

Berean Bell Newsletter

Berean Baptist Church

September 2008

From the Pastor...



If you do forget the Lord your God and follow other gods to serve and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. —Deuteronomy 8.19

Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples!

—Psalm 117

I've been thinking about worship a lot lately, especially pondering the purpose of worship. Worship has changed around Berean quite a bit in the larger world. Many churches have stopped reciting the Lord's Prayer, singing the Gloria Patri and the Doxology. Some churches, not just out on the west coast, but here in Rhode Island have taken out all their religious symbols, installed large screens for power-point projection, and started 'praise' bands. Which means that 'praise' choruses are used instead of hymns. All this with little to no thought, I fear, about what the purpose of worship is.

If you were to look at all of the passages in the Bible that mention worship you see a very strange thing to our modern eyes. The primary question that many attempt to answer in choosing a worship service and a church is, 'What am I getting out of it.' But the focus of worship in the Bible is NOT, what the people get, but what the people give. Worship is not first, for people. Worship is first and foremost, for God. We are presenting ourselves before the living God in thanks for God's goodness, in praise of God's power. Worship is a time for us to once again devote ourselves to following God, so we are giving God our full attention. Our consumer society has so infiltrated our thoughts that most people enter worship wondering what they are going to get, like they are going to a mall. The first question should instead be, what am I going to give to God through the prayers, the songs and the liturgy.

It is true that we get something from worship. The secondary purpose of worship is that we receive something AFTER we have given our attention and our praise. Worship is a time for us to be transformed. Worship is meant to be an experience of the transfiguration, where we leave behind what is worldly and get a glimpse of the image of God within us that we are meant to be. So worship is where we experience the divine which transforms us into the divine image. Around us, worship is rapidly becoming more and more about entertainment of the masses with songs that sound like pop radio, the use of bands and TV screens etc. Worship isn't meant to look like the world around us. We are supposed to be transported to a different world in worship.

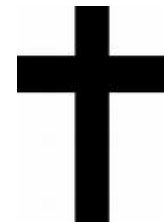
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From the Pastor (continued...)

So while I have a reputation for 'changing' things at Berean, really I haven't and I probably won't. We will continue to say the Lord's Prayer for it teaches us how to be disciples. We will sing the Gloria and the Doxology because it reminds us of our primary beliefs as the people of God. I will choose hymns based on their lyrical content, not their 'beat.' Songs will teach us our faith so that we can grow into that faith more and more each day. We will still find 'fun' songs to sing and I will encourage clapping, but the songs must remind the faithful of their faith and teach the visitor what is unique about what we believe and how we live in the world. Eventually I would like to get another hymnal (not replace the current) so that we can have contemporary hymns, which speak to our beliefs about the environment, the poor and creating peace. In this way our music will be relevant without becoming 'pop' which is more concerned with the beat than the message in most cases. And soon I will probably do a sermon series that explains the various pieces of our worship so that we can all better understand why we do the things we do on Sunday morning and how that is meant to influence our lives.

Looking forward to worshipping with you this Sunday!

Blessings, Pastor Darin



RALLY DAY!!!

Sunday, September 7th is Rally Day!!

Come join us as we kick off another great year of Sunday School! Classes begin at 9:00am and will run each Sunday until June.

This year, there is also a Teen Sunday School. This group will meet at 7pm starting on Friday, September 19th.



From Our Mailbox...



Dear Berean,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to go to summer camp. I had a really great time. I can't wait for next summer.

—Richard Potts-Cote

To the members & friends of Berean Baptist Church,

Many, many thanks for the nice birthday card I received. It's nice to be remembered when we get old. (I don't feel 90 years old) Also, I want to thank you for all the cards you have sent. Its always nice to receive mail. I do want to wish Berean Baptist the best of luck in all of your many projects. Thanks again.

Sincerely, Georgina Shaw



Choir News

In this special anniversary year, you are needed more than ever to add your voice to the choir. If you want to give it a try through October (the anniversary month), I welcome you to start at our first rehearsal, Wednesday, September 10, 6:30 p.m. Remember, another man or two wouldn't hurt! Please speak to me, call me 575-8791, or email me cobaltr@cox.net if you want more information or to let me know you want to sing with us this fall!

