



June 2008

# The Beacon



## Celebrating and Loving God in Our Daily Lives

*To highlight the wonderful sermons that were presented by three of our youth on May 11, 2008 (Youth Sunday), we are including the sermons in the Beacon. The first sermon — Celebrating and Loving God in Our Daily Lives by Lizzie Odvarka — is featured here. Stay tuned for two more in upcoming issues of The Beacon.*

God sculpted the raging seas we conquer, the peaks of mountains we reach, each blade of delicate grass we lay on, the ragged, rough trunks of trees we climb, and nature's miracles that we gaze upon in awe, as well as his children, the people in this very congregation, in these very pews.

Imagine reaching the pinnacle of a mountain, or the top of a big hill, and in the clearing of trees, the sunlight spills through, and illuminates your face. You hear the crushing and crunching of fallen leaves underneath your feet. You place your hands on your hips and inhale deeply; saying over and over again, "Look at that." And for the rest of the time you just stand there, silent, realizing this is God's work that he created for our enjoyment and survival, and you're taking it all in, like a photograph.

Today we celebrate the life of the church, and its 228<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Although we celebrate the liveliness and congregation of First Baptist Church in Newton, it is also a day

to celebrate God. God is nearly everything. Love, Mind, Truth, Spirit, Soul, and Life are only some of the characteristics of our Lord. We have learned to worship and celebrate Him by praying and attending church every week or so. However, most people at one point realize that we wouldn't be here right now if God never gave life to Earth, or stretched the grand, vast universe before us. Most of us wouldn't be here right now if it

weren't for God's timing.

Therefore, today we should also keep in mind that it's a day to celebrate God, and our well-being in addition to the church.

In the book of Genesis, the Bible discusses God breathing life into Adam and Eve from dust on the ground. Today, we should appreciate having that same spirit that God gave us. This spirit provides all we need; it is given by

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## Teacher Appreciation Sunday

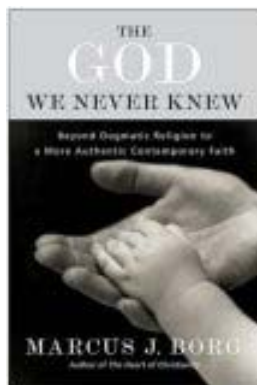
On Sunday, June 15 after worship, we will hold a church-wide Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Picnic, sponsored by the Board of Education. Everyone is invited! Please sign up in the chapel if you will be there and let us know if you can bring dessert or salad.

This is the day we say thank you to the individuals who volunteered their time and efforts to the Sunday school program. Whether they taught kindergarten or facilitated the adult classes, these individuals were an integral part of the education program. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to your students, and to First Baptist Church in Newton.

*(Continued on Page 6)*



# Book Discussion Group starts June 5



## *The God We Never Knew* By Marcus Borg

Hosted at the home of Heather and Philip Palmer, 30 Berwick Road in Newton Centre.

Thursdays in June 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

### June 12

Chapters 3 and 4 – Imaging God

### June 19

Chapters 5 and 6 – Living with God

### June 26

Chapter 7 – Continued Living with God

**NOTE:** refreshments will be provided. You are more than welcome to bring your dinner if you are coming from work or another place.

### June 5

Chapters 1 and 2 – Thinking About God

## Adult Education Series for June

All Adult Sunday School for the remaining Sundays will be combined and meet in the chapel

### June 1—Bible Study

### June 8

9:30 a.m. Introduction: Organs & Worship (Chapel)

11:45 a.m. Demonstration: Learn About Our Organ (Sanctuary)

**June 15** – Last regular schedule: Year End Reflection and Future Possibilities

### June 22– August 31

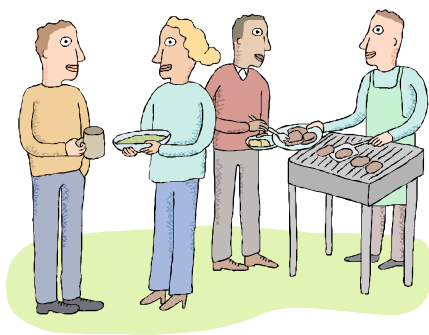
#### Summer Sunday School Series

Saving Jesus: Ever feel Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right?

