

# 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

September 2005

## Singing For Jesus



*Invite your friends.  
This will be great!*

Turning Point, the dynamic contemporary gospel choir from Eastern University in St. David's PA will lead worship on Sunday, September 18 at 10:30 a.m. and host a concert at First Baptist at 4:00 p.m.

A free will offering will be taken for the group's ministry.

# Worship



*Dr. Cal Lord is back and he will be preaching a series of sermons this fall entitled, "Portraits of Jesus"*

## **September 4, 2005**

*Communion Sunday*

*Scripture: John 1:1-15*

*Sermon: "In Jesus, The Word Became Flesh"*

## **September 11, 2005**

**Worship returns to 10:30 a.m.**

*Rally Day and the Celebration of Sunday School Opening*

*Scripture: Matthew 5:17-48*

*Sermon: "Jesus, The Perfect Teacher"*

## **September 18 2005**

**Special Guest Artists:**

*Turning Point from Eastern University in St. David's, PA*

*Scripture: Psalm 150*

*"A Message in Song"*

## **September 25, 2005**

**Sports Recognition Sunday**

*Come celebrate our Outreach ministries*

*Scripture: Mark 2:10-11*

*Sermon: "Jesus, The Good Physician"*

*Upcoming Sermons in this series will include the following:*

*"Jesus, The Bread of Life"*

*"Jesus, The Good Shepherd"*

*"Jesus, The Mighty Warrior"*

*"Jesus, The Light of the World"*

*"Jesus, A Vine You Can Cling To"*

*"Jesus, The Savior of All"*

## **He's Back!**



Pastor Cal Lord returned from his sabbatical all fired up and ready to get back to work on Sunday, August 28. During his ten week work break he attended worship conferences in New York City, Chicago and Denver, took in a Tigers game in Detroit, watched his girls compete in a National Dance Competition in New Jersey, visited his parents in Elizabethtown, Kentucky,

enjoyed the ABCUSA Biennial Meeting in Denver, traveled to Miss America's first ever Teen Pageant in Orlando, Florida with Sarah and the rest of the family and finished things off with a trip to the American Baptist Assembly in Green Lake, Wisconsin for the National Ministers Council Senate Meeting. Something good must have happened to him because he came back sporting "Moses like" facial hair.

Plans are already to make this a spiritually rewarding fall at church. We hope you will join us in September as we seek to grow together in our walk with Christ. Pastor Lord will be preaching a series of messages this fall entitled, "Portraits of Jesus."

## **The Gospel of Mark Will Be Focus of Wednesday Night Sermons This Fall**

We have just added another reason to attend our mid week worship services this fall. Each Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. we will journey through the Gospel of Mark and walk with Jesus and his disciples.

This will be a perfect opportunity for those looking for to study the Bible with others.



The Gospel of Mark was the first of the four to be written and scholars believe it began circulating around 55 AD. Come on Wednesday nights and you will learn much more about this fascinating book.

The sermon series in Mark begins next week, Wednesday, September 14 and all are welcome.

*Wednesday nights are also a time of prayer. If you have a prayer request but cannot make the service, please call and leave it on the answering machine at church (889-0369.)*

# Looking Back

## Summer Attendance Was Light But Spirit Was Good

During the Pastor's sabbatical we heard several preachers and enjoyed each one's style.

On June 19 John Fear was in the pulpit. His grandfather, Walter Schoepfer, was the pastor at First Baptist Church from 1957 – 1967 and John showed us that he had the same gift his grandfather did. We also got to see his mom, Muriel Roderick, give the children's sermon.



Rev. Burt Crooks was in the pulpit on June 26 and July 3. Many people commented on his pastoral style and they could see how his church family from South Congregational/First Baptist New Britain came to love him.

Rev. Dr. Vaughn Foster a Plainfield, New Jersey native, and former pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Trenton, New Jersey was with us on July 10 and 24. Vaughn's engaging evangelistic style really touched those who were in attendance.



On July 17 Jim Bober, the brother of our own, June Deptulski, took the pulpit and also presided over the infant dedication service for his nephew's family. Joe and Crystal brought Joseph Contois III before the Lord for his blessing.

