



# Berean Bell

Berean Baptist Church

November  
2009



## From the Pastor...

Romans 12:17-21

*Do not repay anyone evil for evil . Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil , but overcome evil with good.*

By the time this note arrives in the newsletter, most of you will have heard on the news, or at church, of the terribly frightening attacks on the Slatersville Congregational Church. If you have not heard; on two separate occasions unknown persons defaced the church building with a knife, first etching a swastika and a racial epithet into the building, then a threat to burn the church down. I have met with the pastor of the church and offered her my personal support as well as the full support of Berean Baptist Church, and I forwarded an e-mail to many of you, inviting you to e-mail Rev. Morris at the church yourselves, to offer prayer and support.

Situations like these remind me how very frightening and difficult it is to obey the words of Paul that are included above; 'overcome evil with good.' How terribly vulnerable and alone it



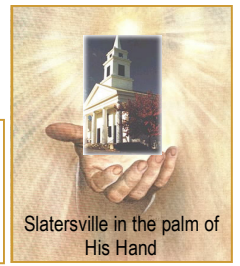
## From the Pastor... (continued)

feels to be a peaceful presence in a world of anger and violence. How frightening and frustrating it is to do good to those who threaten and frighten us. How tempting it must be to want to strike back and fight back in some way. If Slatersville Congregational is to maintain its witness of love in a world of hate, and peace in a world of violence, they must know that they do not make this stand alone. This sister church needs not only our prayers, but our active support. If you have not e-mailed Rev. Eileen Morris, please do so at [ejmorris@aol.com](mailto:ejmorris@aol.com) or send a note of support to the church to PO. Box 808, Slatersville, RI 02876.

Slatersville Congregational is a church very similar to our own. They too raise money to offer heating assistance to families in their community. They too collect food for the hungry and coats for the cold. They too are simple folks trying to live a loving and generous life in the name of Christ, as are we. I cannot imagine how 'overcome' I would feel if this were to happen to Berean Baptist Church. But I do know how much it would mean to know that other churches in the area were rallying around us. So I call all members of Berean to rally around Slatersville. Do not let them be 'overcome' by these sad and frightening acts of vandalism. Together we can overcome evil with good.

Blessings,  
Rev. Darin Collins

"Don't be afraid...  
He will give us all the  
strength that we  
need."



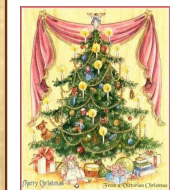


## Worship & Fellowship News

As the holidays swiftly approach us, we all become busy at Berean making pies, crafting on Mondays, and filling food baskets. But the Worship & Fellowship committee is planning a wonderful holiday season. The planning of Advent and the hanging of the greens is underway. Pastor Darin along with Debbie Ferland have served communion to five Berean shut-ins including Velma Holt, Georgina Shaw, Mary and Fred Balfour and Fran Wheeler. Also, W&F will take part in Christmas caroling this year at Overlook Nursing Home some time in December. If anyone would like to join us, please see any member of W&F. I would also like to thank Joe and Julie Markey and David and Amy Day for doing such a great job with coffee hour and everyone who has helped bake or donate an item.

Thank You All and God Bless!!!

Peacefully yours,  
Dee Lemire  
W&F Chair



## Victorian Christmas Fundraiser

November 28, 2009

Berean Baptist Church's Outreach Committee has adopted 10 local families for the holiday season. In an effort to fund the adoption of these families, we will participate in Pascoag's upcoming Victorian Christmas Celebration in downtown Pascoag on November 28. There will be food, crafts and trinkets for sale. Come stop by...

If you have any questions, please call Dee Lemire (568-5261) or Missy Middleton (488-5471).



## From Our Mailbox



I would sincerely like to thank Pastor Darin, and his wife Roberta, the Pastor's Prayer Group, Berean's Craft Circle, Ann Harwood and her class for the shower of handmade cards, pictures and notes, and especially Berean's church family and friends for the ongoing prayers, get well cards with personal inspirational messages, phone calls, visits, flowers, and on several occasions some very delicious meals and desserts that were personally prepared for me. It has been a very long 6+ months of medical/surgical problems, and I thank all of you for not giving up on me, and especially for storming the heavens on my behalf. I know from experience that God answers prayers. It is through our faith and trust in him that this is possible. I am truly blessed to have such a loving and caring church family; and I am anxiously looking forward to returning to worship soon. From my heart to all of yours, "God bless you and thank you!"

Bea Steere

A quote from Eleanor Roosevelt:



He who loses money, loses much.  
He who loses a friend, loses much more.  
He who loses faith, loses all.

We want to thank you and your church family for being there for us. Now we can say we are a Baptist again. We love our church. God directed us right back to our roots. What a feeling!!