Gary Harris, Minister of Music



**Happy
Grandparent's
Day!**



Some of the people we call grandparents are such because they are our parents' parents — they are blood relations. And some of the people we call grandparents are such because of a quality of compassion, concern, wisdom, and generosity that they demonstrate toward us. Every congregation is blessed with "grandmas" and "grandpas" who love and share their faith in ways that form us as an extended family, embraced by the love of God. —Daniel Benedict & Taylor Burton-Edwards

“The stories grandparents tell are a family’s most precious heirlooms.”

Happy Grandparents Day!

Berean Baptist Builders~~3B's

~ I try to read a daily devotion. Some days I also read from a book titled Simple Abundance authored by Sarah Ban Breathnach. Ever hear of this book? It's not bad. I like it because like many devotional books each page has a date to follow. For example, January 1 through December 31. One may read a book like this year after year. It seems no matter how many years I read a book like this I always seem to learn a lesson from year to year. It's because we change and we are not the same woman we were last August 18th. Funny how that is. I like to reason it as God's sense of humor.

As I write this report the day is August 18 and the title for this day is "Owning Your Talent". Sarah does a pretty good job sharing with us that we all have a talent and it is a pity to not share our talent. Sarah refers to scripture verse about a rich master who goes away and entrusts 3 of his servants with talents of money. We all know this scripture verse because Rev. Darin has preached it to us.



Our Church Family

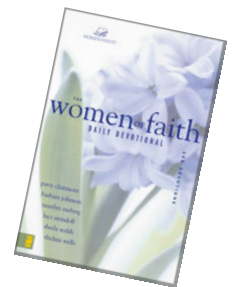
~ I am proud to share this statement with you.....The talents bestowed upon the people of Berean are Not being buried in the ground. If you were fortunate to attend our church chicken dinner at the homestead of the Colonairs you saw in action the many talents of our Berean family. Our Mighty God has blessed this congregation at Berean, a Baptist Church located in the community of Burrillville. We must continue to share our precious resources – time, emotion and creative energy. Sarah writes to ask Holy Spirit for us to call forth our authentic gifts, so that we may know of our gifts and own them.

~ Good news.....the Art Festival is back at the waterfall and the women of Berean need your help. You will be receiving that special call from one of us to help. I believe this year will be a funtastic apple crisp event. Sept 6 at 9:00 a.m. is apple peeling. Come to the kitchen with your favorite peeler or paring knife. Our famous Apple Crisp will be sold at the annual Burrillville Art Festival Sept 13 & 14.



~ To Becky Aubuchon, Candis, Beth, Roberta, Jen, Deb, Aimee, Missy, Lindsay, Veronica, Rhonda, Kristine & Dawn; Do you require childcare at 3B meetings? What are special topics of interest to you? Meeting day & time accommodating for you? We need to know what makes you tick and what interests you so we may provide meeting themes and topics that are of interest to women of your age bracket. Call 651-5242 or email dlandry@cabinetgalleryltd.com.

Recommendation: Next time you visit a book store, treat yourself to a long deserved gift for yourself.....purchase a Devotions for Women book. Inside this book are 365 inspirational readings. There are many to pick from, get one. It's your turn to experience refreshment in your relationship with God.



Visit your favorite scripture verse now. Or if you don't yet have a favorite find one now.

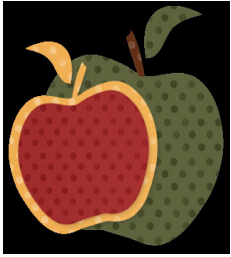


Daily do one thing to fill your spiritual pitcher.

Remember one cannot pour water from an empty pitcher!

