



First Baptist Church in North Middleboro

L I G H T H O U S E

FEBRUARY 2010

Dear Friends in Jesus,

It seems no sooner do we pack up Christmas decorations, we're suddenly greeted by Valentine's décor, gifts and cards. Any visit to a nearby store reminds us that February 14th waits right around the corner. Just this morning, as I pulled up to a drive-thru for coffee, I noticed the window decked out with stick-on hearts, cupids and other signs pointing to this 'love-filled' month! Interesting how, in one simple day, all thoughts turn to this one theme. Businesses will be booming as flowers, candy boxes, cards and more fly out the door and into the hands of 'someone special!' Restaurants will be packed with those looking forward to some romantic dinner for two (*don't forget reservations...I've made that mistake once or twice before!*) As the song says, "Love is in the air!"

Interesting that in this month of 'love,' we begin a new season characterized by greater Love. February 17th marks the beginning of Lent – those weeks leading up to the celebration of Christ's Sacrifice upon Calvary's Cross, and His triumphal Resurrection from a cold, dark tomb. While for many the 'month of love' subsides a bit once February 14th has come and gone, Believers are captivated by a greater Love unbound by time and date. Those objects lined on store shelves used to show human affection seem only to pale in comparison to those means by which God shows His Love for us.

There has never been – nor will there ever be – a greater sign of love than the Cross of Jesus Christ. Visit the flower shops. Explore the candy stores. Peruse the card racks. You'll never find a single stanza nor heart-shaped object big enough to compare to the full measure of God's love expressed through an old rugged Cross on a simple hill called Mount Calvary. No human arm can stretch that wide – wide enough to embrace the weak and lonely, the lost and broken, the discouraged and the hopeless. No arm wide enough to welcome every sinner – past, present and future. Oh, the cards seem to say it well...the mushy sentiments, the pretty pictures, even the music-filled cards that play only short snippets of tunes that make us smile for a moment. Yet, no card could begin to capture even the essence of God's love toward us. No heart-shaped box big enough to contain the full measure of perfect love. Only the words of Scripture – God's Love Letter to us – say it perfectly: *Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends* (John 15:13); *I have loved you with an everlasting love* (Jeremiah 31:3). Scripture holds what cards cannot: words of eternal love, vast beyond all measure! Hallmark does not print what the heart of one hymnist declares: *Love so amazing, so divine; demands my soul, my life, my all!* Stores will not sell what God sees fit to express such love. Who would ever consider using such objects to display one's own affection towards another? Hand your wife a crown of thorns, rather than a crown of rubies and watch her head shake in disbelief. Offer your husband blood-stained nails and watch as bewilderment covers his face. Wrap an old wooden cross and watch as it's received in great confusion. These seem to us to be anything but objects of love. Yet, to God – they are the exact picture of Love at its best!

You see, God's never been interested in giving gifts that perish with time. He's never been one to hand out candy that spoils, or greeting cards that eventually wind up recycled or tucked away in some box atop your closet shelf. No – His Love knows no end, sees no limit, realizes no boundary. His love never fails! It is deep enough to grab us out of our deepest pit, strong enough to carry us in our greatest moment of weakness, long enough to capture even the most wayward son. It is faithful even when we are not, true even in our own insincerity, and gracious even when our actions would call for less. And, best of all: His Love extends beyond one day in one month...His Love is for all eternity!

Whether or not you have a 'Valentine' this year, remember this: you have a Savior Whose gift to you remains unmatched! One Whose words say it best – *you are Mine* (Isaiah 43:1)!

Loving You in Jesus,

CONTACT

INFORMATION

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Newsletter Submissions

All submissions for our monthly church newsletter must be sent to Beverly (BGrieco@fbcnm.org) by the 20th of each month.

MISSIONS

MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH

JOE & WENDY KARABENSH

With Gregory (now married to Anna), Jenni and Nate



Joe, missionary pilot and Executive V.P. of Missionary Flights Int., Ft. Pierce FL, is getting very little sleep these days as he flies to and from Haiti. MFI is swamped with getting supplies and teams into Haiti. In one recent trip a C-130 aircraft carried 40,000 pounds of food and medical supplies. Wendy has been keeping us updated and asks for prayer “for everyone involved in the relief effort, as bodies begin to weary.” They are grateful for the many who have stepped up to help MFI with the disaster relief mobilization.

Did you know that 26 Haitian orphans were recently united with their adoptive families after being ferried to the USA on one of MFI's flights? Praise God! Pray for these families as they love and care for these precious little ones who have been through so much trauma.

Even previous to the earthquake, MFI was averaging 4 flights/week carrying passengers, mail and cargo to the islands of the Caribbean. About 5 shipping containers/yr. were also being sent to those less fortunate in Haiti.

Wendy is a native of Cape Cod. We look forward to their visit to First Baptist in July.

More Mission News

Elaine Barnett will be bringing an update at First Baptist on Sunday morning, Jan. 31.

We have been receiving many notes of thanks from our twelve regularly supported missionaries and our three “Special Gift” missionaries. Check out the Missions Notebook and bulletin board.

Our newest “Special Gift” mission is **Compass Point Ministries, Brockton with Dave Silva, director** – (a home for men following prison sentences) Dave writes: “We appreciate the gift but, more importantly, the partnering in this often times difficult task. That task is to provide new believers in Christ to have the opportunity to be discipled and to become the men that God would have them be.”

