

# BAPTIST BY-LINES



First Baptist Church of Painted Post, NY

Gary McCaslin, Pastor

July 2008

***From the Pastor ~***

## **Celebrating Our Biggest Story**

***Michael Dowd, author of  
THANK GOD FOR EVOLUTION!***

***will speak at 7pm at  
The First Baptist Church  
Sunday evening, July 6<sup>th</sup>***

I sincerely hope everyone reading this who is in town or who can return from their July 4<sup>th</sup> festivities will be able to attend.

In addition, I hope many of you will be able to join us for a picnic Dish-to-Pass at 5pm in Fellowship Hall to talk informally with Michael and one another about his journey across this country as an *evolutionary evangelist*.

On the back cover of this issue of the Bylines I have included only three of the reviews for Michael Dowd's book *Thank God for Evolution!* I could easily have included many more ~ the book has eleven pages of quotes from educators, ministers, scientists and theologians ~ all praising Michael for his passion and his scholarship.

It is difficult for me to communicate how personally excited I am to offer our church as a site for Michael to speak. I have been following his work for over fifteen years and, at every step along the way, his message has

been both impressive and inspiring.

Some folks will naturally ask: *How does all this scientific talk of evolution affect my daily life?* Michael Dowd offers a very personal component to his evolutionary spirituality:

*In rejoining our heads with our hearts, Thank God for Evolution! speaks to what matters most to us: our personal struggles, breakdowns, and pain; our closest relationships; our choices about where to spend our time, energy, and money; and the wellbeing of our communities, country, and world. It builds bridges, provides guidance, and restores realistic hope for the future.*

*When we align ourselves with the inexorable flow of evolution into ever widening circles of compassion, we know without doubt that we are doing God's work—a God more vast and more intimate than previously thought possible.*

The epic story of Evolution is humanity's biggest story. Please join me as we welcome Michael Dowd to Painted Post and celebrate our cosmic journey that is still emerging!

**Serving In July**  
**Summer**  
**Ushers and**  
**Greeters**  
**will be**  
**recruited**  
**from the**  
**Congregation.**  
**Thank**  
**YOU!!**

**PAINTED POST PANTRY**

**No Pantry July**  
**August**

- 11- Bobbie McIlwain & Lillian Fenderson
- 12- Irene Lawson & Ruth Mitchell,
- 13- Lynn Peffley & Dorothy Ziegenfuss
- 14- Brad & Betty Kinsman
- 15- Gordy Loomis & Don Price

If you would like to volunteer, please call Lori Cooper at the church ~ 962-1736



*Our Missions*  
*Offering*  
*for July is*  
*Habitat for*  
*Humanity*

**FBC Finances**

May 2008

Total Amount in	6,045.50
Total Expenses	7,767.64
Difference	(-1,722.14)
Special Offering	265.00

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

Janice Snyder; Steve Seely;  
 Sheila McLean; Betty Hough

*THOSE IN THE MILITARY*

Ryan Dick	Derek Rose
Erik Bailey	Randy Hayberg
Mathew Fassett	Joshua Jenkins
Justin Rockwell	
Christopher Lundgren	

*Please Notify the*  
*Church office of any*  
*updates*  
**962-1736**

The Painted Post Churches Food Pantry has been staying very busy lately. We filled 187 orders to feed 771 people in April and that is about average.

Our bread and crackers buyer is still out of commission and we could use volunteers to help with purchasing those items. We do not have a regular supply at the Food Bank and have found the cheapest we can get bread in quantity is Aldi's in Horseheads at 79 cents a loaf, or WalMart at \$1.24 a loaf. Aldi's has the cheapest saltines at 89 cents a box. If anyone is available to help out with this purchasing, you will be reimbursed. Please call Lynne at 329-3599 or Dodie at 936-1686 for info as they have been buying these items lately. It is not a hard job, mostly just time consuming.

Also needed are helpers on Monday afternoons to help unload the deliveries and stock the pantry. We have the deliveries come at 3:00 now. Over time we will be changing to Wednesday mornings for the deliveries, but need to have people lined up to help before we make the change. If you can commit to one of these times please call Lynne 329-3599.

