

BAPTIST BY-LINES



First Baptist Church of Painted Post, NY

Gary McCaslin, *Pastor*

SEPTEMBER 2009

From the Pastor ~ CELEBRATING ELEMENTARY LEARNINGS

The thing about Vacation Bible School

is that it is such a concentrated, energy-filled effort all the way around. The helpers are nervous trying to anticipate all that is going to happen after preparations have been made. The kids are nervous wondering about all that will happen and hoping the experience will match up with their eager anticipation. The first day of VBS finally arrives and all that nervous energy gets channeled into each day's activities.

And then ~ in a flash ~ VBS is over. All of the creativity and energy is poured into two weeks and, in the end, it seems so sad to have all of the fun and the lessons only remain as a memory.

Here's challenge of our Christian Education Program as we begin our "New Year" of Sunday School classes: We want the lessons and enthusiasm of VBS to be, not only a presence but a living reality in the lives of the children.

The problem facing that challenge is not the kids. The kids get the lessons really well. They see the plays. They hear the stories. They sing the songs and

through all of the activities, we can see understandings and behaviors change as we talk about the many ways they can share God's Love.

And then what happens?

Somewhere along the way, the kids grow into adults and forget the very lessons that were learned in the elementary years in their lives. I know this will happen for many of these young people because I have seen it happen so many times in the past. I have seen it happen in my own life.

You will find this Barbara Kingsolver quote twice in this newsletter. I felt it was so good, it deserved a little encore.

I believe the hope she speaks of is the kind of hope we Christians strive to teach and live everyday of our lives where the "elementary kindness" we learned in our early years not only sustains our souls but nurtures all life on the planet.

Whether it's Vacation Bible School or Sunday School each week, we pray for strength to continue to be a place where the Hope and Love for all God's Children is our main priority.

Peace and Cheers ~

The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof. What I want is so simple I almost can't say it:
...elementary kindness, enough to eat, enough to go around. The possibility that kids might one day grow up to be neither the destroyers nor the destroyed.

~ Barbara Kingsolver

Food and Fellowship

27 ~ Betty Kinsman
Put together
school kits

Communion

Elements/serve Sandy Ostebo

Children's Church

13 ~ Jill Gasparri
20 ~ Jill Gasparri
27 ~ Sherry Moison

PAINTED POST PANTRY

September

- 07 - Labor Day
Pantry Closed
- 08- Lynn Peffley &
Pam Lally
- 09 - Florella Gabel &
Judy Cooney
- 18 - Betty Kinsman &
Sandy Ostebo
- 19- Dick Paul &
Dorothy Ziegenfuss



If you would like to
volunteer, please call
Lori Cooper 962-1736

**Painted Post Churches
Food Pantry (PPCFP)**

Relevant March Numbers
(previous months are not in bold):

Children ~ 313, 307, 253, 334
Adults ~ 368, 379, 359, 429
Seniors ~ 29, 32, 37, 28
People TOTAL ~ 710, 718, 649, 791
Households TOTAL ~ 170, 169, 159, 192,
which includes
NEW Households ~ 37, 23, 31, 33,

First Baptist Finances

2009 Income YTD : \$75,943.64
2009 Expenses YTD : \$78,208.16
2009 Deficit YTD : - \$2,264.52

Checking Account Balance
as of 8/13/09 : \$5,957.53

Savings Balance
as of 8/13/09 : \$ 213.40

Heritage Campaign Fund Balance
as of 8/13/09 : \$16,472

PRAYER CONCERNS

Shirley Sowersby Jan Grace
Betty Hough Janice Snyder
Ruth and Vic Campbell

THOSE IN THE MILITARY

Ryan Dick Derek Rose
Erik Bailey Randy Hayberg
Matthew Fassett Joshua Jenkins
Justin Rockwell Doug Bennett
Christopher Lundgren Jeff Hall
Charles Meador Daryl Goodwin
Josh DiBartolomeo Grayson Weil

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

**FBC HERITAGE CAMPAIGN
IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

\$20,000

Heritage Campaign Goal for Sanctuary Wiring,
Kitchen Remodeling and Sanctuary Roof

\$16,472

Heritage Fund Current Balance

22

Pledges Made to the Campaign

\$11,300

Total Amount Pledged

\$11,000

Amount of Pledges Already Received

\$3,528

The Amount We Are Short of Our Goal
when this article was written

43

The Days Remaining till the End of the Campaign
when this article was written

\$82

Amount We Need to Receive each Day to Reach Our Goal
?

