



May 2008

# The Beacon



## Spring Business Meeting scheduled for June 1

All are welcome and encouraged to come to the congregation's Spring Business Meeting on Sunday, June 1, 2008, at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall.

Following a light lunch, the Trustees of the Endowment will present their annual report and the Task Force on New Membership and Growth will also give its report.

In addition, the boards will give a brief update on their activities over the last few

months and on upcoming events and activities.

All are welcome and encouraged to come. If you are new to First Baptist in Newton, this is a great way to understand the diversity of activities and interests of the Church, and to get an understanding of its financial affairs.

See you there!

*Kathy Wade*

## Thanks for a great Beacon Coffeehouse season!

Thanks so much to all who have attended the Beacon Coffeehouse this season. Our April show will have to be our last for this year, but what a year it was! We thrilled to sounds of

Gospel, a capella music, and classic folk. Our final show this year was Broadband and the Works, two groups that made their music with just the power of the human voice. The show was very well attended and supported by both the church and the outside community, and we heard music by Annie Lennox, The Eagles, and even a wonderful original composition about the plight of the Alto in the choir. It was great fun.

If you would like to be involved in our season next year, please contact Rev. Charley Eastman. It's never more than once a month, but it's a wonderful chance for the church to reach out in service to the wider community through great music. Whether you serve as a host or handle the concessions table, sell tickets or help with the sound system, there are plenty of opportunities and no experience is necessary.

Of course, thanks to those who helped out this year, including Steve Loar, Mangyang Imsong, Atula Jamir, Linda Moore, Molly Edmonds, Heather Sanborn, and James Casey!

## *Go Light Your World*

### Youth-led Worship Service

**Sunday, May 11, 2008**

We are asking everyone in the church to wear red in honor of Pentecost.



*From the Senior Minister*

## Thoughts from the ABC Annual Meeting

This year the Annual Meeting of American Baptist Churches was held at White's Convention Center in Westport. The focus this year was on Mission, which certainly fits our Baptist Heritage. We began in mission, and it's important for us to reaffirm the importance of our heritage.

I attended on Saturday but you will also hear of the experience of others at the various events. After a welcoming plenary session, we were broken into small groups to hear about different ministries that various churches in TABCOM have been and might be involved in.

I personally attended one that took me out of my comfort level: it was on the Prison and Citizen Re-entry Programs at Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Brockton, MA. It was led by Ray Yancey, a member of the church who works with many inmates to help them back into society. Rev. Eugene Neville attended the small group via videoconferencing. So I can tell you that I attended a conference with someone not FROM Florida but IN Florida this past Saturday!

One of the chief components of the program is video conferencing for prison inmates and their families. Most prisons already have this capability, because prisons have used this technology for years to allow inmates to attend bail hearings and other court dates without having to be transported to the courtroom. Since we currently pay \$40,000 a year in the Commonwealth PER PRISONER to maintain their stay, the general consensus is that we should not be spending more money in transportation.

But there is an opportunity to also let this infrastructure work for the benefit of prisoners and their families, which could save enormously in terms of recidivism. Yancey shared that just that week he had taken the equipment to a woman's house who had just given birth two weeks before, and her husband (incarcerated at Cedar Junction in Plymouth) was able to see the baby during a half-hour video "visit." This connection to family is very important to the healing of criminal intent, because it reminds the person in prison that life is continuing on without them, and that they have a responsibility to that family, right down to the newest member!

One of the biggest factors our prisons cannot address today is the sense of hope that can grow for someone who feels there is a network out there that cares about their success in life. This video conferencing ministry is folded into a complete program of "wrap-around" ministry to folks in prisons

and their families. We have SEVERAL biblical injunctions for reaching out to prisoners, and Psalm 79 reminds us:

"Let the groans of the prisoners come before you; according to your great power preserve those doomed to die." And we recently re-engaged with Matthew 25: "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of

the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

What does that mean for First Baptist Church in Newton? Do you feel the weight of problems like this and wonder how we might help? When such problems do not directly affect us, we may feel like there is no "point of entry" to help. Ministries like this can happen when we partner up with other churches that already face these problems "at ground zero." As we think about how we do outreach and mission work, we should think about who is doing work we appreciate in the local communities and beyond. There are many ways to partner with other congregations, locally and beyond, and First Baptist in Newton could both benefit from and **be** a benefit by partnering with other churches in their ministries.

