

Berean
Baptist
Church

BEREAN BELL

March
2010

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR...

5 (of 10) Things Every Baptist Should Know

John 3:16. Yeah, I suppose it's a cliché since we see some yahoo holding up a sign at every baseball game that is televised, not to mention that Tim Tebow has put that verse on his face although I'm not sure why. Still, 'For God so loved the world...' is a great foundation for theology. This verse is a great way to share our faith with others in a way that threatens neither them nor us. It is a perfect verse for learning the practice of memorizing verses. John 3:16 can be comforting in times of pain, encouraging when we are down, and hopeful when we mourn.

How to Use a Concordance: A Concordance is a useful tool for Bible study. Say you want to find a character, like Methuselah, but you don't remember where he is located in the Bible. Look up his name and every verse where he is mentioned is listed. Or, if you want to look at what Paul said about 'sin' in Romans. Look up sin and every instance of the word will be listed, from Genesis to Revelation. All you need do is follow the list to Romans and look up the appropriate verses. Some Bible even have a concordance in the back, although this is rare these days. Or, you can buy an Exhaustive Concordance. The Exhaustive lists everything, every word; even a, an, the, and is for instance.

How to Find a Scripture Verse without a Page Number: Listen, Let me be honest. I know that I struggle to rattle off all the books of the Bible in their correct order. I can do pretty well, but I get mixed up with the minor prophets. It is one of my Lenten goals is to memorize the books of the Bible. But if that sounds a little daunting, just familiarize yourself with groups. Start by learning the five books of the Torah and the four Gospels. Move on to learning the Major

FROM THE PASTOR (cont.)

Prophets and then Paul epistles. Have a sense of the groups and you will be on your way. Baptists are known as people of the Book. Early Baptists counted not on the knowledge of the pastor to interpret the bible, but on the collecting knowledge of the church, every member, in order to correctly read, interpret and apply God's Word to life.

A Little Bit About the Holy Spirit: We probably think that the Holy Spirit is a doctrine for the Pentecostal church, those folks who speak in tongues and handle snakes and jump and shout, but the Holy Spirit has always been important to Baptist's too. When Baptists took the step to move away from a church hierarchy with bishops who interpreted and instructed the local church toward a autonomous and independent church which would read and interpret the bible on its own, they did so believing in and trusting in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us gifts to use in the church; preaching, teaching, encouraging, and healing. The Holy Spirit also gives us gifts of generosity, compassion and forgiveness to use in the community. Without the Holy Spirit we are left depending on our own strength to do ministry. Relying on the Holy Spirit allows us to draw upon a strength beyond our own.

How to Pray Out Loud... in Public: Of course I mean beyond the usual, 'Oh God!' when we are surprised, shocked or upset. I'm referring to those times when we call upon the name of the Lord after stubbing a toe or hitting a hammer with our thumb. And actually I also mean more than reciting the Lord's Prayer even though that is an important thing to be able to do. When we pray we enter the presence of God in a unique way. Words, as the creation story in Genesis tells us, are creative. A few carefully and honestly chosen words can invoke a connection between God and God's children. Public prayer in the church reminds us of one of our bedrock Protestant beliefs, the Priesthood of all believers. We are called to connect God with God's people, to share with people the loving truth of God's word, and to speak on behalf of the people lifting before God their hurts, worries, hopes and dreams. Prayers can be poetic and artful, but they need not be. Honesty is always the best way to start. Brevity too is a virtue. We don't need to be wordy. Start by being thankful, then ask for God's help or guidance, and finally pledge faithfulness to God's call, and you have yourself a beautiful public prayer.

Red Kloth



WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP NEWS

As we are reflecting on this season of Lent, I hope you keep in mind that we are having a Maundy Thursday service as well as a Good Friday service. Both services will be at 7:00 pm.

And look for upcoming slips for your memorial flowers for Easter Sunday. You will be able to drop off your flowers at the church on April 3 from 10 am to 12 noon.