God Bless to all!

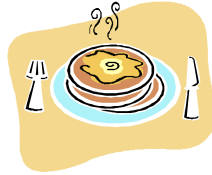
Fred & Mary Balfour



Our Church Family



**3B'S Women's Group Invites You To Our  
PANCAKE  
BREAKFAST  
ALL YOU-CAN-EAT**



**Saturday, November 7th**

7a.m. – 10a.m.

**\$5.00 Adults / \$2.00 Children under 9**

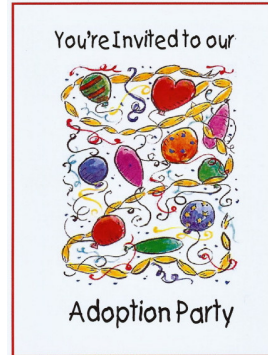


Bring Your **Family**  
Bring Your **Friends**  
Bring Your **Appetite**



**It's A Party!!**

**Come and celebrate the adoption of Collin Ferland!!**



We would like to invite our Berean family to join us in celebrating the day we adopt Collin!

**When:** November 21, 2009

**Where:** Beckwith Lodge, corner of Lodge Rd & Church Street, Pascoag

**Time:** 5pm-9pm

Hope to see you all there on this very special day!!

Please RSVP by November 12th  
to Debbie Ferland at 568-2589



Once again the Outreach Committee is seeking your help with our holiday food collection. We will be asking for donations to help fill our holiday turkey baskets for the families we have adopted through the summer lunch program, along with referrals from the local schools. Thank you for your continued help. God Bless!

- November 8<sup>th</sup> Turkey Stuffing / Cranberry Sauce
- November 15<sup>th</sup> Turkey Gravy / Juice (any kind)
- November 22<sup>nd</sup> Chicken Broth / Peanut Butter & Jelly
- November 29<sup>th</sup> Mac & Cheese / Canned Fruit

All donations will be submitted to the Feinstein Challenge.  
Each donation you make to the food closet will be matched by the Allen Shawn Feinstein Foundation.

**3B's News**



**You're Invited!**

Join the 3B's on December 5 at 10am  
for the  
"Women of Berean  
Christmas Gathering"  
Stay tuned for more details to be  
announced.

All women and girls of Berean are invited.



## American Baptist Women Conferences

Join us for an awesome opportunity to be together with our sisters in Christ from all over New England!

**Save the date of February 19-21, 2010** for the *ABW Spiritual Growth & Renewal Retreat* in Billerica, MA – a new hotel with that relaxing “zen” feel. A get-away just in time to beat the winter doldrums. Watch for more info...

### June 4 & 5, 2010 Conference @ Canonicus

**Rev. Susan Omanson** ~ Keynote Speaker

Susan is director of Elizabeth House- a new residential ministry for exploited women, empowering them to experience life changing transformations {and recipient of Break the Chains funding}. Her calling is to spend the next 10 years committed to creating, building, leading and empowering the ministries of “BE FREE”...sharing the possibility and promise of life transformation found in Jesus Christ through the work of His Holy Spirit.

Susan has a heart for oppressed and needy people. She says “God, people, community & government working together can bring about change. I have seen it before. It can be done again. We have a great guide book, the Bible, and a great leader, Jesus Christ.”

Sue will visit Rhode Island next June to lead our conference. Join the many women of RI and attend this conference. John 8:36

### The National American Baptist Women’s & Girl’s Conference July 10-15, 2010

Sue Maiocchi & Donna Landry are driving to Columbus, Ohio and we want other women and girls (grade 4+) to join us. There’s plenty of time to save for it. Workshops, Morning Vespers, Singing, Fellowship, Bible Study & Speakers, and some plain old fashion FUN with AB women and girls from all over the United States & Puerto Rico. Talk to Sue or Donna to learn more.



## Outreach News

Okay, so we had some crazy weather to deal with in October, cold, rain, and SNOW!! The weather is something that we New Englanders seem to focus on a lot. Fortunately, for Outreach, the weather is never an issue. The holiday programs are being coordinated by Rhonda and food drives have been going on, donations are in, and plans for the holidays are in full swing. Dee is busy with the Operation Pie Angels and Dee & Missy are getting organized for the Victorian Christmas celebration in downtown Pascoag. The clothes closet has been extremely busy and we appreciate all the donations of clothing. We will continue to accept any donations of fall/winter clothing so if you have anything you can bring to church on Sundays. We have serviced 5 families through the RIF oil grant since September. Please remember that we have a separate Heating Assistance fund to help families with other sources of heat such as propane as well.

There are many tasks to accomplish and we welcome your support. If you are interested in helping with any of the programs or projects please let us know.