Give some thought to how you might be transformed by such a ministry, and let both me and the Outreach Board know what you're thinking!

In Christ,  
*Charley*



### ANTS celebrates bicentennial

On April 24, Andover Newton Theological School celebrated its bicentennial with a gala celebration at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston. First Baptist Church in Newton has had a long, important relationship with ANTS and all of us wish them well as they enter their third century of training ministers and missionaries for the work of God. Congratulations!

*From Minister of Christian Education*

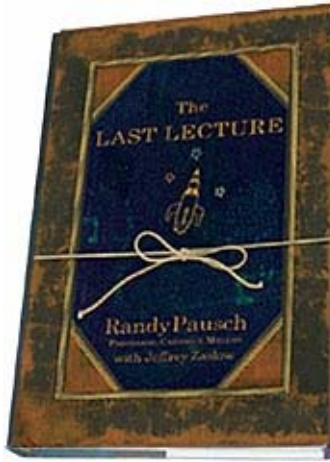
## The Next Tool: *You gotta have heart*

As we continue the transformation, I invite you to consider another tool that will be most beneficial in the building, and that is HEART.

You gotta have heart. When I first came to First Baptist Church in Newton, I shared with you some reasons why I like Duke Basketball so much. I told you about a book that Coach Krzyzewski wrote, *Leading with the Heart*. When he looks for players for his team, he looks at their heart and passion and what drives them to be the best that they can be. When he sees them leading with their hearts, he knows he found the right players.

I recently learned about another individual who is using his heart and his passion to live the life that we should all be living. Carnegie Mellon University Professor Randy Pausch is dying of pancreatic cancer and because of a "last lecture" that he gave at CMU in September of 2007, he has become internationally known on the internet as the man who is "teaching America how to live." I just read Randy's book, based on this lecture. He reminds us that there are more important priorities in life than material items, the trophies we have, the job that we hold.

How does he live the remainder of his life? He chooses to live like Tigger instead of Eeyore. He gives everyone a chance. He sees the good in everyone. He cares about the little moments in life. He



treats people with respect, integrity, and truth. He leads with his heart and spirit. He takes risks. "It is better to fail miserably because you took a risk, then to pass along and to do something that is mediocre," he says. Most importantly, he tells us about the brick walls in his life. "The brick walls that are in our way are there for a reason," he explains. "They're not there to keep us out. They're there to give us a way to show how much we want in."

Look how Jesus led with his heart. He handled a tremendous amount of adversity with passion and spirit. He faced many brick walls and he took lots of risks to get over those walls. And he did it because he loved us. I can't help but ask, where would we be if he didn't lead with his heart? As we continue our transformation and build on the foundation that we have worked so hard to develop, let's continue to lead with our hearts and share the spirit that has driven us to jump over the walls.

Blessings and Peace,

*Linda*

You can see Randy's lecture or obtain a copy of his book *The Last Lecture*, by visiting his website: [www.randypausch.com](http://www.randypausch.com).

### **Save the Date:**

## **National Down Syndrome Congress conference, July 11-13**

This summer, Boston will host the National Down Syndrome Congress annual conference at the Seaport World Trade Center on July 11-13.

The conference offers workshops for new parents, grandparents, siblings, and educators on topics such as speech, physical therapy, occupational therapy, inclusion, medical issues, financial planning, and transitioning to adulthood. There are a number of incredible workshop presenters and keynote speakers as well as special social events for young adults with Down syndrome.

Conference planners are looking for 300 volunteers, at least 18 years old, to help with such things as registration and working at the information desks. People can volunteer for all or just part of the weekend. A number of folks in the church have expressed an interest in helping out and are wondering about the possibility of carpooling to the conference.

More specific information about the conference is available on the Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress website, [www.mdsc.org](http://www.mdsc.org). If you are interested in volunteering at the conference, please contact Julie Heffernan at (617) 630-0910 or via email at [heffernan5@rcn.com](mailto:heffernan5@rcn.com).