We are also excited to have Joe Markey as a welcoming host for all visitors in our church. We know he will do an awesome job.... Thanks Joe.

I also want to thank all the committee members on worship and fellowship for their support and help. If you would like to be part of a great and rewarding committee please let us know.

Peace and Joy,
Debbie Ferland



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Passion Sunday: March 28th at 10:00am

Maundy Thursday: April 1st at 7:00pm

Good Friday: April 2nd at 7:00pm

Easter Sunday: April 4th at 10:00am

COFFEE HOUR HELP NEEDED



The Worship and Fellowship committee are looking people to help clean up after coffee hour. If you are interested, you can sign up for a month at a time. Please see a member of W&F at coffee hour and sign up to lend a hand.

FINANCE NEWS

Charles Lane, a noted Evangelical Lutheran, writes in his book on the topic of stewardship, "When the Bible talks about stewardship it almost always talks about the intimate connection between how a person handles financial matters and the person's relationship with God. In the Bible, all stewardship, including financial stewardship, is an intensely spiritual matter. It lies close to the heart of a disciple's relationship with Jesus." As we explore what stewardship means, consider these two different definitions of stewardship suggested by Charles Lane.

The goal of our stewardship ministry is to raise enough money to pay the bills next year.

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.

Which do you feel is a higher goal? As 2010 continues, we will look at what the Bible does say, starting with Psalm 24: 1-3:

**The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
The world, and those who live in it,
For he has founded in on the seas,
And established it on the rivers**



Next month: What's the difference between Discipleship vs. Membership?

BE GOD'S KINDNESS

Be the living expression of God's kindness:

Kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes,
kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm
greeting.



In the slums we are the light of God's kindness to the poor.
To children, to the poor, to all who suffer and are lonely, give them
always a happy smile.

Give them not only your care, but also your heart. —Mother Teresa

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS



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 the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month from 6:30pm-8:30pm September-June. This is the second year the group has met and the topics are decided on by the teens that attend. They discuss a broad range of social topics and how they relate to the Bible.

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.



Sunday School



PRAYER - A CONVERSATION BETWEEN FRIENDS

MISSION NEWS



Many thanks for your generous donations to The One Great Hour of Sharing offering to benefit of the people of Haiti. In addition, 6 Health Kits and 4 Baby Kits were sent to Church World Service to help replace the 25,000 kits sent to Haiti immediately following the earthquake.

Please continue to pray for the people of Haiti.

\$ 742.00 was raised by our congregation!

109 reasons to rejoice!



That's how many bandages Berean volunteers have rolled for the Democratic Republic of Congo. The International Ministries newsletter is posted on the church bulletin board and a story and picture our AB missionaries Ed and Miriam Noyes who have been serving in the Congo since 1984. Many thanks to June Bizier for sourcing good, used sheets from Overlook, the ripping and stripping team at Craft Night, Evelyn Levesque for sewing all the strips into exactly 5 yards each, and all the "rollers": Miriam Spencer, Melodee Bowser, Carol Pelkey, Kathy Roberts, Donna Landry, Janeen Rawson, (and even Brian Ferland rolled one). Hope I didn't forget anyone! These will be mailed to Church World Service for shipment to DRC; 3B's paying postage. **THANKS SO MUCH!** Sue

Also on the bulletin board: **Haiti Earthquake Crisis report** on the American Baptist response. \$ 8,500 from One Great Hour of Sharing has already been sent specifically for pharmaceutical needs to Ebenezer Clinic, an IM partner. Local RI and Seekonk, MA churches are holding a Tent Drive for Haiti. See details on the bulletin board if you would like to help.

Also, www.internationalministries.org has information.



TITHING RESETS OUR CENTER AND OUR PATTERN

'The patterns in our lives form about the deep and usually unarticulated attitudes we hold toward ourselves, the world, and others.'

