



Berean Bell

Berean Baptist Church

April 2010

From the Pastor...



5 More things every Baptist should Know

1. How to give Testimony: Testimony is a time in the worship service where someone stands up to tell a story of how they have experienced God in their life. This may be a story of how they first were found by Christ and moved to become his disciple. Or, it may be a more recent story of answered prayer, call to service, new learning or fresh experience. As uncomfortable as it may seem, testimony is a time where we encourage one another. By sharing stories of discouragement followed by joy, defeat that turns into victory, of seeking and finding, we encourage other disciples who are listening to keep seeking joy, working for victory and seeking a closer relationship to Christ. Testimony is a great way to share your faith with others. You don't have to know a bunch of verses or theology. You can simply say, this is my story; I was lost and Christ found me, I was a mess and God recreated me, or I didn't have a purpose in life and Jesus called me to serve. What would your testimony be? Write one up to put in the newsletter, or even (shudder) to share in church!!!

2. Doxology and Gloria Patri: Ok, so these aren't just 'Baptist' things. These two brief songs go back to the early church. One of the challenges that faces the church today, not just Baptist, but so many Protestant churches, is the disconnect from tradition and history. We have inherited and been entrusted with songs and prayers and wisdom from our ancestors of faith. This tradition provides a road-map through the challenges of life today. For instance, the Doxology; 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow...' is a song of thanksgiving. In an age where the highest achievement in life is to collect the most toys, and let's face it, we all fall for that one now and again, the Doxology reminds us to remain grateful for what we have instead of pursuing more and more. The Doxology is an ancient answer to fear and to

From the Pastor... (continued)

materialism. The Gloria Patri 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow... Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost,' also has been sung for ages. It teaches us about Trinity. Trinity is a complicated concept, but in its essence it teaches us that God very being is relationship. The Gloria Patri tells us in an age of individualism and independence that we need one another and we need God. It teaches us the beauty of submission to God's will and the virtue of the give and take of life in community. Ok, I've gone on enough about that one....

3. The Words to God of Grace and God of Glory: I know, you are thinking, what about Amazing Grace? I'm not dissing Amazing Grace, but everybody sings it, even people who aren't Christians. Every drugged up, over-sexed, rock star in the world has at one time or another sung Amazing Grace somewhere. Nope, God of Grace and God of Glory is the song to learn. Why? First we should know this song because God of Grace was written by a Baptist, Harry Emerson Fosdick. Fosdick was one of, if not the most influential preachers of his day in the early decades of the twentieth century. So it is a part of our very own tradition. Second, the theology. God of Grace and God of Glory is filled with social justice themes. It is an exhortation to minister to the world in the power of the Holy Spirit. Faith is not an individual or emotional experience, but a world transforming, community creating and society changing gift from God. Third, Because it is really is just fun to sing. It is 'We are the Champions' for Baptists! 'Eye of the Tiger' for Christians... you feel called and empowered and energized when you sing it... so sing it loud!

4. What Jubilee is... and I don't mean another word for being happy or having a party! Read Leviticus, yes, Leviticus 25. This is the manifesto of social justice as God sees it. Every 50 years a social and economic re-set. So slaves are set free, debts are forgiven and property sold out of economic despair is returned, the land is given a rest. This is amazing stuff! Glen Beck should read it! So should you! Why? Because it shows that faith is about more than the individual and spreads to the community. It further shows that faith is about more than the right ideas or good feelings and spreads to just actions in society. God expects any community organized around God's name to

From the Pastor... (continued)

ensure that the vulnerable are not cared for, but the opportunity of caring is shared by the entire community.

5. Pentecost: This red-headed step-child of the Christian calendar is often left behind. Fewer and fewer people according to a recent poll even know the significance of Easter! I'm afraid of how many don't know about Pentecost much less how many Christians don't know the significance of this holiday. We don't know much about this holiday because secular culture hasn't figured out a way to market it. Christmas, they can market gift buying and giving. Easter, easy, candy. Pentecost? The major symbols of Pentecost are fire and wind. How do you sell that?