Join First Baptist Church in Newton as  
we *Take You Out to the Ball Game* at



# **BASEBALL**

## ***AT THE MOVIES***

Dr. William Herzog, church member and Dean of Faculty at Andover Newton Theological School will present a special two-week series, *Baseball Goes to the Movies* in May. Come see the movie, then have a lively discussion as you share in the spirit of America's favorite pastime.

Thursday Nights from 6 - 9 p.m. in the chapel

**May 1<sup>st</sup> - *Field of Dreams***

**May 8<sup>th</sup> - *The Natural***

● HOT DOGS

● SODA

● BASEBALL SNACKS

Sign up by contacting Linda Moore at (617) 244-2997. ext. 12 or [lmoore@fbcnewton.org](mailto:lmoore@fbcnewton.org). Or sign up on the baseball in the chapel

Dr. Herzog is also co-editor of the book,  
*"The Faith of 50 Million: Baseball, Religion, and American Culture"*



## Adult Sunday School Classes for May

### Faith in the World

#### May 4

DVD on “Contaminated without Consent” – A chemical safety video about the risks of chemical contaminants hidden in our homes, workplaces, the products we buy, and even our bodies.

#### May 11

Speaker: Dan Hershey. Topic: Trip to Australia – learning about the world “down under” and the world food emergency

#### May 18

Combined Group in the chapel for a special presentation. Speaker: Rev. Charley Eastman. (Linda Moore will take the children and youth so teachers can participate)

#### May 25

Combined Bible Study in the chapel

### Nurturing Our Faith

**May 4** marks the end of the Easter Season and Ascension Sunday. As Jesus brought his time on earth to a close, he promised that we would have all that we need, and he left us with his blessing. Luke’s account in 24:44-53 will be our text.

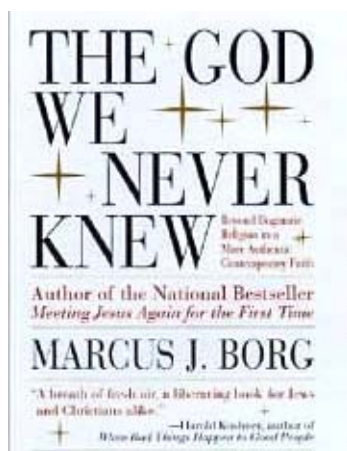
**May 11** is Mothers Day, but it is also Pentecost, and we will explore a story from the Hebrew scripture (Numbers 11:24-30) in which Moses declares, “Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets!”

**May 18** – Combined Group in the chapel for a special presentation. Speaker: Rev. Charley Eastman.

#### May 25

Combined Bible Study in the chapel

## June Book Discussion Group: *The God We Never Knew*



Join us for our June Education Series Book Discussion Group on *The God We Never Knew*, a book by Marcus Borg, author of the national bestseller *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*. Hosted at the home of Heather and Philip

Palmer on 30 Berwick Road, Newton Centre, Mass., the book study will be held Thursday nights in June from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.:

- June 5
- June 12
- June 19
- June 26



### Summer Rental available — Prince Edward Island, Canada

Waterfront Cedar Log home available for summer rental. Sleeps 7-8 people. Satellite TV, Two bathrooms, 3 Bedrooms, Washer/Dryer, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen and Family Room. Huge front desk with gas grill facing water view. Rent \$900 per week. If interested, contact Beth Beaumont at (617) 965-0358.

# *In the FBCN Family News*

## **JOYS:**

Congratulations to Spencer Parsons and Tai Shigakai, who were married in the Library at Briarwood in Worcester last fall. Within a few years of each other, both had graduated from Denison University and Andover Newton Theological School when they first met on the staff of our Church in the mid-1940s. They re-met at an Alliance of Baptists gathering in Washington, D.C. a year ago. Warmest wishes to Spence and Tai.

Congratulations to Amy and Greg Feldman on the birth of their second son, Samuel Charles on April 17. His big brother is Benjamin.

