



January 2009

The Beacon



Giving Tree benefits Second Step families

Congratulations, FBC Newton!

During Advent, our church partnered with Second Step to bring some Christmas joy to several families needing a little ray of sunshine. The Second Step is a battered women's shelter in Newton. They work with survivors of domestic abuse to help them get their lives back on track, get the skills they need to be able to market themselves, and to redevelop healthy family structures to stop the cycle of abuse.

The Second Step, as the name suggests, is envisioned as a reintegration for survivors of abuse. Their residents often come from crisis shelters and other counseling programs and the goal of the Second Step is to help survivors to find "a way from violence to self-reliance."

Because these families are often uprooted from their homes, often with few personal belongings from their former lives, they struggle to reestablish the feeling of being "at home." The sense of 'home' and belonging are especially hard to find at Christmas. So



Student Minister Jay Cram loaded his "sleigh" with Giving Tree presents from the generous members of FBCN this holiday season. The church contributed nearly 100 presents to families recovering from domestic violence.

Annual Meeting set for Jan. 25

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 25 at Noon in Fellowship Hall.

We will have our traditional pot luck lunch, followed by the business meeting where new officers, board and committee members will be elected and the budget for 2009 will be presented for approval. This is always a great time for fellowship as well as attending to the important business of the congregation as it sets its agenda for the new year. All members should attend and participate in this important meeting. Non-members and guests are cordially invited to come and be a part of this annual event. Please sign up at the Transformation Station in the Chapel for the pot luck dish that you would like to bring.

this season, our church adopted three families, a total of six children and two moms, plus a small item for more than a dozen moms. Together, we provided 96 presents to the residents at Second Step this Christmas. Congratulations, everyone!

I would also like to extend a special 'thank you' to Donna Vello, who helped us find our partner for the Giving Tree this season, as well as making up all the tags for the presents!

Jay Cram

Student Minister

From the Minister of Christian Education

L-evate to the 3rd Power

What we can learn from the youth

Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’ He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:36-39

I don't think I am giving anything away if I share with you that the youth are currently working on a mission statement and goals for the First Baptist Church Youth Fellowship. I was so proud to hear them share with the Assistant Coaches about the importance of being a community, learning about their faith and providing service to others. In fact, they came up with three words to describe what they want to focus on:

Learning Leaning Living

And the mission statement they want to incorporate is this:

The mission of the FBC Newton Youth Fellowship is to LEARN about our faith, to LEAN on one another in community and to LIVE out our faith in the world.

How 'bout that? Your youth want to live the Greatest Commandment. I was asked recently the question, what is church? This is how I responded: The church is the Body of Christ. The church accepts the responsibility to work together for the mission that God has called us to do: to be disciples and to go out and make disciples. The church is a community of faith. The church will put that faith into action by living the Greatest Commandment. The church will love the Lord with her **heart** in how she serves God and God's people; and with all her **soul** in how the faithful will worship God in their church, in their lives and in their communities; and with their **minds** in how they will strive to be transformed through their efforts in teaching and learning from one another in Christian education. As the church focuses on the second commandment, the church will show how to love the neighbor by lifting one another up in prayer, by coming together in fellowship, remembrance, and celebration, and by accepting all people with the same compassion and understanding as modeled by Jesus Christ.

That is what the youth have said they want to do. They want to “L-evate” to the 3rd Power. They want to *LEARN*, to *LEAN*, and to *LIVE*. What a wonderful witness for all of us to see and to follow. Continue to pray for our youth and support them as they seek the courage and the wisdom to do just that – to live out their mission and to make a difference in the church and in the world today. Continue to pray for the youth leadership and the parents as they support, guide, and encourage the youth to make this happen. What can we do to live out the greatest commandment? Maybe we can learn a little something from the youth.

Blessings and Peace,

Linda

Our Sunday Worship Schedule for January

8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

9:15 a.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Fellowship



See the Calendar on Page 9 for additional events and activities

January Education Series at FBCN

Faith in the World

Jan 4

Eunice Wilson - "My Story"

How Eunice became both a nurse and an ordained minister

Jan 11

Jay Cram

Intergenerational Forum
with Senior High Youth and Adults

Jan 18

John Bewick

"The Beloved Community"

In response to Martin L. King, Jr. Day and the coming Inauguration of President-Elect Barack Obama

Jan 25

Combined session with Nurturing our Faith

Nurturing Our Faith Bible Study

Jan 4

Combined session with Faith in the World in the chapel

Jan 11

Defining Moments

To broaden understanding of what it means to live into one's baptismal identity

Jan 18

Known and Loved

To explore what it means to be loved, known, and called by God

Jan 25

Follow me

To consider what it means to hear and respond to God's call

Who is our student minister anyway?