Our volunteer appreciation breakfast is coming on September 27th, 9:00am. On October 16th in the evening, we are sponsoring a *Train the Trainer* program with Nancy Reigelsperger of Cornell Cooperative Extension to have folks available to help others with budgeting/ financial management. Interested or want to see what this is about? Save the date.

As usual ~ we always appreciate any and all monetary or food donations. Keep them coming!

Thank you, Bobbie McIlwain, Dodie Clayberger, Lynne Wetherill

**Baptist Youth Fellowship**

PPBYF NEWS  
 Greetings to Youth Groupers of All Phases in Life, All interests in God and camping out under the stars and All Skill levels with an iPod who currently occupy space and breath the air somewhere in or adjacent to the Lands of the Painted Post ~

There are two projects to remember for this summer. One is to think about a design for an FBCPP T-shirt so we can look really spiffy and cool when we go cruising around town and attend classes at our local high schools.

The main questions for deliberations are what information is essential and how should that info be displayed? What colors would look the best? Final entries

will be accepted on Sunday evening 17 August at the First Annual Summer Sleepover ~ Pool Party and Croquet Marathon at Allison and Aaron Grant's home just outside the thriving metropolis of Woodhull, NY. Bring yer

bathing suit and a buddy and we will play til dark, brainstorm some plans for the coming year and then count the billions and billions of stars that have mystified just about every single person from that first night when our oldest and most curious ancestor could not sleep,

crawled out of her cave, looked up and said: *Holy Mackerel! Will you look at all those lights in the sky!?!?* or something very similar to that I am sure. And are there any baseball fans who want to see a game with the Binghamton Mets or bike the Penn Yan to Dundee Trail? I am also gonna keep my eyes open for a good drive-in movie this summer ~ that should happen at least once.

What are you gonna keep your eyes open for during these wonderful hot and restful summer days? Peace and cheers to y'all with schmooches

**cheers, from gary**

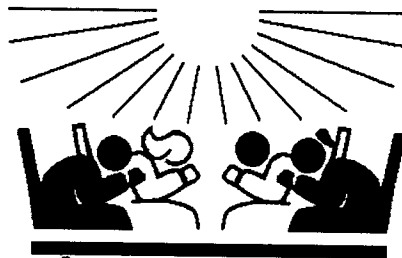
Questions contact the Pastor

**Wednesdays**

Prayer Meeting ~ 6 pm

Bible Study ~ 7:30

We meet sporadically in the summer so please call Gary (329-6173) to find out where we are.



**Stewardship Council**

**Governance Team:**

Sandy Ostebo 962-6787  
 sandyostebonyw@stny.rr.com

Keith Cooper 962-0632  
 Keithcooper@mac.com

**Facilities Team:**

Richard Paul 962-5673  
 Fishflyng007@aol.com

Annie McCaslin 936-2388  
 Amccasli@cppmail.com

Paul Seager 527-8797  
 Pseager@stny.rr.com

**Finance Team:**

Scott Grant 458-5400  
 GRANTSE@stny.rr.com

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 Ghurlburt@stny.rr.com

Christina Brush 936-1849  
 Cristinabrush@msn.com

**Spiritual Life Team:**

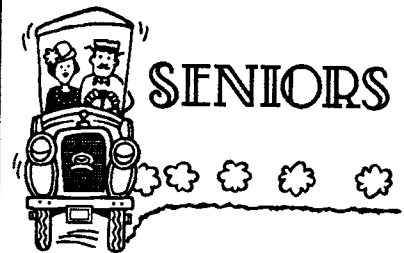
Sue McInroy 377-4500  
 Mcinroys@proactionic.com

Margie Miraglia 962-6588  
 Miragliam@comring.com

Jill Gasparri 962-3009  
 Gasparri@comring-cc.edu

**ABW**

American Baptist Women  
 Will meet again in  
 September on Wednesday  
 the 10th  
 Have a nice summer!