Anyway, Pentecost is the day that the church celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit! This is the Paraklete, the Comforter, that Jesus promised to send in the gospel of John. The Holy Spirit is the enduring and empowering presence that connects us to God through Christ. The Holy Spirit gives wisdom, bestows gifts, challenges and enables us to grow as disciples, and teaches us to pray. Pentecost is the celebration of the day that the apostles finally took on the mantle of ministry that Jesus left for them! A Day to celebrate that we are called by God, formed and changed by God, with a purpose that God has ordained for us!

Pastor Dawn

Christian Ed News

Can you believe that school is almost over and summer is just around the corner? It's amazing how fast time goes. Well Christian Education has been keeping track and we want to let you know that it is time to start thinking about summer activities and preparing for school next year.

First, it's scholarship time! If you are going to be going to college or have children that will be attending Harrisville Pre-School, in the fall, you will want to fill out a scholarship application. The applications must be picked up in the church office and returned to the church office with Bonnie, the church secretary. Do NOT give them to a member of Christian Ed. The application deadline is Friday April 30, 2010. Christian Ed will review the applications at the May meeting and will announce the recipients on Children's Day, June 13, 2010.

Second, it's time to fill out the application for Canonicus Summer Camp. There are a wide variety of programs to choose from, some of which are cooking, archery, discovery, horseback riding and even a grandparent's camp. Most of the programs offered at the camp are for age ranges from 4 -18. If your child is interested please see Bonnie, the church secretary, for an application. These applications should be given back to Jen Collins as soon as possible, no later than April 30, 2010, do not fill out the application online. If you would like more information talk to Jen Collins or check out the camp website, www.canonicus.org. Last year Berean Baptist Church sent 15 kids to camp and they all had a great time. We hope to send that many again.

HOLY WEEK EVENTS

Thursday, April 1st...Maundy Thursday Service...7pm



Friday, April 2nd...Good Friday Service...7pm



Sunday, April 4th...Easter Sunrise Service...7am



Sunday, April 4th...Easter Service...10am

Easter Joy by Joanna Fuchs



Jesus came to earth, To show us how to live,
How to put others first, How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work, That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself; He made us clean and new.

Our Lord died on Good Friday, But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death, Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus, Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord. Help us love like you!

Christian Ed News (continued)



Children's Sunday School-age range 4-11 years old (or 5th grade). They meet every Sunday September-June from 9am-9:45 am. Each week a new bible story is read to the children and then there is some discussion that follows. After the bible story a craft/activity is completed that relates to the story. During Holy Play at worship the story discussion is continued with the Pastor. Throughout the Sunday school year the children present 3 mini presentations during worship that show what they have been discussing. They perform a play at Christmas time and have VBS at the end of June.

Teen Sunday School- age range 12-18years old (or 6th-12th grade). The teens meet every Sunday morning September-June from 9am-9:45am. They meet up in the "Loft", which is above the vestibule as you enter the church. They are reviewing their knowledge of the Bible and are memorizing John 3:16, Psalm 23 and the 10 Commandments.

Adult Sunday School-age range 18 and older. They meet every Sunday September-June from 8:45am-9:45am. They are currently discussing the books of the Bible.

Bible Basics-any age. They meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month starting at 7pm. They are currently discussing the major characters of the Bible. We ask for volunteers to open their homes and host one or both nights.



Prayer Group- They meet the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month at the home of Crystal Hall starting at 7pm. The night is started with a centering prayer and then prayer requests that have been mentioned in church or to anyone in attendance are discussed.