—Donna Landry

Finance Committee News



We can't say **thank you!** enough for everyone's continued support of Berean's overall mission. Our Treasurer reports that our bills are paid and we are heading into winter in good shape. Our primary mission is to provide a place of worship where we can join together in prayer, songs of praise, encouragement, learning and communion. Without that foundation, it would be difficult to be the servants God calls us to be. In 2008, we have "A Story to Tell" and so far it's an amazing one!

Look at what you have accomplished year-to-date: \$ 2,229.06 for the Food Closet (not to mention all the cans and boxes collected), \$ 174.00 for the 134th Anniversary Celebration, \$ 170.00 for the College Scholarship Fund, \$ 890.61 for the Oil Fund, \$ 1,349.00 for the Deacon's Fund and \$ 453.00 for One Great Hour of Sharing.

Once again, **thank you!**

At the beginning of September, letters will be mailed to update you on your giving year-to-date. If you do NOT want an update mailed to you, please call Sue Maiocchi at 567-8841. I can also try to answer any questions you may have about the church finances, or point you in the right direction.

Surprised by God's People . . . making a difference!

Rev. Dr. Reid Trulson, Executive Director of International Ministries, writes "Have you ever thought, 'The needs of people are so enormous; how can we possibly make a difference?' What a common frustration! I am sure the early church shared it with us in their day. The powerful news is that the very early church overcame this frustration the same way we can. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, they healed people's hurts and showed God's love, one person at a time."

"Your gifts to the World Mission Offering go 100% to support the work of 2,500 short-term and long-term missionaries working with local partners in 76 countries. Thank you on behalf of people worldwide whose lives will be transformed by deeds of love, so noble and so generous, that they will brand God's people in your church with the words, *See how they love!*"

The Goal for Berean Baptist Church is \$ 500.00 during September-October.

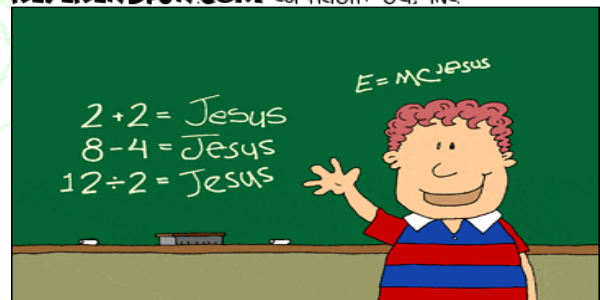
Blood Drive

On August 16th, Berean held a blood drive. 8 pints of blood were collected, helping to save 24 lives!

Thank you.



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Thanks to Gert-Jan van Heugten

06-16-2008

IN BIBLE CLASS WE LEARNED THAT JESUS IS THE ANSWER

Jubilee Project News



The Jubilee Project completes phase I and begins Phase II on Sunday, September 7th We are happy to report that \$ 1,405.00 has been donated thus far, partly due from the Federal Tax Rebate checks that most of us received.

On **September 7th** (RALLY DAY) as Sunday School begins, Phase II of the Jubilee Project begins. Any children wishing to participate will receive a \$ 2.00 bill during the Children's Story and will hear the Old Testament Story of Jubilee. What do they do with the \$ 2.00? They can 1) spend it on themselves, 2) donate the \$ 2.00 to any charity that they want or 3) take the \$ 2.00 and increase its value in hopes of helping more people (Example: Use the \$ 2.00 to make lemonade and sell it to make more money for the Food Closet.) The children will get us started, and then it's the adults turn. On September 7th, we will be compiling a list of all adults who want to participate, and on September 14th, the Jubilee Project Fund will be evenly distributed to all the adults who join the project. Put your thinking caps on and be creative in using your "talents" – another good Bible story – see Matthew 25: 14 – 30.

The Jubilee Project Phase III will occur at the Annual Meeting of Berean Baptist Church in January 2009, when all those who wish, can report on what they did with their Project money. It will be a time of much celebration, just in Old Testament Days when the 50 year Jubilee meant everyone's debts were forgiven.

Contact Don Waterman, Sue Maiocchi or anyone else on the Finance Committee for more information. It's not too late to donate part of your Federal Tax Rebate; make your check out to Berean Baptist Church and note "Jubilee Fund".



