



Berean Bell

Berean Baptist Church

September 2010

From the Pastor...

‘IT IS NOT ONLY UNMERCIFUL, BUT UNNATURAL AND ABOMINABLE; YEA, MONSTROUS FOR ONE CHRISTIAN TO VEX AND DESTROY ANOTHER FOR DIFFERENCE AND QUESTIONS OF RELIGION. ‘

I typed this sentence in capital letters because this is how Leonard Busher printed the sentence in London in 1614. Busher was an associate of Thomas Helwys and therefore is one of our forefathers in the Baptist tradition.

Much has been said on Television and Media about the proposed Muslim Community Center and Mosque that would be constructed near Ground Zero. The blogosphere is abuzz with opinions. My friend Travis wrote an Op-Ed piece in the Time Picayune supporting the construction of the Mosque based on the traditional Baptist belief in religious liberty. Let me tell you that both the phone calls and e-mails that he is receiving as a result of this are rarely supportive. But, Travis is right to remind us of our tradition; a tradition that, in its inception was arrested, persecuted and even martyred. So from early on Baptists have held opinions about the relation of church and state and the relation of people of different faiths exemplified by Busher.

Or we could read the words of another forefather John Leland; ‘Let every man speak freely without fear, maintain the principles that he believes, worship according to his own faith, either one God, three God’s, no God, or twenty Gods; **and let the government protect him in so doing,**’ (emphasis added).

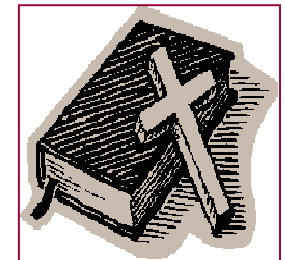
But there is an even greater tradition upon which we stand, and a tradition with higher authority. →

From the Pastor (continued)

"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies , do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. Lk 6:27-33

First let me say that I do not think that Islam is our enemy. That is not the point I am driving at in quoting the passage above. My point is that in this passage Jesus is teaching us how to live in a world that is both delightfully and painfully diverse. The way that the world deals with differences is all too often fear and anger, sometimes, often leading to violence and I think that is what we are witnessing in response to the Mosque in New York City. The way that the disciple of Christ will navigate the rough shoals of a world where many ideas, beliefs, opinion, cultures, traditions and practices, intermingle is to love and forgive, share, bless and even suffer instead of strike back.

Frankly I had not been paying much attention to the media hype about the Mosque. My friend Travis’s experience with his Op-Ed piece opened my eyes to the vital lessons this latest controversy teaches us. First, as Baptists, we are reminded of one of our core beliefs, religious liberty. Second, as Christians, we are reminded that ours is a life of peace and not war, forgiveness and not fear.



Christian Ed News

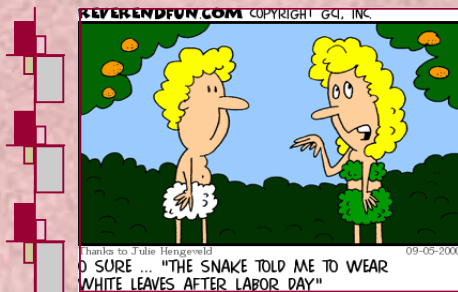
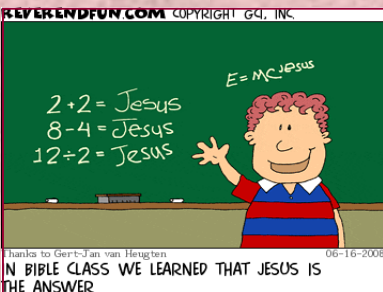
Rally Day is just around the corner!
Children's and Adult Sunday School will start on
Sunday, September 12th at 9:00am.



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.

Adult Sunday School-age range 18 and older. They meet every Sunday September-June from 9:00am-9:45am.

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.



Worship & Fellowship News

As the season of Fall approaches and the air is crisp and cooler, and the leaves turn wonderful colors of gold and red, I am reminded about changes. I am proud to say that there are going to be some this Fall at Berean. I am pleased to announce that on November 7, we will have our first Agape dinner. This will be a service in which we will be sharing a meal along with worship service. We on the worship and fellowship committee are very excited about it. I would like to have everyone warm up their crock pots and ovens for this very special day. I will have more details as the date comes closer.

We will also be having another "Invite a Friend" day on October 17. Please think of people you would like to invite to our worship service that day. I would also like to remind people that we will not be sending any kind of mail to them except for the invitation.

We will be having 100 days of prayer coming in the new year. If you would like to join in, please let someone know on Worship and Fellowship. We all know how the power of prayer works and I hope you will join us.

The choir will be back singing during the worship service on September 19. I can't wait to hear the wonderful voices of these talented people on our church. I would also like to say childcare will be back on Sept. 12. We are looking for volunteers that could do a Sunday a month or two. There will be a sign up sheet at coffee hour, which also starts on September 12.

Thanks again to my wonderful committee members for all they do.

Peace and joy,
Deb Ferland



Outreach News

*"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."
~Mother Teresa*

Sharon, Linda, and several helpers have been busy preparing our clothes closet for the reopening on Saturday September 4th from 8:30AM to 10:30AM. From then on it will be open every 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month until June 2011.