—Luke Timothy Johnson

I've decided that instead of waiting for the Fall to unload a big stewardship and tithing sermon on Berean, I'm going to write a note every month about tithing for the rest of the year. And the theme for this month is, Tithing Sets the Pattern. North American Christians live in a notoriously consumeristic culture in which we are bombarded with two confusing messages. One message tells us that the stuff we buy is of the ultimate importance. We can buy pills that will save our love life and our marriage. We can purchase cures for baldness that will make our careers more successful and improve our prospects for dating. We can buy a car that will make us a better parent and cause us to be admired by neighbors. We can charge some new clothes which makes us feel better. Advertisers promise that the pursuit and purchase of consumer goods will bring us the happiness, peace and satisfaction we desire.

But the competing message that we may not be conscious of, but still, I think sense, is that all this stuff is replaceable and easily discarded. As soon as you buy a PC, cell-phone, Ipod, and get it home, it is obsolete. A newer version has come out which is new and improved, making your version 'old' and 'out of style.' Of course I am exaggerating a bit, but you get the picture. New styles of clothing and shoes have come out as soon as the Macy's bag with new purchases has settled in the back seat of the car outside the mall. Have you ever noticed how rare it is to get things repaired? Why bother to get the TV repaired, just replace it. Do you know if there is anyone in Rhode Island who can repair worn out shoes? It is easier to discard, producing more waste, and replace with something new, than to treasure and care for the old we already have. So the stuff we buy is of great importance for our satisfaction and well being, BUT it is easily replaceable and quickly discarded. It doesn't last, isn't meant too, and made to cast away. So we are caught in a cycle of pursuing, possessing, momentary satisfaction, then casting away so as to pursue again.

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TITHING RESETS OUR CENTER AND OUR PATTERN (cont.)

Is it any wonder our society suffers from anxiety and depression? We are caught in a system or a pattern, if you will, where we are promised happiness, satisfaction and safety in consumer good, but they never last and so we must constantly pursue these goods and the satisfaction they promise but can't quite deliver. We buy it, use it, discard it and must chase it once again. No wonder our culture largely feels dissatisfied. This pattern keeps us always wanting more and trains us to place a high value on created things. Over-valuing created things is Paul's definition of idolatry and according to Paul in Romans, is the cause of sin, the root of sin. Instead of seeking and abiding in the presence of the Creator, we spend our time seeking and abiding with created things.

This is why we tithe. One reason anyway, the spiritual reason for the tithe, because the pattern of our lives in this culture is based on putting our hopes in created things. Tithing resets our pattern. In sitting down to plan our budgets so that we offer thanksgiving to God for all God's gifts, we are re-setting our pattern. Through the tithe we are putting our finances and the material goods they provide at the service of God first. Finance and Material Goods are brought into proper perspective through tithing, for they will be used to serve God and not as a replacement for God. Tithing reminds us that we value differently than the world around us. Well, we should value differently than the world around us. But the lack of tithing in American Churches and the conspicuous consumption that American Christians engage in makes us look just like everybody else. Tithing, whether it is 10 % or 5%, is still a practice that puts our material goods in their proper perspective and their proper priority. Instead of service material things, we will put our material goods and wealth in the service of God, for God in the center of our pattern for life, God is whom we serve. This is the meaning of tithing.

Lent is a time to reset our patterns, to release practices that take us aware from centering on God and picking up practices that focus us on God as our center. Lent is a great time to reassess tithing.