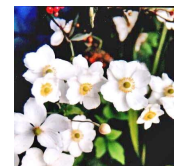


Off The Beaten Path

Eureka!! There! I've finally found one. It's the tiny wood anemone, a single white tiny flower with three compound leaves perched upon a very fragile and slender stem. I looked all of last year and couldn't locate a single one although this flower is said to be quite common in New England. You can recognize it by its three-notched indentations at the leaf tips. An unusual characteristic of this tiny flower is that it is reactive to light, closing at night and also during cloudy days. April marks its appearance and it flutters in the slightest breeze thus its nickname of the "Windflower". Anemones were frequently used in China at funerals and so earned the reputation as the "death flower".

Anemones have quite the historic reputation. In Greek mythology they sprang up at the site where the tears of the goddess Venus dropped to the ground after being shed for her lover the fair Adonis. The Romans eagerly picked the first anemones of spring and accompanied the flower with a prayer to ward off fevers. Medieval Crusaders returned from their wars with the infidels with a Middle East variety tinged with red which was said to be the drops of Christ's blood. The sacredness thus imparted, made it a popular garden planting by monks in European monasteries. So prolific was it among the hills of Galilee that some believe the poppy anemone was the flower referred to by Jesus when he said "Consider the lilies of the field... even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these". One would think that with such a solemn religious connection, anemones would be much admired but strangely enough the common folk of Europe feared this flower. When passing a field filled with anemones, they would hold their breath and hurry by believing they risked plague if the floral vapors were inhaled.

Nevertheless, in more modern times, herbalists found many medicinal uses for the plant, such as the treatment of leprosy, ulcers, and gout. Even our native Indians concocted a tea from the roots to relieve vomiting and diarrhea. So pervasive has been the influence in the affairs of humanity of this frail tiny flower that I marveled at the magnitude of diminutiveness. Where else could the sweep of history pass across ones thoughts except on a rural hillside trail just off the beaten path?



Don Waterman

2010 ABCORI Annual Gathering



Join ABCORI for the
Annual Gathering

When: Saturday April 24th
Where: Community Church of
Providence (www.ccofprov.org)

There will be a program for both adults and youth and includes discussion groups, activities, music and fellowship. Programs start at 9:00am. There will be an Italian dinner at 5:00pm for those interested for \$10. At 6:00pm, there will be a musical message... "Music Through The Ages"

There will also be an option for the youth grades 6-12 to stay the night for a lock-in. For more info on that, please go to www.abcori.org/ympt.htm or call 401-294-6318 x105.

*Registration forms are available on ABCORI's website...www.abcori.org or in the church office

*Registration before April 12 is \$15. Before April 19 is \$20 and at the door is \$25. Price includes lunch.

*For more information, please call Ann Aldrich at 401-934-0798
(do not call the ABCORI office)

*Make checks payable to ABCORI & mail to Ann Aldrich,
24 Alfalfa Drive, No. Scituate, RI 02857 before April 19!

*Child care will be available



3B's Women's Group invites YOU to our

Annual Spaghetti Supper

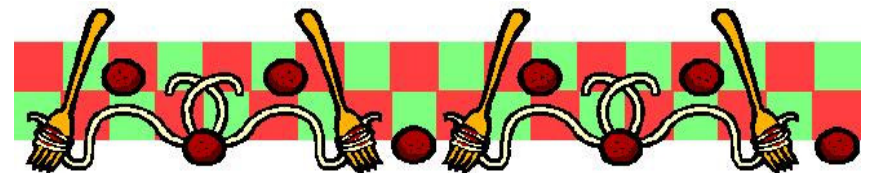
Saturday, April 17, 2010

4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.



Bring your family – Bring a friend
**Adults - \$ 7.00/Children under 12 -
\$3.00**

Door prizes
ALL You Can Eat!