Retirees' Luncheon  
 will take a break  
 for the summer  
 See you Wednesday  
**September 17**

**HAVE A GREAT  
 Summer!**



Absolute Deadline  
**Monday Morning  
 September 15**

In box by noon  
 Thank you!!

### Shepherd's Table Dinners @ SALVATION ARMY



The next FBCPP turn for serving at the Salvation Army is Sunday, August 24. (The two remaining dates for the year are October 12, and December 21.) Butch Abbey is coordinating these meals and he'd love some good folks to help with preparation.

The Stewardship Council provides the money ~ helps simply need to purchase and prepare the food *in the Salvation Army kitchen* on Denison Parkway starting around 3 pm.

If you are interested but have never done this before, please call Lori Cooper at church and she can answer all your questions ~ please call her at **962-1736**. Thank you to all who volunteer for this valuable Christian service.

### Helen McElwain Lunches



Please remember the first Sunday of each month is when we set up a little gathering in the narthex for those who would like to go out and grab a bite to eat. Our next official gathering will be Sunday, September 7 but do not hesitate to invite one another any Sunday of the summer months. Who needs to stand on such ceremony? In the "spirit of Helen" who would like to "grab a bite?"

### Summer Lectionary Readings ~

are listed on a green sheet in the Narthex.

If you would like a copy, you may email the pastor ([garymccaslin@gmail.com](mailto:garymccaslin@gmail.com)) or call Lori at church and we send you a copy.



**Meet for Breakfast**

### Men's Breakfast

will resume at the Central Restaurant on **SATURDAY ~ SEPTEMBER 27 AT 7AM**  
*We meet early and will get you home for all of your Saturday chores...*



### Watch Out for NUTS!!

While this is certainly good advice for everyday living, it is also something we have to remember when we prepare food to be served at First Baptist. A young person in our congregation had an allergic reaction to some nuts and ~ in the future ~ it is important that any foods served containing nuts be clearly labeled. *Thank you.*

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH CHOIR REHEARSAL



will begin again on **Thursday, September 4.**

*During the Summer, everyone is encouraged to share their musical talents in worship.*

*Please contact Wendy Griffin 377-6307 or Gary 329-6173 if we have not already contacted you!*

### Congratulations

to

**Alex McInroy**

Alex was



awarded a black belt by the Chief Instructor of the International Shotokan Karate Federation in Philadelphia on May 31, 2008. This is a major accomplishment in Alex's journey that has taken years of study and training to achieve.



# JULY



## Thank You!

What does the pastor do when it is time for six people to be baptized and there are only three baptismal gowns hanging in the closet? He calls the women in the congregation known for their creative, can-do sewing skills and carefully outlines his growing sense of panic. Luckily the two women he called ~ **Betty Kinsman** and **Dorothy Paul** ~ were not to be panicked by this perturbed pastor and by Sunday morning, three brand new baptismal gowns were in place for use in worship. *Thank you Betty and Dorothy!*

And then try to imagine the same pastor being notified ever so gently that he forgot to include in his previous *Bylines Thank You* articles the name of an energetic soul who came to help with the Men's Easter Breakfast **AND** the May Clean Up & Toss Out Work Day... talk about an embarrassed editor. Begging lots of forgiveness, we humbly offer thanks to **Eric Griffin** for all of his enthusiastic efforts, not only on the mentioned days but also on many Sundays as he so ably assists Wendy in her choir-leading tasks. *Thank you Eric!*

And finally ~ have you noticed the beautiful quilt hanging in our library? Another thank you to **Dorothy Paul** for sharing the fruits of her quilting labors!



Don't  
Forget  
Your  
Pledge

This Summer

### As You Travel This Summer ~ *Remember the First Baptist*

As we enter the summer months ~ remember to keep your pledge current. In addition to our regular payroll expenses, our heating bill is now on the budget plan so we have regular fuel bills to pay even when it is warm outside. *Thank you!*



### Coffee Time with Sue McInroy and Company

The premium coffee offered Sunday mornings will be on vacation and return in September.

