

## Berean Bell Newsletter



Berean  
Baptist  
Church

June 2010

### She's Arrived!!



#### Psalm 139:13-16

*You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous - how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.*

**Anna Taylor Collins**  
**Born Tuesday, May 11,**  
**2010 at 5:10am**  
**7lbs 9oz    21 3/4" long**



Congratulations to Rev. Darin, Roberta  
and big brothers Lance & Isaac!!



*Bless this little one of so few days. May she be prosperous in all her ways. Healthy in body and mind, growing strong & kind. Bless this little one through all her days.*



### From the Pastor...

*...but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.*  
1 Th 2:6-7

As I sit to write this note to you, I am returning to my first morning of 'work' after two weeks of paternity leave. Frankly I am glad to get back to work, as my leave with all the laundry, cooking, cleaning, diaper changing, 2 am feedings, etc. was wearing me out!

Anna has been a blessing, especially at 2am when she has finished eating, her diaper is changed and fresh, the house is quiet, the world around us still, and she is wailing without any hope of comfort. You know those evenings well I bet! You have done everything that you know to do to comfort the crying baby; walking, rocking, swaying, gentle bouncing, singing, swinging, a bottle, re-check the diaper, go for a ride in the car... and nothing works, the wailing continues.

This is a blessing. Yes it is. It doesn't feel like it at the time, nor does it feel like it the next morning, even when one is on leave and not required to be at a certain place by a certain time. But it is a blessing. It is a blessing because it reminds me of the harsh realities of our calling as disciples of Christ. We are called to follow Christ among the hurting, the poor, the suffering and the neglected and to offer them the good news of God's love. We are called to feed and free and heal, but we know that our ability to bind and loose is limited and the injuries of the world are too wide and deep for us to completely cure. So sometimes we are left to hold the wailing baby. There are instances in which our rescue would simply keep this other child of God stuck in the rut of being rescued and never discovering or developing the God-given talents they have. As difficult as it is, as cruel as it can seem, sometimes the best thing we can do for the baby is to let it cry so that it learns to comfort itself. →

## From the Pastor... (cont.)

My point is that what Anna has blessed me with is a reminder that as a disciple of Christ I can neither ignore the cry of those suffering, but neither can I nor should I heal that suffering. Sometimes I won't be able to, and sometimes that healing will simply leave the other person in a place of helplessness and dependency. So Anna is teaching me to hold the crying one, to hear the cry, to care and to be strong enough to stay even when I cannot or should not offer an easy solution.

I learned the other day that the electrical impulses of the heart can be sensed and measure fifteen feet from the human body. If we can stay close to someone who is crying, and simply be peaceful, given some time and patience, our peace will become their peace. This is what Paul is saying to the church. This is what Anna is reminding me of... the power in each of us, bestowed by the Holy Spirit, to be peacemakers by calmly holding those who cry.

*Pastor Davis*



Thanks to Carl Serkland (See 1Cor 15:51)

06-05-2001



Join us for a night of dinner and dancing at the Columbus Club of Burrillville on Roosevelt Ave. in Pascoag

\*Music will be by "True North"

\*Chicken Dinner served at 6:30pm

\*Door Prizes/Raffle

**Adults \$20 / Kids 6-12 \$10 / Kids 5 and under are free**

Proceeds to benefit the Outreach programs of Berean Baptist Church that service our community including Emergency Food Pantry, Clothes Closet, Holiday Food Baskets, Heating Assistance and the Summer Lunch Program.

**Don't Miss It!! Tickets are on sale now!**

For info or tickets, contact Kathy Roberts (949-1324),

Rhonda Stanish (710-7337)

or the church office (568-5411)

## Choir News

I have wanted to thank all those who keep encouraging us with your good words about our music at Berean. It is only possible with people like you! Elinor and I are planning some other organ/piano duets over the summer (if the organ and piano remain enough in sync tuning wise), the choir will be on hiatus after the first Sunday of June, Carillon will end its season after singing so graciously each month, and we will hope to have solos and ensembles throughout the summer.

During Lent, our worship and sermon focused around the theme “God at the Center,” so this year, instead of the more somber anthems, the choir sang songs to help us reflect on “God at the Center” of our lives. You may remember that on the first Sunday we sang “An Inscription of Hope,” an anthem set to the words that we discovered, after the Holocaust, inscribed inside a hiding-closet, by a young girl. The strength of her belief, amid the horrors of that time in our history, served as faith-shaping thoughts for us during that time of Lent.