Outreach News

"A healthy social life is found only, when in the mirror of each soul the whole community finds its reflection, and when in the whole community the virtue of each one is living" —Rudolf Steiner



Save the Date Saturday, June 12th! Our Outreach Committee invites you all to join us at the Knights of Columbus, Pasco for a night of fun, food, and music to "Celebrate Community." Enjoy a delicious chicken dinner and for your listening and dancing pleasure, music will be provided by Gary Chabot "True North." There will be door prizes and more! Proceeds will benefit our many outreach programs that serve the community. Tickets will be available shortly @\$20.00 adults, children 6yr to 12yr \$10.00, children 5 and under free. Mark you calendar now.

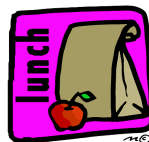
We will hold our annual "Indoor Yard Sale and Soup to-go sale" on Saturday, October 2nd. Gather up your treasures for this fun event.



As you know, Berean was invited by BHS to participate in the "Hunger Challenge" drive for the month of March. During this time all donations to our food pantry are matched by the school drive. As always, you have stepped up to the plate and as of this writing we have collected over \$200. Thank you, again.

We are currently putting together a recipe folder to include simple and nutritious meals using the many items that we keep in stock @ our food pantry. Rhonda is constantly communicating with school and community nutrition experts to insure that we are providing healthy choices. We welcome any additions that you may have for our collection, keep in mind "simple and healthy." These recipes will be given to our food pantry guests.

We hope to have the Summer Lunch Program for children available again this year. We are looking for volunteers to assist Rhonda and myself. We will be doing deliveries during the week, no Sunday deliveries unless it is a true emergency.



The Clothes Closet is going well. Sharon and Linda have been busy putting out the "spring collection." Kids clothes are needed, especially jeans and tops for boys. Sharon put flyers in the schools and

Outreach News (continued)

at IGA to spread the word and as a result, we had 40 guests on March 3rd alone. At a recent visit to Zambarano Hospital Sharon dropped off some coats and discovered that there are many men in the various programs there that could use help with clothing. Please keep this in mind.

At our March 11th meeting, I could feel the excitement and enthusiasm while planning our June 12th fundraiser. Please plan to attend. I guarantee that you will have a great time "Celebrating Community."

God Bless,

Kathy Roberts

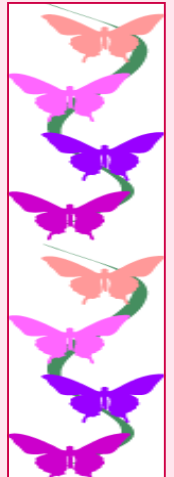


Just A Reminder...

The Clothes Closet is for clothes, shoes, etc. It does not have the room to store household goods. Outreach will be having their annual yard sale in October. So if you have any household goods, please keep them until then. The Clothes Closet is now offering Spring and Summer clothing and if you would like to donate, please call Sharon Ponce or Linda Morgenstern first to make an appointment.

A Note From the Moderator...

April is a full Diaconate meeting. If you were elected to the Diaconate Committee at the Annual Meeting, you are expected to attend the April meeting. If you are unable to attend, please contact Kelly or Darin via phone or e-mail. It will be held the 4th Tuesday of April, April 28th at 7:30pm.



Membership vs. Discipleship



The goal of our stewardship ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them.

As Charles Lane, Director for Stewardship for the Evangelical Lutheran Church explains: "Discipleship contrasts sharply with membership. When we talk about discipleship, the primary relationship is not with the congregation. The primary relationship is with Jesus. The congregation is the community of people with whom this relationship is lived out and nurtured. The role of the disciple, then, is to grow deeper in Jesus and to tell others about Jesus." See the excerpts from his writings below; ask yourself if it makes you rethink your relationship:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Disciples</u>
Members give money to support others (like the pastor) doing ministry.	Do ministry; a partner in ministry
Maintain the institution through serving on committees, teaching Sunday School, and giving money for building upkeep.	Give as a part of a growing relationship with Jesus; involved with daily prayer, weekly worship, daily scripture reading, serving others in Jesus' name, growing in giving to the tithe, and sharing the faith story with the unchurched.
Are a good citizen and contribute to the larger community.	Live life in the large community of the church and in smaller communities of groups that gather for prayer, study, and service.