### FBC is Going Green

We are slowly becoming a Styrofoam-free church environment. We have purchased as a trial some new cups that will biodegrade in the ground in a year as opposed to the Styrofoam that will still be hanging around literally thousands of years down the road.

The costs are the same and when purchased with other organizations, we can actually save money on the venture. Thanks to Sue McInroy for pointing us in this direction.

**We Recycle**  
**All Empty**  
**Print Cartridges**  
**to Raise Cash!**  
**AND THAT NOW**  
**INCLUDES EPSON**

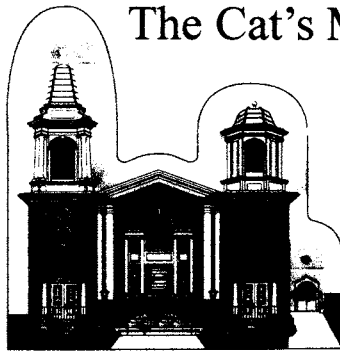


**July 14 ~ 18**  
**6:30 ~ 9:00**

**We Are Proud of Our Graduates** ~ if you know of any high school or college graduates connected to our congregation, please contact Lori at church ~ 962-1736

**Andrew Sienkiewicz** graduated from Nazareth College with a degree in Communication and Rhetoric. He has taken a job with Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Las Vegas, NV.

**Colleen Earley** graduated from Nazareth College with a Masters Degree in Physical Therapy and has taken a job in West Palm Beach, FL with Gold Coast Physical Therapy.



**The Cat's Meow Reproduction of First Baptist Church (only 8 left)**

You can now have a beautiful keepsake of our church. They make wonderful gifts for members and anyone who has been associated with our church over the years.

Please contact Donnalynn Ostebo at (607)962-6787 or the church office at (607)962-1736. The cost is \$20.00 each plus a shipping fee for those we have to mail.

**Do You Have a Prayer Concern?**

You can start the **Telephone Prayer Chain**, by calling either Ruth Campbell (962-0414), Clara English (962-2042) or Lori Cooper at the Church office (962-1736). In addition, you may begin the **Email Prayer Chain** by sending an email to [fbcpaintedpost@verizon.net](mailto:fbcpaintedpost@verizon.net) or [garymccaslin@gmail.com](mailto:garymccaslin@gmail.com).



**Who is Who @ First Baptist?**

One of the ways we tell is by using the picture board by the Pastor's office. We depend on you to keep your family's picture up to date or put on a big smile and the Pastor will capture your image digitally.

Telephone and Address Directories are available in the church office and we can send you a copy by email or in an envelope with a stamp on it. You can save all that effort by picking up a copy on any Sunday morning.

**NOTE:** If you come across any errors, let us know right away. Thank you!

# THE PEOPLE OF GOD AT WORSHIP

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 1, 2008

BAPTISM AND COMMUNION SUNDAY

## INVOCATION

*O God of Water and Life*

*Bathe us in your eternal blessings.*

*Cleanse our souls from all that seeks to diminish the wonder that You are in our lives. Wash away the worries of this world and bring us to a new life centered in the ways of your Love and Compassion.*

## MORNING PRAYER

God of Air and Sky, God of Land and Sea, God of Gentle Winds and Cool Waters – on this day of Baptism – we call on your Strength and Wisdom to guide these young people who have made decisions to follow You. May the healing and gentle waters of Baptism provide a nurturing birth for these who seek to live your Way of Love, Forgiveness, Peace and Justice. May they know and believe ~ all of their days ~ that your boundless Love surrounds and nurtures them forever. We offer this prayer in the Spirit of the Christ ~ who offers Living Waters for All Creation to dream and grow ~  
AMEN

**SCRIPTURE** ~ Matthew 7:21-29 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out

demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?' Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.'

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell--and great was its fall!"

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

~ SERMON ~

*Stories of Healing, Stories of Hope,  
Stories of Life*

*What are we if not keepers and  
tellers of stories?*

## GARY LEARNS THE IPOD

While working in the garden this past week, I realized something happened to me that was truly a revelation and it was something of which I was very proud.