Hello First Baptist family!

For those of you who haven't yet had the chance to meet me, my name is Jay Cram. I am a student at Andover Newton Theological School, just up the hill from church. I am in my second year there, working toward my Master of Divinity degree, on my way to Ordination in the

American Baptist Church.

I have been married to my wife, Aga, for just over three years. I am originally from Wisconsin, and still have much of my family there. I was a History and German Studies major in college, and between finishing my undergraduate work and beginning at ANTS, my wife and I spent 10 weeks on the Appalachian Trail during which we hiked about one-third of the trail, over 700 miles! Back in Wisconsin I was raised in a UCC Church of German Evangelical heritage, but since I have been in Massachusetts, I have been worshipping with you all at FBCN, and will be

joining the church through baptism on February 1. If there is anything else you would like to know, or if you'd like to share stories about the American Baptist Assembly in Green Lake (less than 10 miles from where I grew up!), about adventures in the Great Outdoors, or just to chat about the Packers, I'd love to get to know you better as well.

Jay Cram

Student Minister

Aga Cram is Church Librarian

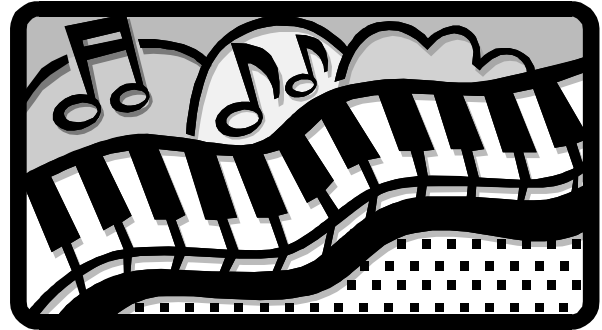
The Board of Education recently announced that Aga Cram (wife of student minister Jay Cram) has volunteered to serve as the Church Librarian.

The Board will meet with Aga this month to discuss plans for the library. Please join us in extending our appreciation to Aga and share with her any ideas you may have for the library.

Thanks to all who supported organ renovation

When the call for help was given, the response was great. Our wonderful organ needed repairs to some pipes and in a combined effort from FBCN's general account and a special fund-raising effort, the funds were raised for the repairs and a new light over the console was installed. Thank you to all the donors who so generously gave to this effort:

Booth, Beverly (in honor of Jane Kuhns)
Breed, Bill & Sue
Carpenter, Ann (in memory of William Carpenter)
Carpenter, Bernie & Sandra
Carroll, Richard & Peg
Chui, David & Lily
Cossaboom, Chuck & Diane Kemsley
DeWitt, Tom
Dodson-Gray, David & Elizabeth
Duncombe, Chris & Linda
Eastman, Charles & Mireille
Edwards, Chris & Dorothy
Feldman, Amy
Foster, Jewel*
Gallup, Clara
Gates, Ruth (in memory of Richard S. Gates)
Grantham, Richard & Ann (in honor of Hazel O'Donnell)
Heffernan, Dan & Julie
Heim, Mark & Melissa
Hernandez, Aldo & Barbara
Hershey, Dan & Meara Jones
Hodges, Alta
LaFreniere, Roger & Carolyn
Loar, Steve & Sonja
MacKay, Neil & Priscilla
Makrides, Al & Maryjane
Monto, John & Margaret
Moore, Linda



Morin, Joyce (in honor of Mary E. Morin)
Moseley, George & Stella
Moy, Meta
Odvarda, Denis & Ansaya
Olney, Frank
O'Neal, Helen – in memory of Ellis E. O'Neal, Jr.
Palmer, Jennifer & David Lanznar (in honor of Philip & Heather Palmer)
Palmer, Philip & Heather
Parsons, E. Spencer
Pollard, Henry
Reeds, Alex & Christine
Rounseville, Philip*
Sinclair, George & Marjorie
Swan, Gordon & Edith (in memory of William M. Gibson)
Thompson Taylor, Helen
Tibbetts, Richard & Aletta (memory of Vivian L. Meeden)
Valle, Alice – in honor of Mabyll Hollis
Wade, Ted & Kathy
Weisz, John & Jenny
Wilson, Eunice
Wolpert, Alice
Wright, Karl & Martha (in honor of the O'Donnell Family)
Young, Charles & Virginia

Children's Fellowship volunteer opportunity available



During the worship service, children in first grade and below leave after the children's message for Children's Fellowship. Their parents have been wonderful in helping with this ministry. It is also good when the parents are able to stay in worship, knowing their child is in good hands. Can you help us with this opportunity? It takes just 20 to 30 minutes on any given Sunday. Please consider helping out to provide a much needed ministry for children and parents too! Our coordinator, Larisa Pazmino, will be glad to fill you in on what to do. You can sign up several ways:

- At the Transformation Station on Sunday mornings
- E-mail Larisa at larisapazmino@gmail.com
- Call Larisa at (617) 244-4264

First Baptist Christmas Pageant 2008



The cherubic faces of FBCN children are filled with the joy, wonder and fun of Christmas!