*Each Summer Sunday, 9:30 – 10:15 am*

## Church Picnic set for July 13

On Sunday, July 13, join us for a cookout on the church lawn after the church service. Hamburgers, chicken and hot dogs and drinks will be provided. A sign up sheet will be available for those who want to bring salads or desserts.



## Haskell Scholarship Fund now accepting applications

Remember. If you are a college student and would like to apply for a scholarship from the Haskell Scholarship Fund, please send a note to the church office, c/o Haskell Scholarship Fund, as soon as possible. Depending on the number of applicants, the committee expects to grant scholarships in the range of \$500-\$750 for the next academic year.

*From the Minister of Christian Education*

## The Bible: The most obvious tool

Are you continuing to build on the foundation?

There is one other tool to help you that seems so obvious that we may forget to use it, and that is the Bible. As a church, we can use it for daily devotions, as a time to get together with your family, to study with friends, to find answers to questions, to question what we read, or just read like we would any other book. Many of you already did that as you participated in the E100 series, the various small group bible studies, Sunday school, and worship. Someone once shared with me that "B.I.B.L.E." stands for "Basic Instruction Before Leaving the Earth." Hmmm.

From the New Revised Standard Version, here are a few scriptures that come to mind as we continue to build on the foundation. Read them and be open to what they are saying to you.

**Romans 8:28** - We know that all things work together for good\* for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

**Proverbs 3:5-6** - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. <sup>6</sup>In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

**Matthew 5:13-16** - 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. <sup>14</sup>You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

**Isaiah 40:31** but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

**Matthew 22:34-40** <sup>34</sup>When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, <sup>35</sup>and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup>"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" <sup>37</sup>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.' <sup>38</sup>This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

**1 Corinthians 12:25-27** that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

**Romans 12:2** Do not be conformed to this world,\* but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Blessings and Peace,  
*Linda*

## Organ Committee kickoff scheduled for June 8

The Organ Renovation Fundraising Committee, recently formed by the Church Council, is set to kick-off its work on Sunday, June 8 in the Sanctuary during the 9:30 a.m. Adult Education period.

The event will continue until approximately 11:45 a.m., after Coffee Hour, with actual demonstration of the organ, in the Chancel.

A follow-up letter with full details will also be mailed to members and friends of the congregation.



# Report from the Communications Committee



Formed in the fall of 2006 by Moderator Kathy Wade, the Communications Committee has been hard at work on a number of important substantive and image issues, some about to be newly evident.

An early priority was a fresh rework of the Church's webpage, [www.fbcnewton.org](http://www.fbcnewton.org). After considerable review of many commercial prototypes and other web sites and then with the help of a talented professional designer, the webpage was given a handsome new look while also being reformatted for enhanced ease of access.

Another early priority was an updated Visitor's Guide, Prayer Request Cards and Welcome Cards, which have been in the pews for several months. Improvements, including use of more photographs, have also brightened up *THE BEACON*.

Now just finalized and being introduced for use is a family of printed materials with new, coordinated graphics, including church stationery, letterhead, envelopes and note paper; calling cards for the staff; and new order of worship covers - Sunday bulletins - appropriate for Sunday or special worship, weddings and funerals. Mostly these replace graphics in continuous use since the early 1980s.

So, we're getting a new, up-to-date look which

we think will be very successful, accruing very nicely to the church as we look ahead. Our hope is that everyone will be pleased.

The Committee has consisted of Kathy Wade, Chair; Charley Eastman, Jennifer Grams (before moving away), Linda Moore (with her considerable computer skills), Frank Olney, Heather Sanborn, Christina Wright (when not away in college) and Martha Wright.

## Guest Preacher, June 15

### Dr. Tom Graves

Dr. Graves is President Emeritus of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (BTSR) where he retired after 16 years of service on July 1, 2007 and where he still teaches. He has pastored several churches including St. John's Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C.

Dr. Graves completed his undergraduate education at Vanderbilt University, and received his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also received the Master of Sacred Theology degree from Yale Divinity School.