Pastor Dawn

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN NEWS

Bee-lieve that God has a purpose for your life
Bee aware of the Holy Spirit empowering you
Bee joyful in the sisterhood we share with other Baptist women
Bee-tween Easter and Earth Day
Bee sure to join us for the **Extreme Table Makeover**



Saturday, April 10th at Noon

Bee glad that spring has arrived and we can enjoy a bee-utiful day
Bee generous in giving to the **ABW 60th Endowment Fund**
Bee-cause future generations of women and girls depend on our leadership
Bee our luncheon guest at **Wakefield Baptist Church** for an un-BEE-lievable Table Makeover with an un-BEE-lievable theme & program

Bee quick to call Sue Maiocchi for **your reservations** at 567-8841

Tickets are \$ 10.00 for lunch

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”
– *Jeremiah 29:11* **BEE Thankful in all things!**

The American Baptist Women’s Ministries of RI Extreme Table Makeover is to benefit the 60th Anniversary Endowment Fund: Envisioning God’s Purpose. Our statewide goal is \$ 8,000 over two years.

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!



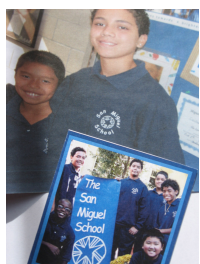
America for Christ gifts support Christ-centered ministries that are transforming lives across the United States and Puerto Rico—from addressing Children in Poverty initiatives and resettling refugees violently driven from their homelands to providing evangelism training, developing discipleship resources and leading ministry workshops and conferences.

The Finance committee is taking a collection in the month of March. Look for personal stories of people who have benefited from these donations in the Sunday bulletins at church. Our goal is to collect \$500.00. Please help us reach our goal.



ECUMENICAL COALITION

“The greatest miracle you can perform is to touch the mind and heart of a child.” St John the Baptist de La Salle



Berean Baptist Church has joined an ecumenical coalition to fight the appalling rise in youth violence throughout Rhode Island. Joining us so far are St Philip, Greenville Baptist Church and Our Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran churches. More will come.

One goal is to educate youth, parents, and community youth leaders about realities and solutions. Toward that end, through a GBC instigated ABCORI grant of \$10,000, a federally recognized youth conflict resolution program will be offered to churches throughout the state. In itself, this is a great educational programming opportunity for our church to establish community visibility.

Another goal of the coalition is to support exemplary schools recognized for developing virtues of academic excellence, service, character and compassion in their students. Accordingly, the above churches will co-sponsor a fundraising Italian supper for the San Miguel School, a non-sectarian urban middle school in the Elmwood area of Providence. Members from all of the churches have visited the school, seeing firsthand how the school earns its Providence Journal editorial description as a “educational miracle.” San Miguel’s staff and parents resolutely refuse to let these young men be swallowed by the curse of poverty and violence. See sanmiguelprov.org

As many of you know, Greg Rubano from Greenville Baptist spoke to the congregation about this initiative.

The Ecumenical Coalition is asking churches and friends to support this unique collaboration in a few ways:

- *Buying dinner and raffle tickets
- *Baking simple desserts for the meal
- *Considering a donation to defray costs. Perhaps a favorite frequented business as well?

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ECUMENICAL COALITION (cont.)

Details of the dinner are given below. In doing so, all of the churches will be sending a clear message to the community that they are a concerned congregation devoted to restoring the futures of all our youth, too many of which have lost faith in the future and themselves.

Months of planning by all member churches have gone into this. Let’s all step up to the table!

For details, contact Kathy Roberts at 949-1324 or Rev. Collins.

Event details: Italian Dinner

Place: St Philips Parish Center, Greenville

Date: March 20, 2010

Times: 1:30-3:30 and 5-8PM

Price: \$10 for adult/ \$5 for 5-12.

THE 4 LEAF CLOVER



Each leaflet stands for something different...Faith, Hope, Love, and Luck. 4 leaf clovers are rare and hard to find (I know I would look for one for what seemed like hours in my grandparents lawn). Although we all secretly wish for some Luck at one time or another I'm sure; if we have Faith, Hope, and Love...especially the love of our Lord, we don't really need luck! The 3 leaf clovers that surround us everywhere are just enough. *-Bonnie Bryden*

AN IRISH PRAYER



May God give you...
For every storm, a rainbow. For every tear, a smile.
For every care, a promise, and a blessing in each trial.
For every problem life sends, a faithful friend to share,
For every sigh, a sweet song, and an answer for each prayer.