Php 2:5-8 NIV

5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

ABCORI News

Canonicus Beaver Days

Camp Canonicus is gearing up for the summer camp season. They need your help to clean up the camp and get it ready for eager campers. Join them for 2 Beaver Days on April 10th and May 15 9am-3pm. 8:30am is sign-in and coffee & doughnuts. Call Colleen Tolhurst or Chris Lussier for more information...
(401) 294-6318 or
camp@canonicus.org
Come by yourself or part of a group!



Camp Canonicus Open House...

May 1, 9:30am-4pm
Rain or Shine

Meet staff & counselors
Tour the camp program areas
Enjoy boating, archery & hay rides
Learn about new camp programs
Hike to the outdoor chapel,
go fishing, or make s'mores at the council ring campfire.

Full info available at
www.canonicus.org

13th Annual Adult & Me Fishing Derby May 7th & 8th

Friday night...enjoy burgers, contests, fireside fish tales and s'mores.

Saturday...enjoy breakfast and the fishing derby.

*Registration deadline is...

May 1st!

*For more info & registration form, go to
www.canonicus.org/fishing_derby



CAMP-CATION!

Join us this year for our second CAMP-CATION. It is a day camp program for all kids in Kindergarten through grade 8! CAMP-CATION! will be held during school vacation week April 19-23, 2010 from 9am - 5pm. \$40 per day includes hot lunch & all activities. Call to reserve your space in this FUN-filled new camp program! The week will conclude with a special Open House for your parents & friends.

Register online at
www.canonicus.org

ABCORI News

Canonicus Conference Center will be the host for a



Couples Enrichment Weekend

May 14-16, 2010

6pm on Friday 5/14-1pm on Sunday 5/16

This weekend will be led by
Rev. Dr. Liliana & Rev. Dr. Horacio DaValle

Enjoy a wonderful weekend of renewal in your relationship by coming closer, understanding each other and rekindling the flame of love.

Open to all. Please RSVP by May 3, 2010. Call 294-6318 x111

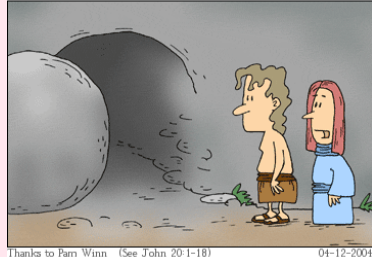
Lodging with private bath & meals is \$304

Lodging with shared bath & meals is \$250

Meals Only is \$132

Registration is not included in lodging price and is \$100.

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Thanks to Pam Winn (See John 20:1-18)
NOTHING IS CERTAIN EXCEPT WHAT AND TAXES?!?

04-12-2001



An Easter Prayer

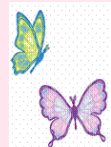
We are celebrating today, O God, a mixture of bunnies hiding colored eggs and angels rolling away stones. Join us as we ponder both, enjoying one and giving thanks for the other. Remind us, too, Lord of unexpected appearances, that this also is the season of spring, a time when rebirth is not so surprising after all.



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(See John 20:1-18)
BETCHA TEN SHEKELS THOSE CHRISTIANS HAVE FIFTY NEW SONGS BY THIS WEEKEND



April Birthdays

April 1—Colby Boucher

April 6—Beth Capron

April 10—Barbara Morin

April 18—Lindsay Morin

April 21—Andrew Larence

April 21—Jen Collins

April 21—Veronica Spicer



***If I forgot your Birthday,
please let me know so I can add it!***



REMINDERS

Flowers help beautify our Sanctuary
and can be given in
“Honor Of” or “In Memory Of”
a special someone or event or “Just Because”.

Next Newsletter: May 2010

Committee Chairpersons:

Please submit your report to the Church Secretary

on or before **April 19th**