

October  
2008



BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

# Berean Bell Newsletter

## From the Pastor...

*Psalm 141:2*

*May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.*

The presence of religious leaders at both the Democratic and Republican National conventions, beginning each of the proceedings with an invocation has brought back to public discussion the appropriateness of prayer in the public or civic realm. While as Christians we may rush to say 'Yes, it is appropriate,' the prayers offered at these conventions, especially the prayer at the Democratic National Convention, causes me to pause and consider again whether a Christian leader should participate. The pastor who prayed, interrupted his prayer to invite any and all in attendance to end their prayer in any way they saw fit as they represented a diversity of faiths. In other words, the prayer had to be so generic as to not offend members of other faiths, that I wonder if that prayer could have really meant anything at all. This is my primary problem with school prayer. Because at this point in America we have so many faiths represented, Protestant and Catholic, but also Buddhist and Muslim and Sikh, that to create a prayer that would not offend at least one group that prayer would have to be so bland it would end up meaning very little.

I participated in a recent on-line blog debate about this topic; should Christians offer public prayers at civic events. Here was my main point. In order to answer the question 'should we pray publicly at civic or political events,' we must first consider carefully the purpose of prayer. Why are we commanded to pray and how did Jesus teach us to pray? I believe that we are confused about prayer in public events and at political events because we are confused about prayer in general. We are taught the Lord's prayer in Sunday School, perhaps we prayed 'Now I lay me down to sleep' as a child, or we uttered a very bland 'For that which we are about to receive may we be truly thankful' kind of blessing before dinner. But Jesus was pushing for more than that in

## From the Pastor (continued...)

teaching us to pray, wasn't he? He taught us to go into a room and shut the door to pray in silence and solitude and this wasn't because Jesus was a liberal who didn't want to offend anyone by proclaiming a faith in the public realm. It was because he wanted us to see prayer as an intimate connection between God and us... a time carefully planned and structured and held sacred, when we would shut out the world and patiently wait for even a brief glimpse of the kingdom and hear even the slightest whisper of the voice of God. Something we rarely have time for. Or, to put it more strongly, but more accurately, Something we rarely make time for.

Recite the Lord's prayer to yourself, but pay attention to what Jesus is telling us to pray, for in the praying, we are telling ourselves a story. 'Our Father, who art in Heaven' reminds us of the sovereignty of God, that God has created us, given us life, that all that we have and are come from God, so we are dependent not upon ourselves, but upon God. 'Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done...' once again reminds us of God's sovereignty, but it also reminds us where our citizenship is ultimately. We are not, in the end, the citizens of any one state or even nation, but citizens of God's Kingdom and claimed by that identity. 'Forgive us our debts...' reminds us of two things. It reminds us to live financially prudent and yet generous lives. This is what kingdom citizenship means, the creation of a society where everyone has enough to live peacefully and fully. But 'Forgive Us...' also reminds us of our sinfulness. We depend upon God's goodness because on our own we are sinful. In other words, we need God to be at our best, for without God, we are subject to our worst.

I could go on, but here is my point. Prayer is a time to connect to God intimately and a time to remind ourselves of our story, the story of God's creative love, gracious forgiveness, and purpose for our lives, which is the Kingdom. Without prayer, we forget who we are. October begins 40 days of prayer for our church, its mission, ministry and yes, its finances. I strongly encourage you to join with friends to pray together throughout this 40 days, for each other, our community, but mostly for this church, its work, its leaders and the resources to continue to work with God to create the Kingdom.

God Bless You All.

**PASTOR DARIN**



## Berean Baptist Builders ~ ~ ~ 3B's

Our church is awesome. Please extend your arm out straight, bend it at the elbow and go ahead and pat yourself on your back. Kudos to the 24 people at the kitchen on Sept 6<sup>th</sup>. Sue, Nancy, Kelly, Jeannine, Dee, Deb & Collin, Doris, Phyllis, Maureen, Evelyn, Linda, Marge, Aimee, Velma, Melodee, Jeff, Janeen, Joyce, Toni, Gail, Colleen, Carolyn, Donna and King Bee for the day, Al Hutnak with his vintage peeler from the 1890's. We peeled, cored & sliced 4 bushels of apples. We prepared 36 apple crisp trays. We cleaned the kitchen and did all this in 2 hours. Many hands make light work. With God all things are possible. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.



The 1<sup>st</sup> day of the art festival arrived and our army of volunteers showed up with smiles. Buster and his truck helped set up with Ann, Linda P., Chris & Jennie. Kitchen helpers were Doris and Evelyn and Nancy. Booth helpers were Sharon, Marge, Dee, Sue, Gail, Colleen, Veronica, Linda, Deb, Melodee, Jeff, Brian, Andrew & Collin. Collin did most of the work. A future King Bee as far as we are all concerned. The 2<sup>nd</sup> day was postponed due to rain. Our church family supported the fundraiser by purchasing apple crisp trays and ice cream. We did well. Once again, with God all things are possible!