Congratulations to Greg Kelley for making the Boston Herald Eastern Massachusetts Boys Basketball All-Scholastic Team

Correction from last month - April Rezendes will be running the Providence, RI Marathon on May 3.

Congratulations to those graduating from Andover Newton Theological School on Saturday, May 17.

## **SPECIFIC PRAYERS:**

Roger LaFreniere continued recovery and healing (**See the photo of Roger and wife Carolyn with the prayer shawl made by Alice Wolpert and presented to him by the church**)

## **ON-GOING PRAYERS:**

Jeff and Molly Edmonds and their family  
Jewel Foster  
Clara Gallup  
Betty and Joyce Morin  
Philip and Heather Palmer

**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



*Carolyn and Roger LaFreniere*

## **Want to get involved?**

There are numerous opportunities to get more involved in the activities at First Baptist Church in Newton. One way is to serve on a board or standing committee. We are looking for people – including those new to the Church – who would like to participate in the oversight of some of the key functional areas, including:

- **Education** (children through adult learning programs, library and teaching parish)
- **Trustees** (property management of the Church and other assets)
- **Outreach** (awareness of issues, participation in

programs and activities in the wider community)

- **Stewardship** (fundraising)
- **Nominating** (finding the right people for the right positions)

If you would like to be a part of one of these Boards/Committees, please contact Kathy Wade, Moderator, at [wadefbc@aol.com](mailto:wadefbc@aol.com) or leave a note in the Church office or in the offering plate. It is a great way to get to know people and to work together while providing an important service to the Congregation. Don't be shy!

# May 2008

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b> 6am BKC* 9am Baptist Polity Class 6pm Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts	<b>2</b> 6am BKC* <b>*BKC = Beautiful Korean Church</b>	<b>3</b> 830am Yoga 9am Spring Cleanup Day 6pm Guess Who's Coming to Dinner 6pm BKC*
<b>4 Food Pantry Collection</b> <b>Sunday Worship</b> <b>Schedule—See Page 8</b> 1230pm BKC* 6-8pm Youth Fellowship	<b>5</b> 6:15pm AMC 7pm Yoga Class	<b>6</b> 6am BKC* 930am Yoga 6pm Brookline Chorus Rehearsal 7pm Yoga 7pm Educ. Board 7pm Elder Care	<b>7</b> 6am BKC* 7pm Yoga 7pm Food Addicts	<b>8</b> 6am BKC* 6pm Bible Study	<b>9</b> 6am BKC* 6pm BKC* 6pm Brookline Chorus Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 830am Yoga 10am Youth Sunday Practice 3:30 p.m. Brookline Chorus Art Show & 8pm concert 6pm BKC*
<b>11 YOUTH SUNDAY</b> <b>Sunday Worship</b> <b>Schedule—See Page 8</b> 1230pm BKC* 1pm Cello Recital	<b>12</b> 7pm Yoga	<b>13</b> 6am BKC* 930am Yoga 7pm Yoga 730pm Board Meetings	<b>14</b> 6am BKC* 7pm Yoga 7pm Food Addicts	<b>15</b> 6am BKC*	<b>16</b> 6am BKC*	<b>17</b> 830am Yoga 12 noon Andover Newton Commencement 6pm BKC*
<b>18</b> <b>Sunday Worship</b> <b>Schedule—See Page 8</b> 1230pm BKC* 2pm Piano Recital 6-8pm Youth Fellowship 7pm Shir Hadash	<b>19</b> 7pm Yoga	<b>20</b> 6am BKC* 930am Yoga 7pm Yoga 730pm Church Council	<b>21</b> 6am BKC* 7pm Yoga 7pm Food Addicts	<b>22</b> 6am BKC*	<b>23</b> 6am BKC*	<b>24</b> 6pm BKC*
<b>25</b> <b>Sunday Worship</b> <b>Schedule—See Page 8</b> 1230pm BKC*	<b>26</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> Church Office closed	<b>27</b> 6am BKC* 930am Yoga 7pm Yoga 730pm Comm. Committee	<b>28</b> 6am BKC* 7pm Yoga 7pm Food Addicts	<b>29</b> 6am BKC*	<b>30</b> 6am BKC*	<b>31</b> 830am Yoga 6pm BKC*