Cradled in the arms of "Mary and Joseph," the star of the pageant arrives.



Despite his hectic Christmas Eve schedule, even Santa found time to worship at FBCN!

Sixteen going on seventeen...time for a By-law Review?

By-laws provide FBC council, boards, committees and staff with a governing document that establishes the framework in which we all carry out the functions necessary for an effective organization.

As our current By-laws were adopted March 1, 1992, it is time to examine them and see if there are areas in need of revision. This fall the Church Council asked members of each board and committee to examine their section and determine if the description reflects what they are doing or would like to do.

In November the Council appointed an ad-hoc committee to determine the next steps. This committee found that clarity was needed in several areas including the areas of:

- Staff appointment and accountability (authority/responsibility to hire/fire, direct and compensate).
- Board size, term, term limits
- Definition of Registrar
- Special funds
- Fund raising process
- Quorum requirements
- Communications Committee
- Staff/Congregational Relations Committee

It was the sense of the Council that a study schedule be announced at the January Business meeting and that a Bylaw committee would bring back a report to the June Business meeting.

We encourage interested church members to join the committee or simply share their ideas.

Ann Grantham

Kathy Wade

Jenny Weisz

Ad Hoc By-law Review Committee

Quenching our thirst for mission with CMM

COOPERATIVE METROPOLITAN MINISTERIES (CMM) is Boston's oldest interfaith social justice network. Founded in 1966 by faith communities, CMM has addressed issues of poverty, housing, and racial justice in Boston, and has linked urban and suburban congregations in just and transformative partnerships. It is inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King's vision of Beloved Community for all citizens. Its powerful mission is, **"To mobilize congregations and communities across economic, religious, racial, and ethnic boundaries so, in partnership, we can work more effectively for a just society."**

A great joy for me was representing FBCN and our Outreach Committee at CMM'S 42nd Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner at First Church, Cambridge, on Nov. 18. Responses from our Vitality Task Force Survey indicate a strong desire to be further involved in 'hands-on' mission in our metro Boston area. Our link with CMM is an excellent means of guidance and support in bringing that local service to greater fruition. Regardless of the various designations and backgrounds of those at this gathering, we were united in celebrating our common humanity and commitment to the well-being of each person in the world and the social structures in which we live.

Awards given at the gathering speak strongly to some significant efforts for change and compassion: **CMM Congregational Social Action Award** was received by *Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness* based in Concord/Acton;

The Rev. Charles Harper Award for Distinguished Leadership in Social Justice and Peacemaking was awarded to Tina Chery, founder and director of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. Tina's son was killed by gun violence at age 15. Since his death 15 years ago, she has spent her life ministering to the families of both victims and the victimizers, and promoting conflict resolution among youth;

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Younger Leadership Awards were presented to *Student Immigrant Movement* and *Mass Immigrant and Refugee Alliance*.

The Panel Discussion **"Creating Change Together"** was moderated by Latifa Turner Ziyad and included: Salwa Abdullah (Islam); Father Walter Cuenin (RC Chaplain at Brandeis); State Sen. Patricia Jehlen (Methodist); Rabbi Or N. Rose (Hebrew College); and Boston City Councilor Sam Yoon. Different points were expressed but all affirmed our common belief in God as Creator. Together we can help each other put our belief into action. CMM, its competent and compassionate Executive Director Alex Kern (Quaker), and its many partners, will assist us in expanding our involvement and excitement as a missional congregation.

Gordon Swan

Outreach Committee

In the FBCN Family News

SPECIFIC PRAYERS:

Fernando and Magda Lopez
Luz Reardon

ON-GOING PRAYERS:

Jewel Foster
Clara Gallup
Carolyn LaFreniere
Betty and Joyce Morin
Philip and Heather Palmer
Those caring for parents/spouses/families
Those facing uncertainty with the economic concerns

Do you have something to share?? If you have any joys, news, or specific prayers to share, please let Linda Moore know. Lmoore@fbcnewton.org or 617-244-2997 x 12

Youth Fellowship Close-up: 'JBird'



Maggie Heffernan, member of the Board of Education and Youth Fellowship, is interviewing the three Assistant Coaches of the Youth Fellowship. This month, Maggie speaks with Julie-Ann Burkhart, affectionately known to us as JBird.