Good news once again.....Coffee hour hostesses are coming to the edge and stepping up. They are Veronica, Kristine and Dee. Thanks so much for helping out Carolyn and Donna. Your act of kindness is appreciated. Carolyn and Donna will always be there with you, but it gives one of them the opportunity to rest.

Next 3B's meeting is Saturday, October 25 at 9am. We will conduct a 30 minute meeting and then prepare for the pot luck banquet. Yes, of course anyone is invited to join us that morning. We will provide refreshments and bestow blessings of gratitude upon you and yours.

Remainder meetings for 2008 are Nov 8<sup>th</sup> at 9am and Dec 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 am {Christmas Gathering}

Newsflash.....October is Clergy Appreciation Month.



2009 upcoming women's group ideas are Yoga, Computer skills and Spa Spectacular. Stay tuned for details.

Fundraisers are March & Nov. breakfasts, April pasta dinner and apple crisp at art festival in September. The major purpose of fundraisers done by 3B'S church women is for church needs. Hence why they coined the name Berean Baptist Builders {3 B's}. In addition to assisting needs of our church, we help the community, state, national and international ministries.

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the things he planned for us long ago." -Ephesians 2:10



COMING SOON

AT OUR NEXT

3B'S MEETING

~CHOCOLATE GUMMI BEARS~

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT!



BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

134<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TEA



October 19, 2008

Special Service at 3:00 p.m.

Tea & Pastry following



Looking for China Tea Cups & saucers.

Label your name under cup & saucer and bring to church kitchen on or before October 12.

Also looking for Tea Pots of any type, silver or ceramic. Again label your name under teapot.



Everyone is invited to this Opening Event  
for our Church's 134<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

**\*\*NOTE\*\*** If you are planning to attend our opening worship celebration and tea, please RSVP by Wednesday, October 15th. You can call the church office at 568-5411 or e-mail us at [bereanbaptist@verizon.net](mailto:bereanbaptist@verizon.net) Thanks ☺



## 134<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH 1874-2008

Special service at 3:00pm on Sunday afternoon on October 19, 2008 will commence Berean's 134<sup>th</sup> year of ministry to the community of Burrillville. Rev. Darin Collins will officiate the service with guest speaker Rev. Dr. Liliana DaValle. Special Music provided by music director, Rev Gary Harris and our renowned church choir.

Following the service will be an old fashioned Tea & Pastry.

Pot Luck Banquet to celebrate our 134<sup>th</sup> anniversary is Saturday evening at 5:00pm on October 25, 2008 in Grainger-Hall Auditorium. Admission is a can good for our church food closet.

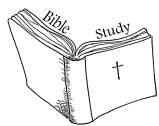
Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> is closing ceremony at worship service followed by coffee hour.

LOOK for sign up sheets on the bulletin board for pastry & tea (Oct 19) and dish for pot luck (Oct 25).

October 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm is final planning committee meeting. Agenda is displays for church history and final program planning checklist. Anyone is welcome to come to this meeting. Show your support.



**Wanted:** Adult bible study Host/Hostess. You can open your home or choose another location. You can also choose the frequency - weekly or monthly, one time or continuous. Instruction will be done by the Pastor. Host/Hostess would only be responsible for keeping guests updated on meeting times and dates. We currently have one group studying Revelation. We are looking for a host for a Bible Basics group and a more advanced, in depth study group. Please see either myself or the Pastor if interested or for more information. --Jen Collins



## Craft Circle News

Over the summer we prepared 8 gift bags for Women and Infants Hospital and gave the Harrisville Fire Dept. and the Burrillville Police Dept. 6 afghans each for their emergency supplies. We are hoping to have 41 afghans &/or quilts finished by Christmas for the Crossroads shelter for homeless women. Anyone who would like to make a bed cover for this facility should call Janeen Rawson at 568-8733 to arrange for pickup of yarn or sewing supplies. The weekly meetings continue on Tues. afternoons from 1 to 3pm at the Ashton Court Community Room. And coming up...a second Craft Circle will begin to meet in the evening at a date to be announced soon. Stay tuned!