## Celebrating and loving God in our Daily Lives

*Continued from Page 1*

God to be the stabilizing center of our souls and minds.

The word "celebration" alone means: a joyful occasion for special festivities to mark a happy event. Today IS a joyful occasion to be happy for the life we are given, from non-living sediment and powder, elements that were evolved into complex structures of animals, humans, and everything moving along the Earth at this moment, whether it's ants, rabbits, or crows.

To my friends and me, God grants life that we should not take for granted and opens the heavens when we ascend to our Holy Father. Specifically, to me, the spirit of God and celebrating today means appreciating that we wouldn't be here now if God

hadn't breathed life into Jesus Christ or Moses, both of whom led the path for their followers and disciples. It also means that we should take every moment we have and live it to the fullest as a way to celebrate His work. On the way to a job or in the car, even walking, we should take time to notice the little (and sometimes big) creatures and plants that make up this environment. We wouldn't have this luxury if God had carelessly made it.

Today is a day to LOVE God, to worship Him in our hearts, souls, and minds, and to take a little fraction of every minute to say, "Look at that."

*Lizzie Odvarka, age 14*

# In the FBCN Family News

## JOYS:

Congratulations to Rohan Akouri, who received his Bachelor of Science in Bio-Technology from Syracuse University on May 9

Congratulations to Mangyang Imsong and Manny Santiago, who both received Masters of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School on May 17

Congratulations to Luz and Tom Reardon on the birth of their second grandchild, Sophia, born on May 16

Welcome home to Jeff Edmonds, who is finally home from serving in Afghanistan.

Congratulations to Bernie Carpenter on the 50th anniversary of his graduation from Harvard Medical School.

Congratulations to Ann Grantham, who has a new grandchild and will be retiring from Newton Public Schools this month after 25 years of service.

## SPECIFIC PRAYERS:

The tragedies that have occurred in China and Myanmar

The family of Catherine Keech, upon her passing on May 31

Betty Bergantino, former church secretary, and Roddy LeFort, Betty's brother and former custodian, upon the death of Roddy's wife, May LeFort.

## ON-GOING PRAYERS:

Jewel Foster, Clara Gallup, Roger and Carolyn LaFreniere, Betty and Joyce Morin, Philip and Heather Palmer

## THANK YOU

Roger and Carolyn LaFreniere want to thank all for the prayers, cards, concern and acts of kindness. "We do appreciate this wonderful church family. The prayer shawl that was given to us is very special."

## THANKS TO THE YOUTH

It was a Revolution/Evolution! In all the more than 50 years our family has been affiliated with the church, for me there has never been a more meaningful, exciting service, representative of our youth's talents and abilities, their poise for presentation. Inclusion from the celebration of a new birth, to parents and teaching staff, organist, a grandmother and even Charley, an observer, the service was made thrilling and alive. All the cheers and clapping indicated the congregation was totally happy with the Youth Sunday. Though, modest, we know Linda Moore guided you, bringing the best in all. We could see her cheering! Congratulations and thank you for your superior styled service.

Gratefully,

*Sue and Bill Breed*

**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](mailto:Lmoore@fbcnewton.org) or 617-244-2997 x 12

## Church members pitch in at Spring Cleanup Day

The spirits and the accomplishments were great, even if the Saturday morning of the May 3rd Spring Clean-Up was cloudy and raw.

Not deterred, Steve Loar, the Trustee who organized the annual event for the Board of Trustees, had a good list of manageable tasks and a wide range of them were completed. Coffee, donuts and marvelous fellowship were great, too, with 25 people attending: Edna Bargan, Rich Carroll, Chuck

Cossaboom, Chris Duncombe, Mark Heim, Atula Jamir, Steve Loar, Magda Lopez, Joe O'Donnell, Denis Odvarka, Elizabeth Odvarka, Joseph Odvarka, Frank Olney, Bob Pazmino, Edith Swan, Gordon Swan and Kathy Wade. Also welcomed were 8 people from our tenant, the Beautiful Korean Church.

The Trustees were very pleased with the results and warmly thank all that participated.