*“I believe in the sun, even when it is not shining, and I believe in love even when there’s no one there. And I believe in God, even when he is silent...” and so it goes.*

After our joyful and always hopeful celebration of Eastertide, came songs to draw our attention to the life-giving Spirit, leading to Pentecost Sunday, fifty days after Easter. When Jesus left his disciples he told them there would be another, the paraclete, the comforter, the Holy Spirit (depending on your translation/version of the Bible), to bring new life to disciples then and now.

Summer will be a time to visit various themes. May you find among them messages for you and yours. Thank you again for making my ministry and life at Berean a warm and wonderful experience.

Gary



## From Our Mailbox...

Dear Berean Baptist Church,

My name is Jennie Laurent and I am writing to let you know that I recently graduated from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston, MA with my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). I feel strongly that having been a recipient of your generous scholarship significantly contributed to my ability to pursue this degree, and I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for your assistance with helping me achieve this milestone in my life. I will always remember that Berean Baptist Church helped make this possible for me, and it will be a constant reminder to me how grateful I am that people like you care about students like me.

It meant a great deal to me that you dedicated your valuable time and effort into awarding this scholarship to me, and I just wanted to thank you one more time to let you know how appreciative I am and always will be for this kind gesture. I thank you for all of your efforts in supporting my education, and best to you in your future endeavors. God Bless!

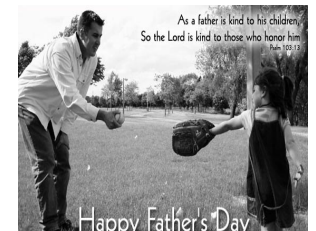
Jennie Laurent



## Reflections on Fathers

The best gift a father can give to his children is the gift of himself—his time. For material things mean little if there is not someone to share them with. —C. Neil Strait (writer)

Father's like you always shine a light to guide their children and help them do right. Fathers like you lead the way as they share their faith with their children each day. Fathers like you are honored and cherished, too, for reflecting God's love in everything they do!



## Off The Beaten Path

Sometimes the unexpected happens. While leaving the trail in an unexplored part of the woods, I happened upon an old abandoned cellar hole. Right there... so unexpected. It was nearly square with walls crumbled into a random pile. Moss, limbs, and brambles covered the jumble. Even large trees reached skyward through a once open canopy in search of sunlight. The only things still somewhat intact were the chimney base and a tilted granite doorstep. What lay here in centuries past? The answer, of course, lies in the shadows of history.

New England was dotted with farmsteads such as this. The house is gone, but where are the fields, the barn, the woodshed, the well, the spring house? All gone, erased by the march of time. Where are the once laughing children, the son en route to feed the cattle, the daughter, milking pail in hand, the young ones sent to fetch the firewood, the husband tending the plow? The only living reminder is a scraggly lilac beside the granite doorway, so forlorn in its struggle to survive. It's difficult to believe that this landscape some two centuries ago sustained a fabled Yankee way of life.

The other visible remnant lies snaking through this woodland, twisted trails of stonewalls, now home to chipmunks and squirrels. What Herculean efforts wrestled these stones from the soil and created a rough artistry in masonry? It's difficult to believe that in two centuries, nature has transformed a landscape on so vast a scale. Time never stands still, these silent stones a mute testimony to the fragility of mankind. Yet a feeling of deep poignancy arises as I listen to the rustle of the wind among the dancing leaves. What uplifting of spirit rose in the breast of that housewife when the young child brought forth a bouquet of dooryard lilacs? How sweet the innocence of youth. Where lie they now, these pioneers? Together nearby, or scattered, blown like the leaves of autumn. As I return to the path I thought I knew, I see in my mind that forlorn lilac, God's gift to remind us of the sweetness of life and the brevity of things built by man. Stones, mossy and silent, possess the power to tell a story. Who listens?

Don Waterman

## Happy Birthday!

David Landry—June 1

Gary Harris—June 14

Royal Laurent—June 27



*(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:** July 2010.

Committee Chairpersons:  
Please submit your report to the Church  
Secretary on or before  
the 21st of June.