Active at the Harvest Light Christian Center in North Windham, Jim is an Elder of the Church and is in the process of seeking ordination.

On July 31 and August 7, Rev. Earl Henrichon was with us. A graduate of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Earl knows his Bible. That became clear in his moving messages in his time with us. We also were delighted to have his wife, Angie share her talents with us during the services.

Our own Kay Lautzenheiser finished off our summer guest appearances on August 14 and 21. Kay brought her enthusiastic style into the pulpit and led us in a hymn sing one week and encouraged us to live out our faith the next.

Our average attendance during the summer was 57 this summer compared to 81 in 2004.



## Jonathan Vanase Receives 2005 Church Scholarship

Jon Vanase, a Senior at UCONN, received the 2005 First Baptist Church Scholarship. Jon received a modest \$300 check to help defray his expenses at school. He will finish with his degree in engineering this fall.

Kay Lautzenheiser presented Jon with a check during the service on August 14. Jon is the fourth person to receive the award. Previous winners include Adam Barber, Jennifer Kane and Lindsay Adams.

## We Said Good Bye To Sandy Callender In The Office

It hardly seems possible that Sandy Callender was about to celebrate her second anniversary as our Administrative Assistant this month. Sandy started in late September of 2003 and immediately began to bless us.



As her family situation changed over the last few months, Sandy had to make some difficult decisions. An opportunity arose for her to head back to the midwest for a month and then to take up residence closer to her son and daughter on the west coast. Trusting God's leading, she took it and said her good byes.

Sandy was an artist and poet at heart and her influence was felt in our newsletters and also in the subtle changes taking place in the chapel area. We wish her all the best as she begins her new adventure.

## Painting Was Begun on Front Entry

A small group of volunteers began working on our front entry this summer. They scraped the overhangs and started to prep the area for painting this fall. Brian Goldin is looking for volunteers to help complete the project this fall. It will require some power washing, a bit more scraping, some minor carpentry and painting.



# Our Ministry



You are invited to our Quarterly Meeting in fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 25 following worship. Soup and sandwiches will be served and a free will offering collected.

Hear reports from Boards and Committees and look ahead to the plans for coming year. All members and friends are invited to stay for the meeting.



## Invite a Friend

Invite a friend to worship this fall. Everyone knows that the most effective way for a church to grow is through friendship evangelism. People go places where their friends go. Do you sing in the choir? Then invite a friend to come to rehearsals with you. Do your kids go to Sunday School or Youth Group? Tell your kids to invite their friends to come with them and offer to give them a ride. Do you enjoy the Pastor's preaching? Then tell your friends and invite them to sit with you on Sunday mornings. You have nothing to lose but an opportunity to have a friend say "thank you."



Is God calling you to be baptized or to join the church?

Speak to the Pastor.

# Rally Day 2005

Let's Have a Party!  
We Are Going To Start The Year Off Right.  
We want you in the picture.  
Join Us At Sunday School This Year.



Registration,  
Meet the teachers,  
Goodies & more

Sunday, September 11, 2005  
9:15 a.m.



Junior and Senior High Youth Groups Will Take on the Ropes Course at Camp Wightman. Invite Your Friends! September 25 @ 1:00

*Dear Friends,*

*I cannot thank you enough for the great gift you gave me and my family this summer when you agreed to a sabbatical leave.. The time off was well spent in study and prayer. We were also able to live a dream through Sarah's experience in the Miss America program. The cash gift made it possible for the whole family to go to Florida with Sarah. We even managed to get some time in with Mickey and his friends. Thank you!*

*Sarah, Rachel and I also were able to visit my parents and brother Chris and his family in Kentucky and that was real nice.*

*The time off afforded me the opportunity to recharge my batteries and I am looking forward to this fall. So thanks again. You have been a blessing to us all and your generosity touched our hearts.*

*Cal*



Sarah when she was crowned Connecticut's Outstanding Teen and to the right she's with Miss America, Dierdra Downs, in Orlando.