# Evelyn Wood tree dedication set for June 22

FBCN will dedicate a tree on church grounds in memory of Evelyn Wood on Sunday, June 22. Evelyn died on June 23, 2006.

Before her death, Evelyn had expressed interest in a tree and now, thanks to family and friends, the tree is becoming a reality.

The tree will be located in the open space near the playground, west of the Fogg Building where the large, old purple beech was removed in recent years. Fittingly, this is where the old Parish House stood before the Fogg Building was built and where Evelyn had worked as Church Secretary, first for Charles Arbuckle and then for Harold Malmberg. This

"ministry" was so highly significant for Evelyn, the Church and the larger community. The new tree will provide many years of beauty, shade and graciousness in this spot, commemorating Evelyn's memory.

The dedication ceremony will be on the lawn following morning worship.



## Words from the FBCN Archives

On Saturday, May 17, Andover Newton Theological School's commencement was held in our sanctuary. Our church has had a long and warm association with the school, which had its roots in 1825.

By May 1825, a group of ministers of the Boston Baptist Association meeting at First Baptist Church of Boston agreed that the time had come for the founding of a Baptist seminary in the Boston area. The group raised the money to purchase the 80-acre Peck estate in Newton for \$4,250 with an additional \$3,748 earmarked for repairs. Ira Chase was appointed the first professor of Biblical Theology: and the first classes were held November 28, 1825.

The Newton Theological Institution was incorporated by the Legislature on February 21st, 1826 (from the ANTS centennial magazine). One of the founders was our own Father Joseph Grafton, the first minister of this church who served for 50 years from 1780 to 1830. Later Andover Seminary (Congregationalists) joined the school to become Andover Newton.

Our sanctuary was built in 1888 large enough in part to accommodate ANTS commencements.

## Teacher Appreciation Sunday

*Continued from Page 1*

When you see these people, please give them a wonderful and deserving THANK YOU for their dedication and commitment.

Pre K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:

Jonathan Dwyer, Atula Jamir, April Rezendes

3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Ann Grantham and Julie Heffernan

6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Molly Edmonds, Melissa Heim, and Denis Odvarka

8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Rich Carroll, Dan Heffernan, and Bob Pazmiño

Children's Fellowship Coordinator:

Larisa Pazmiño and Tami Weisz

Faith in the World: Edith Swan and John Bewick

Nurturing Our Faith: Nancy and Jack Ammerman

We will also recognize these teachers in the worship service as well.

**SPECIAL REQUEST**

We are asking children, youth and adults to show their appreciation for their teachers by writing a special note to give to their teacher on this day.



# June 2008

## June Birthdays:

Best wishes to FBCN members celebrating birthdays & anniversaries in June:

### Birthdays

- Dorothy Edwards – 2
- Diane Kemsley – 4
- Magda Lopez – 6
- Ted Wade – 6
- Ellen Gezork – 15
- Sonja Loar – 15
- Bob Pazmiño – 15
- Aldo Hernandez – 19
- Chris Edwards – 20
- Sue Breed – 23
- Lisa Crockett – 25
- Chuck Cossaboom – 28

### Anniversaries

- Hazel & Joe O'Donnell – 5
- George & Marjorie Sinclair – 9
- Diane Kemsley & Chuck Cossaboom – 22
- Heather & Philip Palmer – 7

### Staff Service

- Anniversaries**
- Sean Redrow – 1 (3 years)