American Baptist Women

American Baptist Women's Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, September 28th. We are pleased to welcome, Joyce Goldthwaite, President of American Baptist Women's Ministries of Massachusetts. Joyce has been a motivating force in bringing the story of "Break the Chains, Stop Human Trafficking" to many parts of New England. The women of Massachusetts raised \$ 11,000 toward the National 2-year goal of \$ 250,000. RI has raised \$ 2,667.00; and, thus far, a total of \$ 183,899.00 has been raised nationally! And that's just year 1!

“... to proclaim freedom for the captives. . . “ *Isaiah 61: 1-3*

Joyce is a really enthusiastic song leader and inspiring speakers. Please be sure to celebrate with us the many ministries of American Baptist women and girls, and their historical contributions to American Baptists everywhere. We will take up a special collection for American Baptist Women's Ministries-USA on Sunday, Sept. 28th.

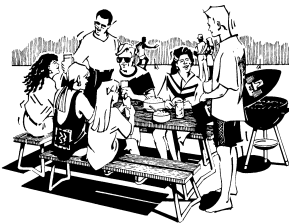
American Baptist Women (continued...)

Upcoming event: **Saturday, October 25th** at First Baptist, North Kingstown, the Fall Mission Matters for ABWM of RI and ABGIRLS of RI begins at 2:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Workshops for special mission projects, displays for White Cross, and speakers from ABWM-Massachusetts on "Break the Chains". A lovely dinner is planned by the women of the church. Unfortunately, this date does conflict with our 134th Anniversary Celebration Dinner, but I just wanted to let you all know what **all** the other women and girls of the state will be doing – ha ha! The Spiritual Growth & Renewal Retreat is Saturday, January 31st at Canonicus – write the date down now!

Your sister in Christ, Sue Maiocchi

Outreach News

Outreach joyously welcomes five new members to our committee: Dick Aubin, June Bizier, Janis Colonair, Dee Lemire, & Missy Middleton. They all bring an energy and passion for helping others and are full of ideas and plans. Sometimes we are moving so fast in so many directions that it can seem almost overwhelming, but if you are truly doing Outreach, you don't always have time to do a "wait & see" approach, there are issues of urgency that need to be addressed and we try to do that. An example of that is the chicken BBQ fundraiser to benefit the heating assistance ministry that Mike & Janis Colonair hosted at their home on Aug 17th-- what a great time everyone had-----Mike and Pastor Collins tied together doing the three-legged race, what can we say, it was priceless! Thank you to all who made this fundraiser successful, Candis, Dee, and June.....wow!!! Linda, she knows how to do a penny social, the ticket sales were phenomenal! Thank you also to Marge Fenley, Newton Stevens and The Men's Group. They only had four weeks to get this off the ground, everyone came together & pitched in. We raised \$1, 815!! The support of these new members with their many talents is an answer to our prayers so thank you for taking on the challenge. We especially also want to thank all the behind the scene support from Worship & Fellowship and the 3B's. Has anyone had a chance to see the great produce coming out of Sue's garden? It's unbelievable, and she has all kinds of potatoes planted. The Colonairs have been generous with their produce, very nice gardens. Many of you may not know but without the help of all these committees we would not have been able to accomplish all the tasks at hand this year.



The summer meal pack program ended on Aug 24th and the seven families have expressed their appreciation and gratitude. So many wonderful stories told, a little girl trying her first apple or carrot, a mom saying she can pay her electric bill and have the lights on because she finally had a little money left over, and the thank yous from the children. And Rhonda wants all of you to know how much all the small touches are appreciated...coloring pages, fresh herbs, bubbles, cleaning supplies and school supplies. We will continue the relationship with these families and provide the children with backpacks packed with school supplies and get their undercover wear needs met as well. The 3B's are assisting us with donations. We also are notifying the seven families now that that they will be adopted for the holiday season to allow them peace of mind. There will be more specific information available in the October newsletter as we develop our plans.



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Outreach News (continued...)