Number of people who have not yet
donated to the campaign.

**BYFOTFBCOPPNYAASCK
NEWS & Notes for All
Getting Ready for Fall**
The football players and soccer player and cross country runners and cheerleaders and band members and color guards and twirlers are all out in full force this week honing their skills for a busy season ahead. And what's happening in your world? I feel we just need to do a little catch-up because we still have not had that Harris Hill trip or canoe ride down the Chemung. Luckily, the fall is not too late to get in some of these activities. Stay in touch and we'll let you know what's happening. I did get out on a kayak this summer for a too short tour around a nearby lake. It was so peaceful to just be out on the water ~ almost as sacred as church!

We had so many Youth Group kiddos come to Vacation Bible School this August, it was almost like a BYF meeting everyday and we could not have done the two weeks without each and every person ~ please see the thank you list on another page in the Bylines. These young people learned all the songs,

played all the games and were very patient with the little ones who had way more energy than we could imagine ~ even in the heat.

First Meeting in September:

Let's get together for a first BYF meeting on Sunday 13 September right after church. We'll check in with each other and head up to Harris Hill and see if anyone can beat the pastor in golf. Wear your FBC T-shirt and get \$5 discount on the golf fee!

Does Gary have your cell phone number? Info on meetings is many times best communicated by texting!

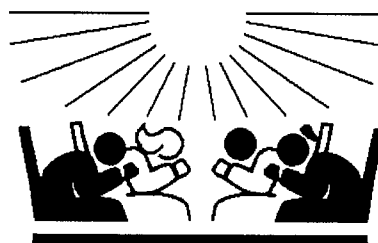
Peace and cheers to y'all with schmooches ~ Gary
Questions? Call 3296173

Wednesdays

Prayer Meeting ~ 6 pm

Bible Study ~ 7:30
 We meet in homes so please call

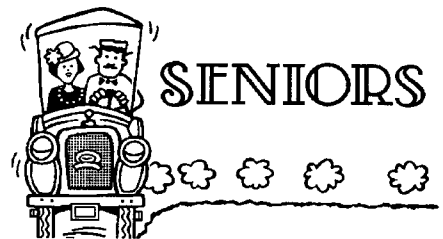
Gary @ 329-6173 to find out where we are.



ABW

Wednesday
 September 9
 at 9:30

Leader ~ Bobbie McIlwain
 Program ~ Clara English
 Location ~ Central



New Time: 1pm

Retirees' Luncheon
Wednesday,
September 16, 2009
 at **EN~EN's**

Donnalynn & Sandy
Ostebo
 at 962-2635 reservations.
Anyone 55+ is invited for lunch.



Monday Morning
September 15

Delivered to FBC by noon
Thank you!!

Shepherd's Table Dinners @ SALVATION ARMY



The next FBCPP turn for serving at the Salvation Army is Sunday, September 13. Additional dates are: November 29 (right after Thanksgiving) and December 20 (right before Christmas). Butch Abbey is coordinating these meals and he'd love some good folks to help with preparation.

The Stewardship Council provides the money ~ helpers 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.



Following is a list of young people connected to FBC who are away at college and we just know without asking they'd love some mail. Remember them when you're buying stamps.

Brittnee Abbey
241 Lexington Ave, Apt 1A
Buffalo, NY 14222

BrandiLynn Borden
Box 0563
10 Mac Vittie Circle
Geneseo, NY 14454-1427
Email: beb8@geneseo.edu

Alyssa Cooper
SUNY Cortland
709 Clark Hall
Cortland, NY 13045
Email: Alyssa.Cooper@cortland.edu

Samuel Gerth
5 Samaritan Road, Box 80
Albany, NY 12208
Email: Samuel.Gerth@acp.edu

Colin Gordon
Box 2013 ~ SUNY
735 Anderson Hill Road
Purchase, NY 10577-1499

Chelsea Koziatek
331 S Mercer, Apt 21
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403

Caylynn Lott
SUNY Potsdam
2266 Barrington Drive
Potsdam, NY 13676

Andrew Naylor
Mailbox # 610
401 Van Buren Street
Syracuse, NY 13210
Email: ARNaylor@syr.edu

Melyssa Swett
CPO Box #1521, Houghton College
One Williard Avenue
Houghton, NY 14744
Email: melyssa6647@aol.com

Patrick Wetherill
221 Atwood Street, Apt A
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Brittany Wilson
Gannon University PMB1641
109 University Square
Erie, PA 16541-0001
Email: wilson050@gannon.edu

Helen McElwain Lunch

Sunday, September 6



Sometimes, church activities get in the way. However, that does not mean quick, informal lunches planned in the narthex right after church cannot continue. Who needs to stand on such ceremony? In the "spirit of Helen" who would like to "grab a bite?"