Sharon is preparing a grant application for oil assistance from the R.I. Foundation. A decision is generally made within a month which would be October.

On Saturday, October 2, 2010 from 9AM to 2PM the Outreach committee will host our annual "indoor yard sale & soup to-go sale." You may drop off your yard sale donations on Friday evening October 1st from 6PM until 8PM. So far, we have homemade soup from Marge Fenley, Kathy Roberts, and Sharon Ponce. Please let us know if you would like to be one of our "soup chefs." We welcome your support. We will offer quarts for \$6.00 and pints for \$3.00.

It is back to school time and thanks to your generosity our summer lunch program (under the direction of Rhonda Stanish) provided nourishing food to our (4) adopted families and in addition to that we supplied each child with a backpack and much need school supplies.

At our August 12th Outreach meeting, we put dates on the calendar for assembling and distributing Thanksgiving food baskets and plans were made to carry on our Christmas tradition of helping those in need. If any church families need our support over the holiday season, please notify Pastor Darin or myself and we will try our best to accommodate your request.

It is hard to believe that the holidays are just around the corner and as always, I am proud to be part of such an important ministry. You are a great group of individuals and I do appreciate all that you do to support our programs.

Outreach meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Please feel free to attend our meetings and see what we are all about. I welcome your ideas, suggestions, and help.



Sincerely, *Kathy Roberts*

Off The Beaten Path *by Don Waterman*

Cemetery #7 sit astride Round Top road nearly half way to the state border. As cemeteries go, it is rather small being only about 50 x 100'. It occupies a terraced hillside and is very well-kept and neat. Some of Berean's family now lie there in residence. The first row for instance contain the graves of Wes and Millie Gifford. Wes was a house painter by profession who wrote some fine poetry. He painted the sides of Berean numerous times typically by himself. Millie often came to church in a broad-brimmed hat usually decked with the flowers of the season. The second tier contains the graves of Ralph and Gert Hopkins. I remember full well how both in their age and frailty valiantly struggled, cane in hand, to attend church as often as possible. The third tier contains the names of families I don't recognize, Fitzs and Mowrys old Burrillville names for sure. Are they still in town? So many have moved away or passed into silent oblivion. Perhaps they migrated to the mills of Fall River or the rich loams of Ohio there to start life anew away from our shallow, stony soils. The last row and the oldest stones belong to the Aldrichs. An old map marks the family farm somewhere off Sherman Farm road. These silent markers are mostly weather-beaten slate and lichens now decorate their barely legible records. One can read of tragedy which befell this family. Amey died at age 34, Peter at 25, Gideon at 27, Levi at 26 and Anasa at 26. What befell them entering the prime of life? How could a mother cope with such loss? All so young and strong. The death dates all range within the first decades of 1820-1830.

One thing is notable about the Aldrich graves. They lie in near perfect symmetry, headstones first and then 8' farther lie the foot stones like old colonial style bed posts. They were obviously positioned with great care. They also face a near perfect east west orientation, foot stones facing east. This was a common custom of New England colonial history in the belief that Christ would again come, arriving with the new day sunrise and the deceased needed to be facing in full the coming glory of the new day of the Last Judgment. Then all who were righteous would rise to new life and leave behind an old existence marked by toil and sorrow and be reunited in the promised joy. What faith these early settlers had and what expectations they held! Here in pastoral serenity lies a profile chiseled in stone now fading with the passing of time. It's all there to see and remains for all time there in silence, all but a few feet off of Round Top's beaten path.

From Our Mailbox



Berean Baptist Church-

Thank you for the scholarship; the financial help is greatly appreciated. As I go through college, I plan to maintain the Christian lifestyle that I have learned in church.

Thank You,

Jeff Bowser



Coffee Hour Help Needed



Now that coffee hour is back this Fall, the Worship & Fellowship committee is looking for volunteers to help out. They are looking for people to bake, set up and clean up. There will be a sign up sheet at coffee hour.

ABCORI/Canonicus News

Annual Mission Celebration

Saturday, Sept. 25th @ 8:30am
Warwick Central Baptist Church
Cost: \$7.00 for breakfast

Deadline for reservations is 9/20.

Please send registration forms (avail. at the church) to Vonnie Dutton,
29 Institute Lane, Apt. 4. No. Scituate, RI 02857

Squirrel Day @ Canonicus

Sat. Sept 18 (7:30am for breakfast)
*Lunch Provided
Help prepare camp for Fall & Winter.
Contact Canonicus maintenance
to sign up by Sept. 13th
401-294-6318 x107

Save the Date - October 11

Canonicus Annual Fall Festival
& 5K Run/Walk.

Columbus Day 10am-4pm

Lots of fun things to do like
boating, contests, games,
hayrides and more!

September Birthdays

Sept. 1 - Morgan Boucher Sept. 4 - Crystal Hall
Sept. 5 - Janis Colonair Sept. 15 - Sharon Ponce
Sept. 15 - Gary Hollenbeck Sept. 16 - Shannon Collins
Sept. 17 - Sue Bissell Sept. 17 - Keri Farley
Sept. 18 - Donna Landry Sept. 27 - Sue Maiocchi

****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: October 2010.

Committee Chairpersons:

Please submit your report to the
Church Secretary on or before
the **22nd of September.**