

The Beacon

FEBRUARY 25, 2009

11:00A.M. WORSHIP

9:45A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL

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REFLECTIONS

By the time you read this issue of the *Beacon*, the season of Lent will be upon us—to which many Baptists might respond, “So?” Not being a tradition that tends to pay much attention to the rhythms of the liturgical year, Lent for Baptists is often a non-event associated with other religious traditions that we are glad to be rid of. And for the particular variety of Baptists that make up our First Baptist of Granville church, Lent may be viewed with even more suspicion than usual as one of those elements of the spiritual dark side, along with sin and repentance, blood hymns and born-again salvation, that we have jettisoned as being unhealthy, not conducive to spiritual growth.

But perhaps by shrugging off Lent we have in the process lost something useful that we would do well to reclaim. For at its wisest and best, Lent is an invitation for us to spend time on a regular basis attending to whatever gets in the way of our experience of intimacy with God. Those impediments may take the form of classic attachments that people often give up for Lent, such as chocolate or alcohol; more subtle kinds of attachments, such as the drive to keep busy, to stay informed, to make “enough” money, to “fix” things or situations or people, also distract us from attending to God’s presence in our lives. Coping strategies, inspired by the need to remain in control, interfere with the alternative response of surrendering to God. What spiritual traditions term the afflictive emotions, such as anger, fear, a sense of inadequacy, or a love of power, kick up so much psychological dust that our view of God can be dimmed.

What if we Baptists chose this Lenten season, instead of ignoring the whole thing, to dip our toes—not fully immerse ourselves, but just dip one toe—into the experience? Imagine what it might be like to give up one small attachment for one day each week during Lent, or even for one hour during one day each week: if we tried driving without talking on the phone or listening to music or an audio book, but simply drove in silence, or if we ate a meal without reading or watching television, maybe even without conversation, or if we abstained from e-mail or Facebook for an afternoon, or if we skipped news programming or left cell phones at home? What might we discover in the odd gap left in our lives for a brief time while doing without something that seems essential? Maybe nothing. Or maybe, just maybe, One who has been waiting for a moment of our time and attention.

Faithfully,
Kathy



LENTEN SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Beginning March 1 and running throughout the Lenten season, a new adult Sunday School class will be offered: “Biblical Spirituality,” taught by Kathy Hurt, explores the ways in which spiritual practices are outlined in the Old and New Testaments, and how those practices inform our spiritual lives in the present. Class includes selected Bible readings, presentation, and discussion. All are welcome.

NEWS & Notes

THE NEXT UCC LEARNING EVENT is set for Sunday, March 8 following the service. The Rev. Forrest Hoppe, Association Minister, will be present to discuss the benefits and responsibilities of dual affiliation as well as answer any questions. The Social Committee will again provide lunch.

PEACEJAM CLASSES CONTINUE EACH SUNDAY in the CE bldg. The younger class is exploring where our values come from and why we have different values. The older class is studying the roots of violence and planning a service project. Stop in next door to see the new Peace theme decor and ask a young person what they’re learning.

FBCG'S BRAND NEW COMMITTEE

The Whatever Works Art Space has now been formally recognized by the Church Board; and as such has its own committee which reports to the Board. Carol Whitt, the Director of the WWAS, will represent the committee on the Board.

At its first meeting, the new committee brainstormed with enthusiasm about how this program will fit in with FBCG's vision. A WWAS mission statement will be available shortly. As well, the committee will be generating specific ideas to involve the church family and the community with each other. If you want to hear more, just ask Carolyn Piper, Sandy Ellinger, Nancy Reeb, Rita Potts, Lindsey Cole, Pete Morse, or Carol Whitt!

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER:

Finances for First Baptist Church are as follows for the end of January 2009. Income = \$12,999.64, Expenses = \$20,046.76, therefore for the end of January 2009 we have a loss of \$7,047.12.

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND FOR 2009

ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS CONVOCATION

Weaving with the Spirit

April 17-19, 2009

Park Road Baptist Church,
Charlotte, North Carolina.

Join us for this exciting event as we weave our stories, our pasts, presents, and our futures together! Brochures are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary or visit allianceofbaptists.org for more information.

BPFNA SUMMER CONFERENCE 2009

The 2009 Summer Conference is being built around the theme ***"When There Is Justice, Then Peace Will Come."*** The July 20-25 gathering at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, is part of BPFNA's 25th Anniversary celebration. Affectionately known as "Peace Camp," the conference regularly inspires attendees with a new vision for the work of peace and equips them with new skills with which to do that work. Ken Sehested, Rita Nakashima Brock, Paul Dekar and Kate Campbell are just a few of the outstanding leaders scheduled for the week. Visit bpfna.org for more information.

FROM THE CE COMMITTEE

We are asking for volunteers to help with snacks and greeting before the kids have Sunday School. As everyone is aware, the new PeaceJam program was kicked off. One facet is incorporating the congregation and getting more involved with all the great things going on in the Christian Education building with the kids. An easy way to start is by helping to provide snacks as well as being a greeter. It is very simple: please see or write Samantha Smith (samanthasmith1@msn.com) to sign up for either a single Sunday or as many as you would like.



Good snacks ideas are, any kind of fruit (bag of grapes are easy), cheese, crackers, Rice Krispie Treats, cookies, juice, you name it. I usually bring a couple of different things. Trust me the kids appreciate it!

Greeting is very easy (the time required is only about 15 minutes), and a wonderful way to actually meet each child. The kids sign in as they come in in the morning and a greeter is there to say hello and direct them if they need it. Again you can sign up for a single Sunday, the first Sunday in each month, or an entire month at a time, whatever works for you.

I hope you take advantage of these chances to spend a little time with the kids and see all the hard work they are putting in to the PeaceJam program next door to the church especially if you are not already involved in some way. Thank you!

Samantha Smith, proud member of the Christian Education Committee

(mom to Olivia -3, Sabrina -6, and Cole -8)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wed., Feb. 25	Ash Wednesday
Feb. 26 - March 7	Rancho Ebenezer Mission Trip
Mar. 8	Daylight Savings Time begins
Sun., Mar. 15	FBC Board meeting, after worship
Sun., Mar. 22	Lunches on the Square

IN MARCH WE COLLECT CANNED FRUIT AND TUNA
FOR THE LICKING COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

*Join in the PEACE VIGILS at Opera House Park
each Saturday, from 10:00 to 11:00am
and each Tuesday from 4:30 to 5:30pm*

First Baptist Church of Granville
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