I was listening to my iPod ~ this little device on to which I can place all sorts of computer items that are on my computer.

iPods are handy because ~ instead of carrying around my

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*Stories of Healing, Stories of Hope, Stories of Life*

*A Meditation by Gary McCaslin ~ Sunday 1 June 2008 ~ First Baptist, Painted Post, NY*

computer and listening to music or radio programs or looking at pictures or even watching movies ~ I can put all these items on my iPod and listen and watch wherever I can carry this little piece of technology.

I haven't seen any movies on my iPod, mine will not hold that much information but I do listen to a lot of radio programs from National Public Radio that I don't get to listen to when they are on the air.

The reason I was so proud of myself is because I realized just last Saturday that for the first time in the two years since I have owned this little box of magic doodads, for this very first time right there in my garden, it hit me that my iPod was giving me more satisfaction than frustration.

You have to understand, in the two years I have owned this little contraption, I have lost count of the number of times I have called my daughters and friends with questions about how to operate this device.

And when I was really in trouble, I broke down and called in my iPod guru Alex Cooper whose fingers fly across the dial of the iPod much faster than my eyes and certainly my brain can keep up.

Each person helped but until this past weekend, I was unable to bring all the lessons together in my mind.

And this weekend, right there in my freshly dug tomato patch, a calm sense of bliss overcame me and I was forced to take my chair out

from under the porch and sit under a tree and just have a quiet moment of celebration.

### STORIES OF HEALING

The radio program that brought on all this euphoria was called Speaking of Faith with Krista Tippett. She talks to people of all faiths about all sorts of religious topics ~ it is a fascinating program. This particular program was on *Addictions and Spirituality*. She had several guests that day but the one I remember was a teacher of Buddhism named Kevin Griffin.

He told how Bill Wilson ~ the founder of AA ~ came to value stories as a way to help people recover from their addiction to alcohol. Wilson said, and I am paraphrasing:

*If I tell an alcoholic who is just starting to recover, that booze will ruin his life, destroy his family and eventually kill him, he may nod his head in agreement but will more than likely head out for another drink very soon.*

*But... if I tell him a story about how I hit bottom as a result of my drinking and almost lost my family because of my drinking and then another person tells his story that is, in many ways similar to mine, and then the new alcoholic is encouraged to tell his own story, then... in the process of this storytelling... do you know what happens?*

*A bond is formed that becomes more valuable than that next drink and the stories become the bridge between each person as they all work to stay sober one day at a time.*

That's the biggest part of AA ~ standing before a group of people, admitting you are an alcoholic and telling your story. Stories are bridges that help ~ not just alcoholics but ~ each of us to heal.

### STORIES OF HOPE

When told by someone we love, stories can also give us hope for our lives.

I love the story of the man who was walking down the street and falls into a big hole. The sides of the hole are so steep and he can't get out so he just starts yelling. Pretty soon a lawyer walks by and the man in the hole says:

*Can you help me out?*

The lawyer says

*Sure ~ I know exactly*

*what to do...here's my card,* and he throws it down in the hole and says:

*I'll see you tomorrow morning  
in my office.*

Pretty soon, the man in the hole starts yelling again and a doctor walks by. The man in the hole says

*Can you help me out?*

The doctor says

*No problem ~ here's a prescription* and he throws it down to the man saying

*Call my office for an appointment and  
we'll run some tests.*

The man in the hole starts yelling again and a little while later a minister walks by and the man in the hole says

*Can you help me out?*

The minister says

*Sure ~ here's a prayer*

*I just wrote*

and he throws it down to the man saying

*Church is at 10:45 on Sunday  
mornings... we hope to see you!*

*And ~ by the way...*

*10am in the summer...*

The man in the hole is so discouraged when his old friend walks by and yells down:

*Can I help you out?*

And the man in the hole says:

*That would be great!*

And the friend jumps down into the hole and now both men are stuck.

The first man says to his friend

*What are you doing?*

*Now we are both stuck in here.*

And his friend smiles and says

*Yeah... but I've been down here  
before and I know the way out.<sup>1</sup>*

Now that's not a Bible story and I don't even know if it ever happened, but I know that story is as true as the story of the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son and the resurrection of Christ. That's the magic and mystery about the best stories ~ they heal and they give you hope because they are true.