ABCORI NEWS

8th Annual
South Providence Neighborhood Ministries
Benefit Concert

Sunday, March 7 3:00pm

Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Avenue in Cranston

Listen to wonderful performances while supporting this vital community outreach organization.

Please bring canned goods for the SPMN Food Pantry

A free-will offering will be collected

This musical extravaganza will include performances from wonderful adult and children choirs. This year's concert features the Henry Barnard School Chorus, the Barrington Christian Academy High School Chorus, the East Providence High School Choral Group, soloist



You're Invited...

ABCORI's 3rd Annual Spring Fling Brunch

Tuesday, March 23rd 10:30am

Meadowwood Conference Center @ Camp Canonicus

Tickets are \$12, \$10 for seniors

Seating is limited to the first 100 reservations accompanied by payment no later than March 15th. Due to limited space, no phone reservations please.

Mail check payable to: ABCORI, PO Box 330, Exeter, RI 02822

LENTEN HYMN SINGS - You are invited to join other Christians in singing songs of praise to God during this special season in the Christian calendar. Lent is a wonderful time to reflect on the meaning and mystery of Easter with hymns that have come down through the ages along with more contemporary praise songs. We meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Baptist Church, 210 Plainfield Pike, in Foster (02825).

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Ground pines have a unique history. Did you know that they are the enduring remnants of ancient forests that millions of years ago towered hundreds of feet high? So prolific and extensive were these club mosses that in dying over eons they compressed and compacted to form in swamps the coal found underground today. Yes, the very coal that powered the Industrial Revolution and brought us such fantastic technology and now is leaving a carbon footprint so insidious that humanity's future hangs in the balance. Coal is our most abundant and most widely dispersed fossil fuel. Over 40% of the carbon dioxide in our fragile atmosphere results from coal burning. And China is presently building at least one new coal plant each week. Since coal is so available and so easily extracted from the earth, the climatic dilemma is apparent. How ironic all this is, that plants are the lungs of the earth, extracting carbon dioxide from the air and processing it into the life giving oxygen we breathe. And then we turn around and pump our atmosphere full of the pollutants that endanger the very life forms we hold sacred.

As I neared the end of the woodland trail, I wondered why such troublesome thoughts should cross my mind. But I realized that God, in so mystifying a way, has bestowed upon mankind such awesome potential for choice for better or for worse that we are surely just a little less than the angels. And all this from a patch of diminutive club moss. Where else could this occur except in a moment of quiet contemplation when walking just off the beaten path?

--Don Waterman



CENSUS JOBS AVAILABLE



The U.S. Census Bureau is now hiring temporary, part time jobs to help with the 2010 U.S. Census.

If interested, call 1-866-861-2010 and see their flyer on the bulletin board. Or log on to

www.2010censusjobs.gov



Easter Flower Notice



*We are looking forward to the Easter Flower Display
for our worship service on Sunday, April 4th.
If you wish to present flowers for this occasion,*

Please fill out this form and do one of the following:

- Give to a member of Worship & Fellowship,
Place in the basket in the foyer,*
- Place in the Offering plate on Sunday,*
- Or mail to the church before March 28th
March 28th is the deadline!!*

*Plants are to be delivered to the church on
Saturday, April 3rd between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm
Or please make other arrangements.*

I wish to present ____ (number) memorial plants
____ in memory of or ____ in Honor of

Given by _____

March Birthdays

Linda Peck—March 5	Carlene Beckwith—March 6
Isaac Collins—March 8	Frances Wheeler—March 10
Roger Landry—March 23	Linda Morgenstern—March 25
William Bowser—March 30	Rev. Darin Collins—March 30

****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: April 2010

Committee Chairpersons:

Please submit your report to the
Church Secretary on or before
the **15th of March.**