Fall Lectionary Readings for September, October and November are listed on a green sheet in this newsletter and are in the Narthex. We can send a copy by email or if you call the church office, we will send it old-fashioned style in a stamped envelope.



Meet for Breakfast

Men's Breakfast

will be at the Central Restaurant on **SATURDAY ~ SEPTEMBER 26 AT 7AM**
We meet early and will get you home for all of your Saturday chores...

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH CHOIR REHEARSAL

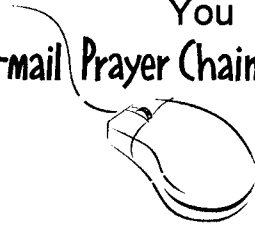
Thursday evening @ 6:30 pm
in the Sanctuary
In the chilly months of Winter, they meet in member's home so call ahead...

Everyone is welcome



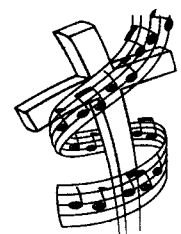
Do You Have a Prayer Concern?

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 or garymccaslin@gmail.com.



You Can Help

Choose Hymns



Write a note to the pastor if you have a favorite hymn we have not used in worship and get ready to sing! Thank you!!

Using Our Energy and Our Heads Wisely

1) Keep those thermostats down! If you put a thermostat up for a meeting, be sure to put it back to 55 degrees. If you do not know how to change the temperature, find Gary, Dan Borden, Sandy Ostebo or Ray Koziatek and get a lesson. If you happen to come in and the church is warm and empty, (and it is not Sunday morning) take a quick tour of the thermostats ~ someone may have forgotten to turn a thermostat back.

2) Keep those doors closed! Let the heat warm rooms and not the whole church.

3) Turn off those lights! Every little bit helps!!

e By-Lines

If you would like to receive the By-Lines by email, send a note to:

fbcpaintedpostny@verizon.net

Need a Ride?



to church sometime?

...because it would just make your life a little bit easier? Call the church and we will help arrange a ride with folks coming from your part of town. Call Lori ~ 962-1736.



Watch Out for NUTS!!



Please clearly label any food items that contain nuts in order to help folks who may have an allergic reaction. Thank you.

See the Entire FBC Calendar

You can see the church's complete calendar by heading over to this website

http://docs.google.com/Doc?id=dg97d47d_77ccw633hg&hl=en

or by going to our church website www.fbcpaintedpostny.org

Here are some things we need @ First Baptist:



1 ~ a person to come a little early on Sunday mornings and make coffee for the adult classes and those who just want to stand around in the kitchen and talk about the affairs of the world and life in Painted Post. Maybe this would be two or three people who might rotate responsibilities.

2 ~ Money to build an elevator on the side of our church giving everyone access to each level of our church. We already have \$1000 dedicated to this project and so we only need about \$99,000 more.

Please contact the pastor if you are able to help in either of these church needs. Can you think of any other items to add to this list?





Vacation Bible School has come and gone. All the kiddos running around and singing and dancing have been replaced by a very quiet Fellowship Hall and Assembly Room. Will we do this again next year during the day for two weeks? We still have to decide but it was nice to have people fresh and filled with energy in the cool of the

morning. And serving breakfast and lunch each day was a gentle beginning and end of our time together.

Many, many hands make for such a successful venture and these folks all get special awards for leadership: **Lori Cooper** and all of the family and friends she recruited did a wonderful job drawing animals and huge beautiful backdrop that transported us right to the African desert. **Heather Babcock** was an ever-present helper to Lori. **Carol Naylor** led the games and outdoor activities with able assistance from **Derrick Abbey**.