Save The Date!

Jesus Project Is Coming To FBCNM

They were a huge hit at our last Fall Festival...and, they're coming back for a special concert right here at FBCNM!

Saturday night, February 27th at 6p.m.

Spread the word and let's pack the place!

The Jesus Project is one of the most sought after Christian bands on the South Shore. Playing at a number of coffeehouses, worship services and other events – such as the post game concert at last year's Brockton Rox game – they bring the Gospel through both original and familiar songs. This is a night you won't want to miss!! A love offering will be collected as we support this band's ministry.

New Sermon Series – A Map For Ministry

Pastor Jason began his new sermon series, *A Map For Ministry*, on Sunday, Jan. 24th. Join us as we explore God's purposes for the Church and celebrate the exciting ministry of FBCNM!

Women's Bible Study

Mondays 12:30-2p.m. here at Church

This new study began on Monday, Jan. 25th.

Come and join us as we begin a new journey on becoming the women God wants us to be.

The group will be using Donna Partow's book, *Becoming The Woman God Wants Me To Be*.

Commitment to the study is key!

If interested in joining, please see Cricket ASAP.

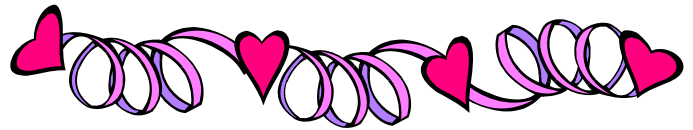
Mid-Week Prayer & Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30p.m. – Fellowship Hall

Missing Bible Study...then you're missing something BIG!

Join us every Wednesday night for a great time of fellowship, prayer and study in the Word! We've been diving into the Old Testament each week, as we explore the presence of Jesus Christ in the OT and God's Plan of Redemption and its ultimate fulfillment through Christ's Death at Calvary.

Our group is growing...**now, we just need you!!**



Snow Cancellations

In the event of a cancellation of a worship service, our Elders and Deaconesses will contact you when a determination has been made. If activities outside of a service should be cancelled (Bible Study, etc.), a message will be left on the church answering machine, and emails will be sent alerting you to that cancellation.

FBCNM's First Cookbook

Share your favorite recipes with us for our first Church Cookbook!

Appetizers...Side Dishes...Main Dishes...Desserts!!

Do you have a recipe with a story behind it? Share the story with us, too!

Submit as few or as many recipes as you wish. Please send your submissions to Cricket at cricketgenest@yahoo.com (those without email can hand them to her on Sunday mornings.)

All submissions must be in **NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15TH!**



The Search Is On...

We've officially launched our search for a Youth Worker to join the team here at First Baptist! After an overwhelming response and vote by the congregation at Annual Meeting, the Elders met to discuss the 'wants' and 'needs' of this position and draw up a job description that would be posted online and at Christian colleges. The Elders have also discussed a search committee that will be formed to review resumes as they are received and to meet with potential candidates! We'll keep you posted as the process continues forward.



Remember our Shut-Ins

Throughout the new year, take a moment and periodically drop a card or note in the mail to our shut-ins. These folks have so faithfully labored for the Gospel here at FBCNM over the years, and would appreciate hearing from you. Let them know how deeply we love them and appreciate all that they've done for this fellowship. Addresses are as follows:

George & Vera Cap—232 Beech St, Middleboro, MA 02346

Barbara Lakey—90 Pleasant St., Middleboro, MA 02346

Herb & Marion Cowan—Hannah B. Shaw Home, 199 Wareham St., Middleboro, MA 02346

Irving Pierce—61 West St., Middleboro, MA 02346

Lucia Nash— 54 S. Main St. Apt. 3C, Middleboro, MA 02346

Lela Murphy—15 School St., Bridgewater, MA 02324



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Is it enough to know you're saved? What else happens as a result of your salvation? Led, by Ken Jensen, the class will discover and discuss 37 things God does in our lives upon and following our conversion. Join us as we immerse ourselves in the Word, share some exciting dialogue and fellowship together. For more information, speak to Ken or e-mail him at freecell5@comcast.net.

Lent Begins on Wednesday, February 17th. Don't miss out on this beautiful season of reflection and celebration as we celebrate Christ's Sacrifice and Resurrection! Watch for more information on upcoming Holy Week services.



HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

Gerry Latremouille (1st)

Art Sharland (4th)

Sarah King (12th)

Angela Tibets (22nd)

Stuart White (24th)

Lois Finnin (29th)

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES IN

FEBRUARY

Kevin & Jolene Lomba (10th)



Pastor's Office Hours

Pastor Jason is in the office Mondays-Thursdays, and is available for pastoral counseling on Mondays and Tuesdays. Should you need to reach him, or make an appointment to meet with him, please contact the church office, or email him at PastorGenest@fbcnm.org. He is off on Fridays.

Monthly Prayer Focus

Our Prayer Focus for February is:

Shut-in of the Month

Lucia Nash

54 S. Main St. Apt. 3C

Middleboro, MA 02346

Ministry of the Month:

Women's Bible Study

Missionary of the Month

Joe & Wendy Karabensh

Serving with Missionary Flights International

MFI is currently working to bring in much needed supplies to the people of Haiti.