**May Birthdays:**  
Best wishes to FBCN members celebrating birthdays in May:

**Birthdays**

- Julie-Ann Bauer – 10
- Sean VanHyning – 11
- Ann Carpenter – 14
- Julie Heffernan – 14
- Jenny Palmer – 14
- Oliver Pazmiño – 14
- John Weisz – 15
- Thomas Duncombe – 18
- Carolyn Holthouse – 22
- Jay Gram – 25
- Dan Jones – 25
- Tami Weisz – 27
- Zoe Dissanayake – 28
- Danielle Owghoso – 28
- Atula Imsong – 29

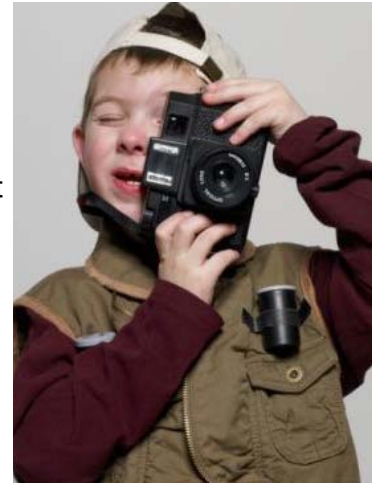
If there is a birthday or anniversary missing, please let Linda Moore know.

## Smile! Make-up Day for Olan Mills Photos is coming!

Did you have your picture taken for the directory in the fall? If not, there's still time to get your photo taken!

On Wednesday, May 28, we will host Olan Mills down in the Everts Room to take photos for the church directory. We have added another day to try to catch the many folks who said they wanted to participate last time but were unable to make either day. This time we have more than enough lead time to get everyone in we missed, so that our Church Directory can be a useful tool for everyone. Remember: the church directory is not just for Church members. It's for anyone who attends, anyone who participates, anyone affiliated with our community. If you're here, we want folks to be able to recognize you.

We'll post more materials as soon as we have them, but there will be appointments available throughout the afternoon and into the evening. If we missed you before, please take this opportunity to get your picture in the directory, and thanks for taking the time. If you have any further questions, please see either Molly Edmonds or Rev. Charley Eastman.



## Our Sunday Worship Schedule for May

*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 the Calendar on Page 7 for additional events and activities*

## Nursery help needed

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

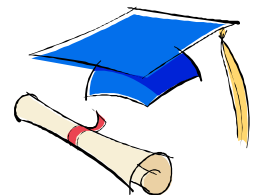


If you are able to provide time for this important ministry, please contact Linda Moore or sign up on the board near the Nursery.

## Graduating in 2008?

If you know of someone who will be graduating from an educational institution in 2008 (high school, college, seminary, grad school, trade school, etc) please contact

Linda Moore at [lmoore@fbcnewton.org](mailto:lmoore@fbcnewton.org) or call the church office. We would like to know their school, their degree, and their after-graduation plans. The graduates will be recognized in worship.



# Celebrate Pentecost

Find the words and then you will see the hidden message

F B E O P E N T O T H T G E H  
 D R E P O H O L Y S S P L I R  
 I R I T R P D V I O U N O D H  
 J I E E E Q X E C L X G R W I  
 O R Z A N F J E F N I I I R O  
 H M H R M D T N K A E C O O C  
 U Z B P O N H C R U H C U B T  
 M X C P E E Y P P A H E S T F  
 D V X P D E Z D S A H J R Z H  
 C Z B I D P Y M Z A O E I I A  
 P F U F S E V P A S S I O N F  
 W G J C H A V S V C Y Z Z Z J  
 R I U P I Q G A E X J E O M L  
 E T A C O V D A S R G I O T X  
 A B I L I T Y X M G Y N R T I



ABILITY  
 DREAM  
 GLORIOUS  
 HOPE  
 SAVED

ADVOCATE  
 FIRE  
 GUIDE  
 PASSION

CHURCH  
 FRIEND  
 HAPPY  
 PENTECOST

What is the Hidden Message?

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