The Safari Players set the scene each day with lessons of forgiveness and temptation that were only part of their adventures... along with chasing the blue cheeked bee eater ~ thank you **Alyssa and Amanda Cooper, Bryan and Holly Seager** and **Melyssa Swett**. **Amanda Borden, Alex Boylan, Bev Dillon, Heidi Gerth** and **Dorothy Zigenfuss** had all the meals ready to go each day and even doubled in craft area between meals. **Ellis, Seneca, and Melanie Anastasio, Haley Kniffin, Lori Borden, Morgan Holiday, Annie McCaslin, Hannah Swimley, Beth and April McConnell, Angela Li, and Andrea Martinez** were all valuable leaders helping children at many places through the day. We loved having **Wendy Griffin** and **Kirk Huttleston** present each day with their guitars helping us all learn the songs of the day.

Jenna Ingraham snapped those wonderful pictures the kids took home on the last day and **Charlotte Seager** was the registrar, CD distributor and grandmother to everyone who walked through the door. **Cindy Hale, Margie Miraglia, and Sue McInroy** helped with set up and decorating with Sue making the CD's for the children to take home. The pastor told stories and could not thank people enough for all their enthusiastic work and compassion.

Finally, **Jill Gasparri** provided a wonderful overall leadership for this year's VBS Prayer Safari. You cannot imagine Jill's commitment and thoroughness unless you have been on the receiving end of her many calls and emails. And to the untold numbers who cut out craft items and donated money to our VBS budget, all of the kiddos send thank yous with schmooches!

A Note from the Hallgrens...

Many thanks for the prayers and cards you sent while I was in the hospital and recovering at home from my emergency quadruple bypass. Each card lifted my spirits during this very difficult time. And a special "Thank You" to Gary McCaslin for his many visits and prayers with my family and me.

Guy just had his quadruple by-pass and all went well. We will appreciate your prayers once again during his time of healing.

God Bless You All
Ginny Hallgren

Sunday School @ First Baptist *Sunday School* S C H E D U L E

Our Christian Education program currently has three components. Sunday School for Elementary Kids, Adult Christian Education (ACE) and First Sunday Sunday School for all ages.

Sunday School for Elementary Kids takes place during worship when the children leave the service and head downstairs for the second half of the worship hour. These classes are taught on a rotating schedule with teachers volunteering two Sundays at a time to teach the children. Please contact Jill Gasparri if you would like to help teach a few of these classes.

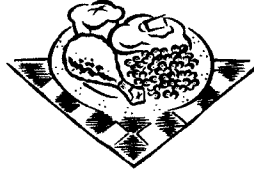
Adult Christian Education (ACE) takes place on Sunday mornings @ 930 am. This fall we will attempt to offer two options for adults. Bible study of each Sunday's lectionary passages will continue in the Assembly Room below the sanctuary and a discussion of current issues in the news will be in a classroom below the Pastor's office (across from the Nursery.)

First Sunday Sunday School is an intergenerational gathering that happens once a month on the first Sunday... mostly. We change the actual date when the calendar does not cooperate (like this month!) but we always meet at 930 am for breakfast and fellowship and then a little lesson which is designed for all the generations who have arrived that morning.

Everyone is welcome to participate in some way in each of these Christian Education opportunities.

Two Dates for Your Fun Time FBC Calendar...

Saturday, September 19 ~ come *Chicken n Biscuit Dinner* to First Baptist and enjoy a delicious **Chicken and Biscuit Dinner** and stay for some family entertainment ~ to be announced as soon as it's confirmed! (This was noted in the last Bylines as a Chicken Barbeque but the plans changed and we are now inside.



And...

Saturday, October 17 ~ the First Annual First Baptist **Talent Show and Hors d'oeuvres Extravaganza!** Taste some really good finger food and stay for the entertainment which will be **YOU!!** Get your act together and we will see you all under the lights! We will start at 6 pm and end when the final curtain comes down.

For both of these events, you are encouraged to bring your family and friends. Tickets will be available...