### STORIES OF LIFE

When I tell people I don't believe everything that is written in the Bible and that some of the science and history stories are wrong, they will often say to me

<sup>1</sup> I "tweaked" this story a little but I first heard it on the television program *The West Wing*.

*So you think the Bible is  
just a bunch of old stories.*

And I answer

*Yes! and No! ~*

*Yes! it is a bunch of very old,  
ancient stories BUT*

*No! It is not just a collection of stories  
because you are leaving off the most  
important adjectives:*

*The Bible is a very powerful and  
dynamic collection of eternally human  
stories that can lead each person to know  
the One who gives us life.*

To me, the Bible is way more than  
just stories ~ it is a book that teaches  
us about life and about love.

As human beings, what are we  
if not storytellers?

We tell stories when we are  
with our friends and we tell stories  
when we are away from our friends.  
We tell stories about the people we  
meet, the people we'd like to meet,  
the people who drive us crazy and  
the people we never want to meet  
again.

Just try to go through your  
day without telling some kind of a  
story.

If you tried that for a day, you  
wouldn't laugh too much ~ do you  
know how many jokes are simply  
stories with a punch line?

Stories define who we are and  
what we love. The stories we  
treasure are the stories that guide  
our lives.

Our prayer this day for all of  
you who have been baptized is that  
you keep the stories from the Bible  
in your heart, the ones that heal and  
the ones that give you hope and the

ones that talk about how much God  
loves you. Why is it important to  
keep these stories in your heart?  
Jesus answers that question with two  
more stories...

### THE LAST STORIES

Jesus finished the Sermon on  
the Mount, probably the greatest  
collection of spiritual truths human  
kind has ever heard. And at the end,  
he not say:

*Now listen and listen carefully,  
you had better follow what I am saying  
or you will be in big trouble!*

No. Instead Jesus tells two stories:

*The one who leaves here and listens  
and acts on what I have said will be like  
the man who built his house on a rock  
and the winds blew and the waters rolled  
in and the house stood firm.*

*The one who leaves here and does not  
listen or act on what I have said will be  
like the man who built his house on the  
sand and the waters rolled in and wind  
blew and the house was  
blown to smithereens.*

As he so often does, Jesus does not  
tell us what to do ~ he just ends the  
story.

However, I have to admit that  
every time I hear these stories about  
the houses on the rock and the sand,  
it is very hard to simply walk away  
and NOT ask:

*Where am I going to build my house?  
On the rock or on the sand?*

May these questions from the stories  
of Jesus remain in your head and in  
your heart all your days. AMEN

*Words at the Baptism*  
*Our story is unbelievable.*

The story is unbelievable because it is almost fourteen billion years old. The chemical elements that make up our hair and bones and skin and heart and muscles and blood ~ we know now that those chemical elements were all formed in fire balls of unimaginable heat and light that we call stars almost nine billion years ago ~ it is both a poetic and a true statement to say we are made of stardust ~ you and I and every atom of this planet and in our bodies is made from the dust of galactic explosions.

*The story is unbelievable* and we are only beginning to understand the details of how the great cosmic forces of our Universe allowed our beautiful planet Earth to break off from the Sun four billion years ago to circle the Sun at just the right size and just the right distance from the Sun and travel at just the right speed to allow all life to evolve.

*The story is unbelievable* because no matter how much we come to understand the many intricate developments in our evolution as humans, we will forever be at a loss to finally explain how we came from such seemingly insignificant beginnings to this very moment.

And yet we are reminded of the miracle of our existence when we see these young people today and realize each of their individual journeys began from a microscopic

cell; what some may call a very insignificant beginning.

*The story is unbelievable* because we also realize that the human journey is about more than stardust and planets and bones and cells. The journey is also about the infinite variety of stories that give meaning to our cosmic journeys ~ the stories of Jesus Christ, the stories of this church, the stories of those families who love each of us and especially today ~ the stories of those who have come to love and cherish these who are nervously gathered at the edge of this baptismal pool.