MH:

Where did you grow up, and did you grow up in a religious atmosphere?

JB:

I grew up in Hampton, NH, which is five minutes away from the ocean. Yes, I was brought up in a Christian home. I went to an American Baptist Church in Hampton Falls since I was adopted. My family was very involved in our church. I was involved in the Youth Group and a lot of musical groups as well.

MH:

What made you come to First Baptist Church in Newton?

JB:

We used to go to Park Street Church in downtown Boston because we lived closer to that church. I was looking for a church that was closer to where we lived (which was Brighton) and I used to work across the street from the church. I was curious about what the church looked like on the inside. It was beautiful and the first time we came the people were so nice and welcoming. We kept coming back and got involved with a bible study, fundraisers for Kupenda, and helping out with the youth group.

MH:

What kinds of things do you do with the youth group as assistant coach? Do you have any special plans coming up?

JB:

Well, I am married to one of them – so that is special! All the assistant coaches get together to meet and talk a couple of times a month about our lesson plans and about what special activities we want to do. We have a lot of activities planned like Movie Night, Parent's Night Out, Christmas Caroling, Progressive Dinner, Lock In, and some others but we will reveal those activities at a later date.

MH:

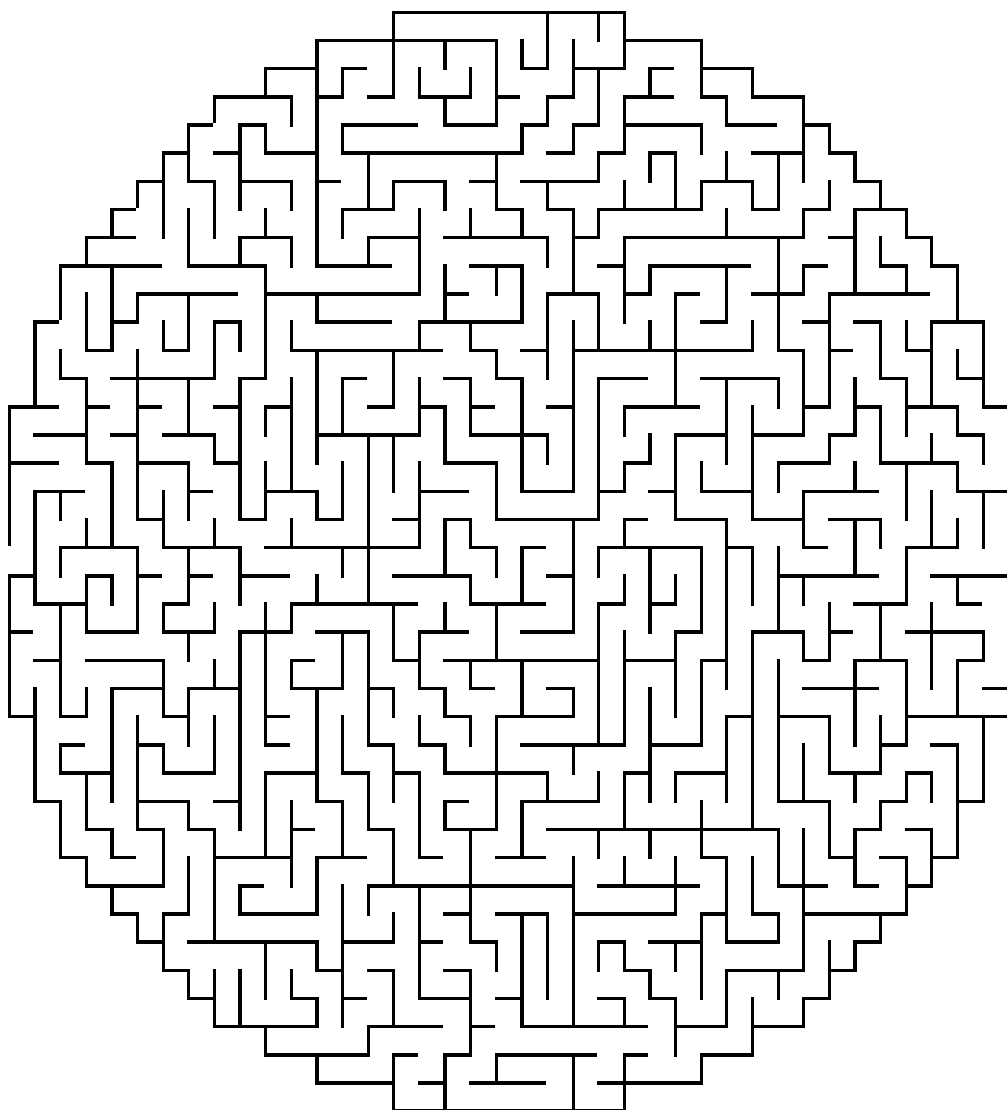
What do you do outside the church?