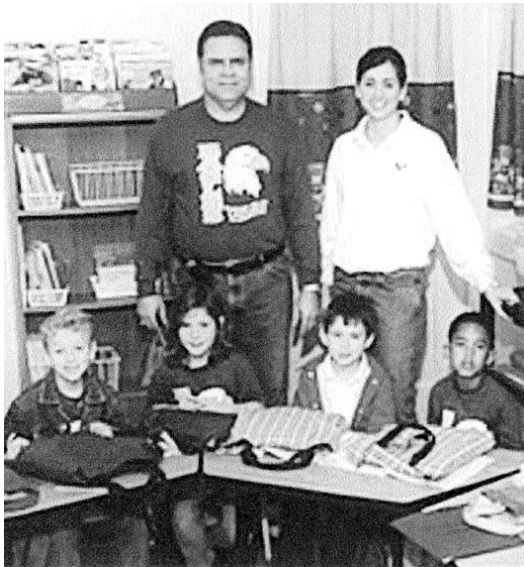
LABOR DAY

September 7

The September Mission Project

Each month, First Baptist has a special Mission emphasis. We highlight the mission project on the second Sunday of the month in worship. For September, we will be collecting items for the Education Kits and sending them to Church World Service.

Take a look at the list below and see what items you might be able to provide. To avoid too many of any one item, be sure to call Lori in the church office ~ 962-1736 ~ and tell her what you plan to buy. We will assemble the kits at the Coffee, Juice and Fellowship Time after church on Sunday, September 27.



Church World Service School Kits

School Kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning.

To assemble a School Kit you will need:

- * One pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- * Three 70-count spiral or tape-bound pads of 8" x 10-1/2" ruled paper, for a total of 200-210 sheets of ruled paper. (Please do not provide loose-leaf or filler paper.)
- * One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- * One hand-held pencil sharpener
- * One large eraser
- * Six new pencils with erasers
- * One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- * One 12" x 14" to 14" x 16" finished size cotton cloth bag with cloth handles

Patterns for the cloth bags and further information can be found on the CWS website: www.churchworldservice.org ~ click on "kits" at the top of the page.

More Missions Information

In addition to a special offering highlighted on the second Sunday of every month, we also take special offerings each Sunday.

On the **First Sunday**, we have an envelope for contributions to our **Missions Local fund**. These monies are used at the pastor's discretion for people who call the church asking for help. Sometimes the request is for rent or gas or electric bills, but in each case we try to help as we are able.

On the **Second Sunday** is our **Mission for the Month** described in the previous article.

The **Third Sunday** is an opportunity to help our Church. All monies donated on this Sunday go into our **FBC Savings** for times when we need extra cash.

And finally, the **Fourth Sunday** is a special offering for the **Painted Post Churches Food Pantry** because \$5 in cash can feed more people than \$5 in donated canned goods.

In months where there is a fifth Sunday, we often take another offering for the Pantry.

THE PEOPLE OF GOD AT WORSHIP

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26th, 2009

INVOCATION

For all that is in God and all that is in each of our hearts and souls, this day, we offer our humble thanks. We are alive, we are aware of the gifts that make our lives rich and filled with wonder, we are aware of the Mystery that is Life and for all this ~ we thank God.

MORNING PRAYER

O God of All Creation, we sometimes forget You are the God of All Children, You see us as we really are and You love us with a Love that never ends. For your loving care ~ no matter who we are and no matter where we are on this magnificent and mysterious Earth ~ we offer not only our thanks but we also offer our lives. In the name of Jesus ~ whose presence in our lives makes all the difference ~ AMEN.

~ SCRIPTURE ~

2 Samuel 11:1-15

The story of David and Bathsheba.

2 Kings 4:42-44

42 A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, 'Give it to the people and let them eat.' 43But his servant said, 'How can I set this before a hundred people?' So he repeated, 'Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, "They shall eat and

have some left.'" 44He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

John 6:1 – (15) 21

¹After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Six months' wages[£] would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they[£] sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

¹⁵When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to

Rooted and Grounded in God's Love

Sermon preached by Gary McCaslin ~ Sunday 26 July 2009 ~ First Baptist Church, Painted Post, NY

make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

~ **SERMON** ~
***Rooted and Grounded
in God's Love***

What are the choices each day?

SERMON PREPARATION 101

I have been at this preaching business for a number of years now and each of those years, I have used Bible verses chosen by the lectionary to prepare my sermons.

The lectionary is this huge collection of verses based on a three-year cycle all designed to help the worshiper address the main lessons in the Bible.

After all these years, I am continually amazed by the ways the lectionary works to feed me ideas about how to construct a sermon.

When reading this week's passages, I have to admit, I was stumped for a while about how to tie together that racy little story from 2 Samuel where the all-powerful King David gets himself in trouble with Bathsheba

and Jesus feeding the five thousand... and walking on water.

But, over time, with a little study and prayer and panic, all necessary elements that are also part of every sermon preparation, there were links that became clear.