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

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> Food Pantry Collection <b>Sunday Worship</b> <b>Schedule—See Page 10</b> 12pm Spring Business Mtng. 1230pm BKC* 6-8pm Youth Fellowship	<b>2</b> 615pm AMC 7pm Board of Education 7pm Yoga Class	<b>3</b> 6am BKC* 930am Yoga 7pm Yoga *BKC = <b>Beautiful Korean Church</b>	<b>4</b> 6am BKC* 7pm Yoga 7pm Food Addicts	<b>5</b> 6am BKC* 7:30pm Book Group at Palmers	<b>6</b> 6am BKC*	<b>7</b> 830am Yoga 2:30pm CRWE Rehearsal 6pm BKC*
<b>8</b> <b>Schedule—See Page 10</b> 1230pm BKC* 1pm Piano Recital 6-8pm Youth Fellowship 7pm CRWE Concert	<b>9</b> 7pm Yoga Class	<b>10</b> 6am BKC* 930am Yoga 7pm Yoga 730pm Board Meetings	<b>11</b> 6am BKC* 7pm Yoga 7pm Food Addicts	<b>12</b> 6am BKC* 7:30pm Book Group at Palmers	<b>13</b> 6am BKC*	<b>14</b> 830am Yoga 5pm Recital 6pm BKC*
<b>15</b> <b>Sunday Worship</b> <b>Schedule—See Page 10</b> <b>11:30am TEACHER APPRECIATION PICNIC</b> 1230pm BKC*	<b>16</b> 7pm Yoga	<b>17</b> 6am BKC* 930am Yoga 7pm Yoga 730pm Church Council	<b>18</b> 6am BKC* 7pm Yoga 7pm Food Addicts	<b>19</b> 6am BKC* 7:30pm Book Group at Palmers	<b>20</b> 6am BKC*	<b>21</b> 830am Yoga (last Saturday Class) 6pm BKC*
<b>22</b> <b>Sunday Worship</b> <b>Schedule—See Page 10</b> 1230pm BKC*	<b>23</b> 7pm Yoga	<b>24</b> 6am BKC* 930am Yoga 7pm Yoga	<b>25</b> 6am BKC* 5:15pm Meetinghouse Silent Auction 7pm Yoga 7pm Food Addicts	<b>26</b> 6am BKC* 7:30pm Book Group at Palmers	<b>27</b> 6am BKC*	<b>28</b> 6pm BKC*
<b>29</b> <b>Sunday Worship</b> <b>Schedule—See Page 10</b> 1230pm BKC*	<b>30</b> 7pm Yoga					

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- 4) The World Into Which Jesus Was Born
- 5) Jesus' Birth: Incarnation
- 6) Teachings of Jesus: Wisdom Tradition
- 7) Jesus' Program: The Kingdom of God
- 8) Jesus' Life: Model for Discipleship
- 9) Killing Jesus, Part One: Who Killed Jesus?
- 10) Killing Jesus, Part Two: The Atonement
- 11) The Resurrection of Christ
- 12) Why Jesus Is Worth Saving.

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# Serving Youth and Children at FBCN

## Teachers needed for 2008-09

Do you have a love for children and youth? Do you love God? Do you love teaching and learning? Are you looking to do something that is rewarding, fulfilling and fun? Then Sunday school teaching is for you! The Board of Education is currently looking for individuals who want to experience the joy that comes from learning about God and being a part of a team that is committed to helping each other and their students.

### Skill sets required are:

Imperfection  
Willingness to learn  
Patience  
Open and caring heart  
Hope  
Willingness to be around happy people

### The benefits include:

Smiling children  
Happy teens  
Excited teachers  
A growing program with growing individuals

### The salary package includes:

Unending happiness and gratitude. Priceless!

Please contact Linda Moore at [Imoore@fbcnewton.org](mailto:Imoore@fbcnewton.org) or any member of the Board of Education.

## Children's Worship Bags

During the summer months (starting June 22), we are inviting the children to stay in worship for the entire service. Children Worship Bags will be available for you to pick up at the sanctuary entrance. The weekly children's bulletins will also be provided. Each packet will have crayons, pencils, note pads and coloring pages. Pick up the worship packets as you enter the sanctuary and then return them at the conclusion. If you have any question, feel free to contact any member of the Board of Education.

## Nursery help needed this summer

We are looking for volunteers who can help out in the nursery to care for the infants and toddlers during the worship service this summer.

If you are able to provide time for this important ministry, please contact Linda Moore at [Imoore@fbcnewton.org](mailto:Imoore@fbcnewton.org) or 617-244-2997 x 12 or sign up on the board near the Nursery.





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## *Sunday Worship in June*

### **First Baptist Church in Newton**

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 Calendar on Page 7 for additional activities**