# In Mission



## Here Are Five Ways You Can Help In The Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina

1. You can make a monetary donation through our church. Mark the envelope (if cash) or put OSHS-Katrina in the memo line (if check) and put it in the weekly offering plate. 100% of all money given will be distributed through the American Baptist relief agencies and go to the areas affected. ABCUSA immediately released 10,000 to provide health kits and emergency assistance. You can also go to the ABCUSA web site to get updates. The web site is <http://www.nationalministries.org/katrina/index.cfm>

2. Do you want to volunteer as a member of a relief team? Calvary Chapel in Oakdale is set up to help you. They are sending teams of men and women, skilled and unskilled to serve. Airfare is all that is required. Next available team leaves Sunday, September 18 and returns Saturday, September 24. A second team leaves Sunday, September 25 and returns on Saturday, October 1. More information is on their website: <http://www.willinghearts.org/> or you can call their church office 860-848-7400.



*Members of the relief team gather for prayer.*



3. United Community Services is going to send two or more trucks down to the area filled with bottled water, diapers, baby formula, paper towels and all kinds of supplies. Check the Norwich Bulletin for more details on exact times.

4. Call the American Red Cross. They will accept donations of cash, supplies and can help you find ways to volunteer.

5. This Sunday, September 11 at 6:00 p.m., the Leffingwell Baptist Church will be meeting to finalize plans on making their mission's house available to a displaced family from hurricane Katrina. Their commitment will be for at least 6 months to a year. If you want to get involved, you can partner with them in sharing some of the financial responsibility that will be on them once a family arrives. Call Rev. Gary Poorman for more info.

No matter what you decide to do, add a good measure of prayer. Pray for those affected by the storm and its devastation. Pray for those who mourn the loss of loved one. Pray for FEMA and other government workers who are trying to help. Pray that our elected officials will keep their eyes on their goal and find creative ways to fund and assist the efforts. Pray for the thousands of volunteers from area churches and helping agencies that are giving themselves to the call to aid.

## American Baptists Respond

An advance team from American Baptist Churches of Nebraska left Omaha on Sunday, Sept. 4, headed for American Baptist churches in the flooded Gulf Coast area. Following a prayer service in a church parking lot, the team was sent in a van filled with hygiene supplies, T-shirts, packaged underwear and baby formula.

At the first stop, New Sunlight Baptist Church in Lake Charles, La., the team found churches serving 300 meals, three times daily, totaling about \$250 per day. One of the next vans from Omaha will transport perishable food supplies and volunteers to this site.

On Tuesday, Sept. 6, the van arrived in Baton Rouge, La., where the team said they found a "nightmarish" scene: public buildings have become evacuee centers and homeless people are roaming the streets. Among supplies the van carried was a baby formula that requires special ordering — it was delivered to a family the team found in desperate need of it.

Two American Baptist Churches, Greater Mt. Carmel Baptist Church and Greater New Guide, are the next stops in Baton Rouge, and other American Baptist churches and community groups will meet with the team there. Information they gather will assist National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA, in assessing the priority needs of the hurricane-stricken region to activate the most appropriate relief efforts. The advance team's mission resulted from an urgent e-mail that Executive Minister The Rev. Susan Gillies sent Friday, Sept. 2 — twelve church representatives came together in less than two hours to discuss the region's response. One church brought \$1,000 to the meeting to supply the van with gas. Other churches issued an immediate request for donations to buy gas for subsequent vans carrying relief teams and supplies.

# The Sports Page

## Ken Kreger Leads Team # 6 To 2005 Holy Roller Championship

Ken Kreger finished the season with a 199 average and led Team #6 to the Holy Rollers League Championship with a thrilling victory in the last game of the summer. Faced with a must win situation, the second place All Kin team, led by Harry Calkins, surged to a virtual tie by winning the first two games in a head to head last week show down. In the final game Ken pulled out all the stops and carried his team to victory.

Joining Ken in the "winners circle" this year were Nancy Sederquest, Rev. Mark Pillettier and Gary Arzamarski. The second place team included Harry, his sister Polly Rolfe, sister-in-law Carol Calkins and nephew, Joel Fishkin.