We are in the process of writing a grant to submit to the Ocean State Power/Trans Canada . We are requesting \$3,000.00 to continue the Personal Hygiene Project as we begin purchasing and distributing product. We are also in the process of requesting \$5,000.00 for the Heating Assistance Ministry through a grant process with the Rhode Island Foundation. Our understanding is that money is extremely tight this year and we just need to be hopeful that we will be selected so that these projects can continue. If we get the go ahead we are hoping to also be able to offer portable electric space heaters to families. We are currently doing research about a program called the "HeatSmart Campaign" initiated by the Northwest Woolen Mills in Woonsocket RI (they make woolen blankets for the military) and will know after our September meeting if this is something we wish to pursue. We are also preparing for the next "Clark Grant" meeting and important dates will be in the bulletin about this & other upcoming activities.



*Reminder: Outreach will be having their first craft/artisan fair on October 4th from 9 am to 2 pm. Tables are being rented for \$25.00 apiece. We will also have soup & sandwiches along with coffee/pastry for sale. If you want to help please see Nancy Campbell.



Next Outreach meeting is Thursday, September 11th @ 6:30 PM.

Peace, Sharon Ponce

P.S. We serviced 16 families with the Emergency Food Pantry this month.. Also the Clothes Closet reopens Saturday, September 6th at 8:30am-10:30am and will be open on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month.



World Mission Conference



When was the last time YOU were surprised? Was it because something totally unexpected happened? Or were you surprised because of the person that was involved?

The 2008 **World Mission Conferences** will explore how God uses some pretty unexpected people to bring life and hope.

www.worldmissionconference.org

Discover which missionaries, international guests, conference speakers and worship teams will be featured at each of the FOUR locations.

SAVE \$\$ when you register on line! Discounts for full AND part time attendees.

Sign up for workshops and "Mission in Motion"

Choose from the list of discounted hotel rates

Come for the weekend or come for a day!

The local location is Suffield, CT at Suffield Second Baptist Church, September 19-21

**The American Baptist Churches of RI
Presents ...**

"Missions on Your Doorstep"

The 2008 Mission Celebration

Monday, September 29

Dinner – 6:00 ... Devotions – 7:00 ...

Program – 7:30

Greenville Baptist Church

582 Putnam Pike, Greenville RI 02828

Price: \$9.00

(Includes a sumptuous Turkey Tetrazzini dinner from the ladies of Greenville Baptist)

Come see an array of displays from ABCORI churches,
highlighting local missions and ministries throughout RI

Your host, Ken Bell




See your church secretary to sign up

Reservations due Monday, Sept. 22

For more information,
call Linda Martin at 294-6318
Ext. 103

September

2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  Labor Day	2 1 - 3pm Craft Circle at Ashton Court	3 7pm Pastoral Relations Mtg	4 6:30pm 134th Anniversary Meeting	5	6 Clothes Closet Open 8:30am-10:30am 9am 3B's Apple Peeling
7 RALLY DAY 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 	8 House Mtg 6pm Worship & Fellowship Mtg 6:30pm	9 1 - 3pm Craft Circle at Ashton Court	10 6:30pm Choir	11 6:30pm Outreach Mtg	12 7pm Prayer Group @ Crystal Hall's	13 Burrillville Art Festival (Apple Crisp)
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship <hr/> Burrillville Art Festival (Apple	15	16 1 - 3pm Craft Circle at Ashton Court	17 6:30pm Choir 7pm Finance Mtg *Newsletter Deadline*	18	19 7pm Teen Sunday School	20 Clothes Closet Open 8:30am-10:30am
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11am Christian Ed	22	23 1 - 3pm Craft Circle at Ashton Court 7pm Diaconate Mtg	24 6:30pm Choir	25 6pm Men's Group	26 7pm Prayer Group @ Crystal Hall's	27
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	29	30 1 - 3pm Craft Circle at Ashton Court				

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. 18 - Donna Landry
Sept. 25 - 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 2008.

Committee Chairpersons:
Please submit your report to the
Church Secretary on or before
the 17th of September.