A decision to be baptized is a decision few humans have fully understood, and a decision no one can fully anticipate how it will alter their lives.

Today we celebrate the stories and the decisions of these who have come to the sacred waters of Baptism.

*Mark Alexander Boylan  
Christina Grace Gerth  
Samantha Kay Olson  
Amy Lynn Overstrom  
Emily Ann Overstrom*

Please join us as we welcome each of these young people ~ whose lives are now part of Christ's Eternal epic of Love.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of PAINTED POST**  
**2008 Summer Schedule ~ Worship 10am**

**FIRST BAPTIST**  
**CHOIR REHEARSAL**

will begin again on  
**Thursday 4 September.**

**SUMMER MUSIC**

During the Summer,  
everyone is encouraged  
to share their musical talents  
in worship. Check out  
the schedule, see where  
there are still opportunities and...

*Please contact*  
Wendy Griffin 377-6307  
or Gary 329-6173 or  
Lori Cooper 962-1736  
if we have not  
already contacted you!

June 15 ~ First Sunday of our Summer Schedule

Preaching: Gary McCaslin

Music: Cathy Weil, Carol & Chelsea Koziatek, Wendy Griffin ~  
"Prayer of the Children" ~ Klouse

June 22 ~

Preaching: Gary McCaslin

Music: Wendy Griffin and David Smith ~ The Prayer -

June 29 ~ Senior Sunday

Preaching: Graduating Seniors

Music: FBC Choir ~ singing "Into the World"

July 6 ~ Communion

Preaching: Gary McCaslin

Music: Kelly Eberlin

July 13 ~

Preaching: Dave Martin, Chaplain, Robert Packer Hospital  
Liturgist ~ Jill Gasparri

Music: \_\_\_\_\_

July 20 ~ Vacation Bible School Sunday

Preaching: VBS Program

Music: VBS Kids

July 27 ~

Preaching: Gary McCaslin

Music: Violin ~ Barbara Dick and Cathy Lott

August 3 ~ Communion

Preaching: Rev. Don Lawrence

Liturgist ~ Oystein Ostebo

Music: \_\_\_\_\_

August 10 ~

Preaching: Gary McCaslin

Music: Coopers and Friends

August 17 ~ Keith Cooper ~ member of First Baptist

Preaching:

Liturgist ~ Dan Borden

Music: Second Wind String Ensemble

August 24 ~

Preaching: Kit Tobin, Chaplain, Corning Hospital

Liturgist ~ Carol Koziatek

Music: \_\_\_\_\_

August 31 ~ Last Sunday of our Summer Schedule

Preaching: Gary McCaslin

Music: ~ Canconoga Barbershop Quartet

September 7 ~ Communion ~ First Sunday of Regular Schedule

Preaching: Gary McCaslin Music: FBC Choir

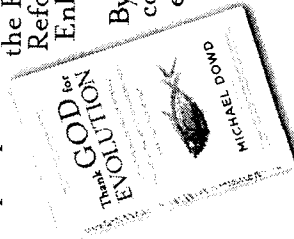
# Thank GOD for EVOLUTION

## THE BOOK

Finally, the war between science and religion is over. The winner? All of us. With supporters from an incredibly wide spectrum of backgrounds and beliefs, including five Nobel laureates, *Thank God for Evolution* builds bridges, provides guidance, and restores realistic hope for individuals and families, for humanity, and for the body of life as a whole.

Drawing on cutting-edge astrophysics, geology, biology, anthropology, and evolutionary brain science, *Thank God for Evolution!* presents the history of the universe as an epic drama where the generations alive today have a crucial role to play. It offers a revolution in perspective on a scale not witnessed since the Protestant and Catholic Reformations, or the Enlightenment.

