 est.)
Size: 198,115 square miles, 513,115 square kilometers, or about the size of Texas
Location: Southeast Asia surrounded by Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia and the Gulf of Thailand
Ethnic groups: Thai 75%, Chinese 14%
Languages: Thai (official), English, Lao, Chinese, Malay
Religions: Buddhism (state religion); Islam; .5% Christian



A special ed student at Kim's school

Alberto, age fourteen, struggles with learning and has one more chance to pass sixth grade. Rejected by four schools before enrolling at Centro Pedagogico Didaque, an outreach of Mount Horeb Baptist Church in Tijuana, Mexico, Alberto has had a chaotic home life and major discipline problems.

At first, Alberto scoffed at the special classes offered by the Mount Horeb school. But now he recognizes his own progress and wants to continue his studies-and prepare for the government exams that will allow him to move on to middle school. Through his own initiative, he has applied to the govern-



ment for a bicycle so that he can ride to school from his home, some distance away. And he now dreams of studying to become an electrician. Special needs children and youth like Alberto, from the poor and growing barrios on the outskirts of Tijuana, are finding hope for a better life through the individual attention and education they receive at Centro Pedagogico Didaque.

Your sacrificial gift to the WORLD MISSION OFFERING will help support American Baptist ministries like this one that reach out to children like Alberto. Envelopes are available at church.

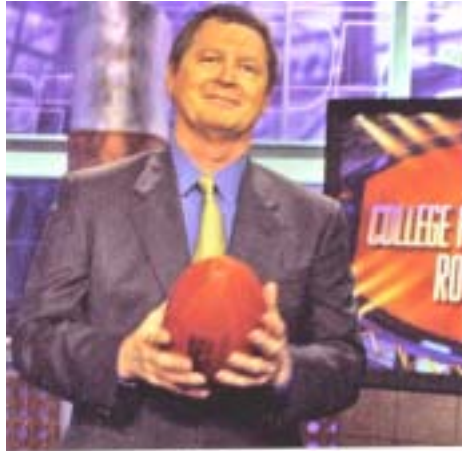
A Powerful Witness

From Fatherless To Father Figure

When Mike Gottfried looks into the eyes of a fatherless boy, he sees a slightly dimmed light that carves a path deep into the soul. He understands the hidden pain, the self-doubt and the lack of confidence that never goes away. Gottfried knows exactly how the fatherless boy feels because when he looks into his eyes, it's like he's peering through a portal into his own past.

Gottfried was just 11 years old when his father died. He latched on to several father figures throughout his life including an uncle and various coaches. That guidance helped him stay out of trouble and eventually led to a successful career as a college football coach. His professional stops included the University of Cincinnati and Pittsburgh University. In 1990, he moved to the broadcast booth as a college football color analyst for ESPN.

Born and raised in Ohio, Gottfried and his wife, Mickey, now reside in Mobile, Ala. During the off-season, Mickey noticed that there were several boys in the community who didn't have active fathers in their lives. She began to encourage her husband to spend time with some of these kids. Gottfried admits that at first he was resistant to the idea. But deep inside, he knew it was something he needed to do. "You need men speaking into



ESPN Analyst Mike Gottfried encourages men to mentor youth.

these boys' lives," Gottfried says. "They want to be told what to do. They want to be affirmed. They need that attention and affection. If they don't get it from a male figure, they're going to get it through drugs, through sex or through gangs."

In 1999, Gottfried helped organize the inaugural GMAC Bowl in Mobile. The sponsor found itself \$20,000 in the black at the end of the day. Gottfried approached GMAC about using that money to help his start Team Focus, a nonprofit organization designed to impact the lives of fatherless boys. They agreed, and in the summer of 2000, the first Team Focus Leadership Camp was held in Mobile. Since then, the camp has expanded to eight locations across the country and has

increased its impact from 60 to 600 boys. Gottfried and his staff provide the campers with practical advice on teamwork, manners, job-interview skills, schoolwork, house chores, even tying a necktie. Ultimately, their mission is to see the boys "walking in the destiny God has planned for them."

Gottfried has trouble narrowing the success stories down to a manageable handful, but an 11-year-old boy from north Little Rock, Ark., does come to mind. Bre'lon Jackson's father has been out of his life as long as he can remember. He struggled with his grades and his self-confidence. But that all changed in 2004 when Jackson attended his first Team Focus Leadership Camp.

"I used to think I was alone," Jackson says. "But now because I came to this camp, I know I'm not alone; there are people who have the same problems as me."

Gottfried is also going to churches to encourage Christian men to combat the negative effects of an increasingly fatherless society. He says, "In football, you win games one play at a time. I know that we're going to win this battle one boy at a time."

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Thank You To SBC Community Connections Partners

Since joining with SBC Communications five years ago, we have received almost \$400 in free money. Last quarter alone we received a check for 27.00 because 11 people signed up in the program.

If you have SBC (formerly SNET) local and all distance telephone service you can sign up for the program. Our ID number is 2978. Once you enroll, the church will receive 5% of the total

SBC All distance billing on your account. It really is like free money. So thank you!

Current enrollees include; Chris & Rachelle Weimer, Rosie Main, Doris Royce, Jeannine Pestey, George & Lois Strouse, Mark & Fran Rogers, Ray & June Deptulski, Roland and Sheryl Widstrom, Nancy and Gary Schuster, Cal & Lori Lord and Judy Vickers

Sunday School Classes Are Meeting Every Week.



Can you find yourself in this picture? Come join the fun as we learn all about Jesus. There is a class for you, even if you happen to have a little gray hair.

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Sunday School Classes 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Mid Week Worship & Prayer Service
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Clayton A. Lord, Jr., Pastor
Adele DiBiagio Cofer,
Organist & Choir Director
Sandy Stone, Administrative Assistant
June Pendleton, Harry & Doris Calkins are the
Production Assistants.