JB:

I do a lot of things outside the church. I am a professional Graphic/Web Designer. I am very involved with a charity called *Kupenda for the Children*. I volunteer as an Art Director for all of their marketing materials and also their website. I also love fine art/painting, surfing, snowboarding/skiing, soccer, traveling everywhere, guitar and singing. I am sure there is more but that is just a glimpse of things I do outside of church!

Snowball Maze

Can you make your way through the snowball to get to the snowman on the other side?





January 2009

January

Birthdays and

Anniversaries:
Best wishes to FBCN members celebrating birthdays and

Birthdays

- David Dodson-Gray - 2
- Charley Eastman - 4
- Charlie Young - 4
- Molly Edmonds - 9
- Bianche Hubbard - 17
- Frank Olney - 17
- Jonathan Dwyer - 25
- Emmett Eastman - 27
- Beth Beaumont - 28
- David Pazmino - 28
- Jennifer Holthouse - 30

Anniversaries

Atula Jamir and Mangyang Imsong - 3

If there is a birthday or anniversary missing, please let Linda Moore know.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2 6am BKC 6pm BKC	3
4 Food Pantry Collection Sunday Worship Schedule—See Page 2 12:30pm BKC* 6-8pm Youth Fellowship	5 6:15pm AMC 7pm Yoga Class	6 6am BKC 9:30am Yoga 7pm Yoga	7 6am BKC* 7pm Yoga 7pm Game Group	8 6am BKC* 7pm Cub Scouts 7pm Budget Committee Mtng.	9 6am BKC* 6pm BKC*	10
11 Sunday Worship Schedule—See Page 2 12:30pm BKC* 5:30pm Youth Book Club	12 7pm Yoga	13 6am BKC* 9:30am Yoga 7pm Yoga 7pm Board of Trustees Mtng. 7:30pm Board of Deacons Mtng.	14 6am BKC* 7pm Yoga	15 6am BKC* 7pm Stillman Association	16 6am BKC* 6pm—Youth Lock-In (through 8am on Saturday)	17 8am Youth Lock-in Ends
18 Sunday Worship Schedule—See Page 2 12:30pm BKC* 6-8pm Youth Fellowship	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Church Office Closed	20 6am BKC* 9:30am Yoga 7pm Yoga 7:30pm Church Council	21 6am BKC* 7pm Yoga	22 6am BKC*	23 6am BKC* 6pm BKC*	24
25 Sunday Worship Schedule See Page 2 12 noon FBCN Annual Meeting 12:30pm BKC*	26 7pm Yoga	27 6am BKC* 9:30am Yoga 7pm Yoga	28 6am BKC* 6pm Meetinghouse 7pm Yoga	29 6am BKC*	30 6am BKC* 6pm BKC	31



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Celebrate and share your baked goods at Fellowship Hour

The Fellowship Hour after the morning service is an integral part of our worship experience. It gives us a chance to visit with all ages and share concerns and joys. It also provides an excellent opportunity to welcome newcomers and introduce them to members.

Whenever we have had a 'special' gathering, people have lingered longer, and have expressed appreciation for the friendliness. The Hospitality Committee suggests we do this, on a small scale, each week.

Stillman Association to meet at FBCN

TABCOM is exploring the realignment of certain regional associations, including the Stillman Association, of which First Baptist Church in Newton is a member. Interested members of the congregation are invited to attend a special meeting of the Stillman Association hosted by FBCN on Thursday, Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. in the Everts Room to learn about the proposed changes.

We are seeking members to take turns hosting a Fellowship Time. The snacks can be simple: cookies/bars and a non-sweet item, such as cheese and crackers or fruit. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate are provided. The host could supply punch or juice if desired. It is more conducive for fellowship when a table is placed in the center of the Chapel. This can be done easily after the adult class.

On occasion we will plan something a little more elaborate - Easter Sunday and Mothers' Day for example. The Hospitality Committee will coordinate these gatherings, and seek contributions.

Everyone has enjoyed our times of fellowship and we ask you to share in making them a continuing success! Please volunteer! A sign up sheet will be available. Many thanks!



Edith Swan