The top woman bowler this year was Lori Lord who had a 150 average and took the awards for high game (204), high series (557), high series with handicap (698). Newcomer Chip Welch set a league record with his 288 game and also set a new league high with a 784 series with handicap.

League Vice President Carrie Thompson organized a wonderful banquet at Uncle D's Log Cabin in Lebanon to close out the year. In all we had eight teams from six different churches and we hope to grow the league next year.



## FBC Softball Finishes Year at 8-12

This year's softball team started with a bang and could never quite hang onto the magic. One bad inning seemed to be their downfall. Led by Chip Chaffee and Fred Green Sr., the guys scored a lot of runs but their porous defense often gave them right back. Co-managers Brian Goldin and Ken Kreger scrambled down the



stretch to have enough players to fill out the line-up card which also hurt. Other team leaders included Mike Staron who had 11 doubles and a .741 on base percentage and Armin Harris with 25 RBI and 30 runs scored. Awards will be given out on Sports Recognition Sunday, September 25.

## Three To Enter Sports Ministry Hall of Fame

**Mark Ferguson, James Murphy & Ken Kreger Get Call to FBC Hall of Fame on September 25**

Mark Ferguson holds a lifetime batting average of .649 and on base percentage of .700. He was the MVP in 1999 and a runner up for the award in 2000. He also helped manage the team in 2002 & 2003. Mark was an excellent hitter and team leader and a deserved member of Hall of Fame honors.

Wesley James Murphy was the MVP of 2004 B Division Championship team and leading scorer. He led the squad to a perfect 11-0 record in his second season. In his first year he teamed up with Joe Jensen to form a pretty good one two punch. He was the team's top scorer and aa Church League All Star.

Ken Kreger is the current League President and a three time bowling champion. He holds the all time best season average of 209 and the record for High Series (763), which he set this year. He also holds the third (720) and fourth (715) best series too.

Join us as we celebrate with these three newest members of our Sports Ministry Hall of Fame on September 25.

## Rev. Lord to Be Honored by Norwich Church Softball League

Rev. Cal Lord will be one of five Hall of Fame Honorees at this year's Church Softball League Banquet on Saturday, September 24 at 6:00 p.m. at the K of C Hall in Taftville. Other inductees include Lee Southworth from St. Patrick, Neil & Jon Brown of Sts Peter and Paul and Chris Coughlin of Taftville Congregational Church. Tickets for the event are \$15.00 per person or \$25.00 a couple. Reservations can be made by calling Bill Sullivan at 889-1834.

# How Will You Get Involved This Fall?

Welcome back! We are gearing up for a great year of ministry at First Baptist. We need your help to make that happen. There are plenty of opportunities for you to get involved in our ministry this fall. Here are a few of them.

**1. You can join the choir and help sing God's praises.**

Our choir members help lead worship each week and set the tone for our weekly services. It's a lot of fun too!

**Choir rehearses on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m.**



**2. You can help out at youth group meetings.** We have three youth groups and Kay is looking for adult supervision at meetings. The kids may even let you play some of the games, like "fruit basket" with them.

**Youth Groups usually meet on Sunday afternoon or evenings**

**3. You can tackle a work project inside or outside the Church building.** Brian Goldin and the Property Committee have identified several projects that need to be done. They include painting the front porches and overhangs, trimming the shrubs and clearing the overgrowth, patching some walls and ceilings and the list goes on.

**Contact Brian or the church office to see what needs doing.**

**4. Take a turn helping out in the Nursery.**

We are always looking for volunteers to watch our toddlers during church services. This gives our parents a break and allows them to be fed spiritually.

**Nursery hours run from 10:40 to 11:45 a.m. each week.**

**5. You can volunteer to pick up children for Sunday School.** We are looking for a volunteers who can chauffeur kids to and from Sunday School.

**The First Baptist Church  
239 West Main Street  
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**Dated Material**

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First Baptist Church of Norwich  
239 West Main Street, Norwich, CT 06360  
Phone: 860-889-0369  
web address: [www.fbcnorwich.org](http://www.fbcnorwich.org)  
e-mail: [fbcnorwich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fbcnorwich@sbcglobal.net)

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  
Harry & Doris Calkins are the Production Assistants.