By seeing the global, collaborative scientific endeavor as public

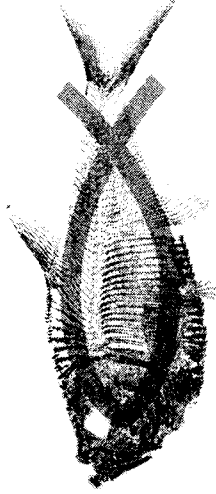


"A step toward that ultimate truth in which both religion and science will be reconciled."

— Bishop John Shelby Spong, author of  
*Jesus for the Non-Religious*

"That evolution is a divine force has not been well appreciated, or articulated, up till now."

— Kevin Kelly, *Wired* magazine, author of *Out of Control*



revelation, we can newly appreciate the timeless insights within the private revelations of the world's enduring religious traditions. By applying the inspirational language of religion to science and the grounded language of science to religion a new heaven and new earth emerge.

With a call to all the world's religions to create new evolutionary forms, author Michael Dowd, a Christian minister, shows how his own tradition is transformed. For example, evolutionary psychologists speak of human instincts serving our animal needs. Christians have traditionally called this unchosen nature "original sin." Rather than a punishment for disobedience, however, Dowd shows how acknowledging and working with this inherited legacy is a crucial component of spiritual growth.

When we come to see evolution in a sacred way, we no longer need to believe, we know. God is real.

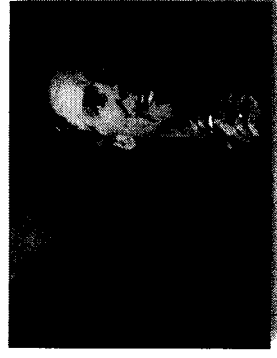
"This is a book I would gladly (and securely) recommend, not only to members of my own humanist-inclined congregation but to my evangelical relatives as well!"

— Rev. Michael Schuler, Senior Minister,  
First Unitarian Society of Madison

## THE AUTHOR

**THE REVEREND MICHAEL DOWD** is America's evolutionary evangelist. He has dedicated his life to proclaiming the "Great News" of a sacred view of cosmic, biological, and human evolution. During the 1980s and 90s, Dowd pastored three United Church of Christ congregations, worked with conservative and liberal religious leaders across America on environmental, peace, and justice issues, and managed government funded Sustainable Lifestyle Campaigns on both coasts.

Since 2002, he has lived entirely on the road with his wife Connie Barlow, an acclaimed science writer, giving sermons and presentations to hundreds of churches and secular organizations. Highly in demand as a speaker, Rev. Dowd is passionate about sharing the 14-billion-year history of everything and everyone in ways that offer both practical guidance and inspiration.



ThankGodForEvolution.com

## Reviews of Michael Dowd's book Thank God for Evolution

Michael Dowd offers an admirable and satisfying solution to the dead-end debates between theists and atheists, and gives even those of us who study evolution for a living, a deep appreciation for how evolutionary theory can inspire our lives. His message is open to all faiths, including those who reject faith, and it is a message that is vital for the 21st century."

*Richard Sosis, Professor, Department of Anthropology,  
University of Connecticut and Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

"The beauty of the Epic of Evolution is its capacity to anchor and birth a multitude of religious responses. Dowd offers us an impassioned vision, forged during his encounters with countless seekers, of how the Great Story can enrich, and indeed make sense of, traditional religious orientations while leaving plenty of room for readers not comfortable with God language. Refreshing, honest, unpretentious, and deep."

*Ursula Goodenough, Professor of Biology, Washington University,  
author of The Sacred Depths of Nature*

"A publishing event of rare significance, this exhilarating book moves us at last beyond false separations of science and religion. With true evangelical fervor, it liberates both heart and mind in service to the great adventure of our time: the rediscovery of our mutual belonging and our kinship with all life. With breathtaking clarity, Michael Dowd not only treats us to a panoramic vision of our origins, but reveals how this Great Story can grace our lives right now with courage, creativity, and peace of mind. Such gifts are not only our birthright,

They are essential now for our survival." — *Joanna Macy, Buddhist eco-philosopher,  
author of World as Lover, World as Self, and Coming Back to Life*

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10am

We return to 10:45am on  
Sunday ~ September 7

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September 7**

**We start at 9:30am with  
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