## Christian Ed News

The children's and teen Sunday School program this year will focus on the Beatitudes, working on one verse per month. Lessons will consist of an introduction, discussion, project and review. Children PK-Grade 5 meet on Sunday mornings at 9:00. Teachers for that age group are Ann Harwood, Sharon Ponce and Rhonda Stanish. Our new Teen program meets from 6:30-8:30 on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month, beginning on September 19th and includes grades 6-12. Adult Sunday School continues also at 9:00 on Sunday mornings with the books of the bible. Last, a HUGE THANKS TO the 3Bs, the Missions committee, and Christian Ed. for supporting our Sunday School children this past summer in attending camp at Canonicus! Because of their generosity, we were able to send 14 children to camp this year. Many great experiences, many great memories! Thank you!



--Jen Collins

## Finance News



JUBILEE is defined as “CELEBRATION”. Berean Baptist Church has a lot to celebrate, and that is why the Finance Committee has decided to focus on “our celebrations” as we look to the future in 2009.

The Jubilee Project started off our Stewardship program for the season. Highlights:

- ▶ \$ 1,870 was donated to the Jubilee Project Fund over the summer
- ▶ 15 children are participating with \$ 5.00 each
- ▶ 31 adults/families are participating with \$ 50.00 each

We still have funds to distribute if there are others who want to sign-up. Any questions about the program, call Sue Maiocchi 567-8841 or Don Waterman 568-2077. We are eager to see how everyone uses their funds to help others or uses their “seed” money to make it grow to help even more. At the January 2009 Annual Meeting we’ll find out how we all did.



It’s probably no surprise that the Finance Committee talks a lot about money – that’s our job. One thing we discuss is which special offerings we think the church should support. We realize that there are NUMEROUS requests for giving, including those outside the walls of the church, such as school fundraisers. Does it seem a little too much sometimes? Okay, we’re not afraid to say it: Yes, it does.

Some causes are closer to our hearts than others, but all are worthy causes, or we wouldn’t promote them. This is just to remind everyone that we realize that not every request can be supported equally. The only question should be, “are my gifts pleasing to God”.

- September offerings were collected for World Mission and American Baptist Women’s Ministry National programs and projects.

**THANK YOU!!**

- October’s offering will be the Regional Offering to support the work in Rhode Island, specifically for evangelism and communication.

**Your generous giving is greatly appreciated!**

## Stewardship

“A Love That Won’t Quit” will be our theme as we continue our stewardship program into October and November. We have two exciting events in the works; one is a Ministry Fair where we celebrate our “talents”. When Jesus tells the parable about the servants being given talents from their master to “take care of”, he’s upset when one just buries his talent in the ground for “safe-keeping”. Do you have a hidden talent you’ve buried that could be shared with others in your church family? Perhaps you have a talent for teaching a Sunday School Class or cooking a church dinner. Give it some thought. The Ministry Fair will celebrate all the “talents” that Berean is sharing and promote new opportunities for using our talents.



## American Baptist Women

I’m beginning my third and final year as President of American Baptist Women’s Ministries of Rhode Island, and the last two years has been a great chance to get around the state and meet many of the women who are working so hard in Christian service. The **ABGIRLS** (American Baptist Girls in Relationship, Leadership and Service) program is off to a great start. If you have a daughter or granddaughter aged 9 to 16, please invite them to attend one of the four state meetings with you.

Couple of things to keep in mind:

ABWM of RI has launched *Budget Baubles* to benefit ‘Children in Poverty’, specifically South Providence Neighborhood Ministries, plus others. Budget Baubles has two meanings: 1) Dollars raised will be for the SPNM budget, and 2) the jewelry will be low-cost (budget) purchase.

We need your help to 1) donate good, used jewelry of any type and 2) purchase cleaned, used jewelry to make your wardrobe sparkle. At the next fall state meeting, women and girls will be cleaning, packaging, pricing and selling the jewelry; so, if you have any to donate, please see Sue Maiocchi on Sunday morning or call 567-8841.

**Spiritual Growth and Renewal Retreat will be on Saturday, January 31, 2009** at Canonicus Camp and Conference Center; one day to keep costs down so everyone can participate. Please mark it on your new 2009 calendars that are already circulating in our mailboxes. More details to follow next month.



## Outreach News



Autumn has arrived and we are in full swing preparing for the upcoming holiday season as well as working on current projects. By the time you read this a few members of Outreach will have attended a Sept. 27th "Clark Grant" workshop @ Camp Canonicus as we work towards securing a \$1,000 grant for the Personal Hygiene Program/Project. A grant requesting \$3,000 for the hygiene program was also submitted to Ocean State Power/Burrillville Community Foundation on Sept. 3rd, so we will anxiously await their decision. On Sept. 29th a few members also will have attended the "Mission Explosion" @ Greenville Baptist Church hosted by Ken Bell. This event will highlight some of the local outreach programs the area Baptist Churches are involved in. Outreach