The Thanksgiving holiday is a special time for all of us to reflect on our blessings in life and to express our gratitude to Jesus for all He has given to us.

We need to ask ourselves what are we each doing individually to show our gratitude, do we know how?

Next Outreach meeting is Thursday, Nov 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm.

Happy Thanksgiving to all,  
Sharon





## Human Trafficking

Rhode Island General Assembly  
Capitol Hill  
Providence, Rhode Island

October 26, 2009

Dear Honorable Representatives & Senators,

I support the Prostitution bill, H 5044A, and H 5661A, the Trafficking bill. I am a registered voter, who votes. Pass a bill that is considerably the same as these two bills.

Throughout the U.S. there is breakthrough awareness of human trafficking. The time is now for Rhode Islanders to end commercial sexual exploitation in our home state. The men and women of our Senate are holding a key to make change happen today.

May our hearts and minds be courageous to challenge wrong. May the power of the government in RI be used to end sexual exploitation, protect the victims, prosecute the pimps and traffickers and prevent human trafficking.

May integrity show forth so our world, beginning here in RI, be free of bondage and slavery from exploitation including sexual abuse and forced prostitution.

May our world be free of the unjust trade of human beings, mostly women and children. This is a crime against Humanity and all individuals possess the responsibility to Break the Chains of Slavery in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Donna L. Landry  
American Baptist Woman of RI  
Burrillville, Rhode Island

“What does the world require of you?  
What does the world require of you?”

~Justice for the Oppressed~



## ABCORI News



**Thanksgiving Feast**  
**Thursday, November 19, 2009**  
**12:00pm - Shaub Lodge**

**Cost \$16 per person**  
**Special Senior Discount \$14**

**Seating is limited to the first 100 reservations**  
**Reservations and full payment must be received no later**  
**than Friday, November 6th**

**For further information please call**  
**Administrative Assistant, Colleen Tolhurst**  
**at 294-6318 ext. 110**



## Baptist Heritage Weekend

Theme: “Why Would Anybody Want to Be a Baptist?”

When: November 7, 9am-3pm at The First Baptist Church in Warren  
November 8, 11:00am at The First Baptist Church in America

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Bill J. Leonard, Dean & Professor of Church History at Wake Forest University. Divinity School. In addition to him speaking, there will be three workshops on Saturday the 7th. They are: “How to Preserve Church Records,” “Why Are There So Many Kinds of Baptists?” and “Warren Association: The History of The Church Associational Principle.”

Dr. Leonard will also be leading the Sunday Morning worship service at First Baptist Church in America on November 8th at 11am.

Contact Rev. Paul Hanson at 401-847-3210 for more information.



## The Pumpkin Prayer

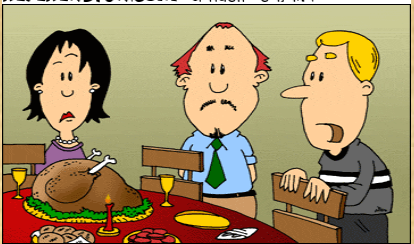


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(See Matthew 14:14-21) 11-24-1999  
HONESTLY JESUS, YOU GIVE ME 5 PIES AND 2 TURKEYS AND EXPECT ME TO COOK FOR THE 5,000 GUESTS YOU'VE INVITED???

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(See Psalm 100) 11-28-2002  
HAS IT ALREADY BEEN A YEAR SINCE WE WERE THANKFUL?

Let Us Never Forget To Be Thankful...

Dear Jesus,

As I carve my pumpkin  
help me to pray this prayer:



Open my mind so I can learn  
about you;  
(cut the top off the pumpkin)  
Psalm 100:3

Take all my sin and forgive the  
wrong that I do.  
(clean out the inside)  
1 John 1:9

Open my eyes so Your love I  
will see;  
(cut eyes shaped like hearts)  
Psalm 119:18

I'm sorry for the times I've  
turned up my nose at what  
you've given me.  
(cut a nose in the shape of a cross)  
Psalm 86:5

Open my ears so Your word I  
will hear,  
(cut ears shaped like the Bible)  
Proverbs 18:15

Open my mouth to tell others  
You're near.  
(cut the mouth in the shape of a fish)  
Psalm 118:17

Let Your light shine in all that I  
say and do! Amen!  
(place a light inside)  
Matthew 5:16

## November Birthdays

Nov. 2 - Neftali Ponce      Nov. 2 - Cookie Gabrielson  
Nov. 5 - Jacob & Sam Harwood      Nov. 6 - Dee Lemire  
Nov. 15 - Mary K. Taylor      Nov. 30 - Kelly Hunt  
Nov. 30 - Ann Harwood

\*\*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:** December 2009.

*Committee Chairpersons:*

Please submit your report to the  
Church Secretary on or before  
the **17th of November.**