has planned a Craft/Artisan Fair for Saturday, Oct. 4th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vendors have rented tables for \$25.00 ea. There will be a variety of items available for purchase and lunch will be offered (soup, sandwich & beverage) for \$5.00 along with baked goods for sale to benefit the Heating Assistance Ministry. The clothes closet will be open that same day from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. so it will be a busy but fun day. Donations of blankets, undercover wear, as well as monetary donations has allowed us to service a local family who lost everything in a recent fire. On Sept 6th, opening day of "Coats of Color", we had 42 visitors, many were families with children who had never visited the closet before. We are still looking for winter jackets, boys & girl sizes 4 through 18 as well as boots and gloves. Donations of clothing has been steady and is much appreciated. The food pantry serviced 11 families in September & the pantry is constantly in motion with donations of food items to be sorted and shelved, as well as grocery shopping @ Price Rite. We are also expecting our first shipment from Dollar Tree Direct of personal hygiene items purchased with money from our 2007 OSP grant. Another large task, items have to be picked up and stored & then distributed. Rhonda is preparing for the Feinstein Hunger Challenge as well which begins Nov 1st & more info will be in the bulletin. There will also be an insert with all the October dates for Cans & Cash with specific items needed to fill 15 Thanksgiving food boxes and the seven families we serviced over the summer will be included in this number. For Christmas we intend to also do 15 food boxes but Outreach will do gifts only for the



## Outreach (continued...)

seven families we have adopted. We also anticipate having a small holiday party for the families we have adopted & are considering Dec. 20th from 1 pm to 3 pm as the date, this will be decided at our next meeting. The 3B's generously donated gift certificates for their Pancake Breakfast to Outreach for these seven families- thank you so much! We are starting to receive heating assistance requests and during September we serviced three local families. Colleen Wheeler's generous donation of \$1,000.00 in memory of her deceased husband along with the monies raised during the chicken BBQ @ the Colonair's is making a difference for these families. We are pursuing another grant from the Rhode Island Foundation for \$5,000.00 for our heating assistance ministry and at our last meeting it was decided and voted on to purchase 20- 80% wool blankets @ \$12.00 each from Northwest Woolen Mills through their Heat Smart Campaign. We discussed the portable heater concept & decided to table it until the Oct. 9th meeting, a sample heater was displayed and Lowe's price to us would be \$15.00 per heater for 20 heaters. A release of liability form would need to be signed by any family receiving one. We are very concerned that there will be many families without heat this winter. As I write this the price of a gallon of oil was \$3.38 but expected to rise another fifteen cents by the end of this week and start to steadily increase. Next Outreach meeting is Thursday, October 9th @ 6:30 p.m. We are looking forward to a joyful season of giving and sharing what God has blessed us with, love and compassion for all.



Happy Autumn.

Sharon Ponce/Outreach

## From Our Mailbox...



Dear Berean Friends,

Don and I would like to thank you for all the prayers, cards, calls and from Pastor Darin visits over these past months. This is a challenging time, made easier by the knowledge of your love & support and the warmth of God's Love. I am well healed and Don is entering chemotherapy. His wonderful attitude and your love and prayers and that of our family sustains.

Love, Don and Nancy Campbell

## Canonicus Events



### Annual Fall Festival



*Date:* October 13 (Columbus Day)

*Time:* 10:00am-4:00pm

Come enjoy Canonicus for a fun family day!!

Craft sale, bake sale, apple pie & pumpkin contest, boating, children's games, story teller and Christian bands

### Canonicus Thanksgiving Feast

*When:* Thursday, November 20 at 12:00pm

*Where:* Shaub Lodge

Turkey, stuffing, squash, green beans, rolls, bread pudding and more yummy food plus musical entertainment!

\$18 per person

\$14 for seniors

Call Colleen Tolhurst for more info 294-6310 x110

**Reservations and payment due by November 7th!**

## Church News

--Invite-a-Friend Sunday is October 26th

--The church quarterly meeting has been changed to Sunday Nov. 2nd following worship. We will be hearing brief committee reports and electing new committee members.

**\*\*All Committees:** Budget figures for 2009 are due November 9th

--Do you know someone who would like to receive communion in their home? Do you want to volunteer by bringing communion to people who can't make it to church? If you are interested, please let Pastor Darin or the church office know.

## October Birthdays

Oct. 4 - Greg Bowser

Oct. 11 - Colleen Wheeler

Oct. 17 - Lauren Capron

Oct. 20 - Michael Collins

Oct. 27 - Lauren Bonoyer

Oct. 28 - Nancy Binns

Oct. 29 - James Laurent

**\*\*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:** November 2008.

*Committee Chairpersons:*

Please submit your report to the  
Church Secretary on or before  
the **16th of October.**