SAME OLD MESSAGE

I say I am surprised that the lectionary works the way it does, but

I really should not be surprised about how these sermons come together.

After taking some time with the text, I get what I sometimes think are brilliant insights and then when I think a little further, I see so often that the message is basically the same one God has been trying to get into our thick human heads century after century and generation after generation.

Each message has to do with the power we have available to us as children of God. And, as Christians, we are talking about a power that comes when we have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The really good news of the Gospel is that this personal power ~ that comes from knowing Christ ~ is available to everyone ~ not just the rich or the powerful or the beautiful people of the world ~ but to everyone.

THE POWER AS PAUL SEES IT

Paul talks about this power that he wishes for each and everyone of us ~ for you and for me ~ that is ~ if you believe Paul was talking to you and me when he wrote to the Ephesians two thousand years ago and said¹

*... I bow my knees before God
from whom every family in heaven and on
Earth takes its name and pray that, according
to the riches of God's glory, you will be
strengthened in your inner being with power
through his Spirit, and that Christ may
dwell in your hearts through faith, as you
are being rooted and grounded in love.*

¹ Ephesians 3:14-21 ~ this is Gary McCaslin's interpretation of the passage. This is another of our lectionary readings for today.

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend... what is the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ's Love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now ~ to the One who is at work inside of each and every one of us and is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to this One may there be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

This is that old message we have heard over and over in the Bible:

When God gets inside a person and stirs things all up or when the spirit of Christ gets inside a person, we are able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine...

And what do we need to remember about this power offered through Christ?

POWERFUL TROUBLE

Well, the first thing we have to acknowledge is that what we think is God's power can sometime get us in trouble.

And what I mean here is that the power of God can get us in trouble when it is used for the things we want.

Over the past few weeks, our lectionary verses have been following the life of King David.

We heard the story of Saul going to Bethlehem and meeting all of Jesse's sons and discovering none were right for the King of Israel.

None were right until the shortest and the youngest and the most unlikely

son was brought before Saul. That was David ~ he was chosen to be anointed and serve as Israel's king.

But before he could take the throne, David had to fight Goliath ~ this huge Philistine soldier who was killing all of Israel's soldiers who tried to fight him... and yet David won.

Everything was going along just fine, the people liked David, the troops liked their new King; King David was doing a great job.

David was filled with the power of God, God was giving David strength and direction, David's life was a testimony that he was God's chosen and anointed leader.

Please understand, I am not saying David had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

What we have to remember is that when we call Jesus *Christ* or Jesus the *Messiah*, both of these words mean the same thing:

the one who has been chosen and anointed by God to do God's work here on Earth.

And in David's day, he was the anointed one, the one chosen by God to be the leader of the Hebrew people.

THE 'POWER OF POWER'

LEADS ASTRAY

But David was led astray by the power he had been given. He let the "power of power" take over his thinking. Read the story of David and Bathsheba and Uriah ~ Bathsheba's husband ~ it is a sad story of lust and greed.

David thought that by manipulating people, by sneaking around and trying to cover up his selfish plans, David thought he could have whatever he wanted, but David was wrong.

Unfortunately, this is not just a two or three thousand year old story from the Bible with little relevance to our lives today. Hardly...

Sadly, the story is all too familiar.

David's story and his obsession with the power of power, has been re-enacted over and over again, generation after generation down through the ages.

TIME magazine had a cover story just a few weeks ago, on a number of public officials ~ many of whom ~ professed to have a close relationship to Jesus Christ ~ who have been disgraced by affairs, all too similar, to the story of David and Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 11.

The power God offers is to be embraced but it does not make anyone invincible and ... there is no place for greed.

CHRIST'S POWER

ADDRESSES BASIC NEEDS

Far from satisfying the needs of any one individual, God working through us and in us should also help meet the needs of many.

That passage I read earlier about Jesus feeding the five thousand is in all the Gospels and in three Gospels the feeding of the five thousand is linked with Jesus walking on water.

The message comes through from these stories that this power Jesus is

demonstrating is not important or sacred because of its magical quality.

The message that comes through in both stories is simply this:

The Spirit and Power of God in Jesus was addressing the basic human needs of the people.

When Jesus fed the five thousand, the people were hungry. When he walked on water, the disciples were afraid.

And when they were hungry ~ they were fed. And when people were afraid ~ their fears were relieved.

Jesus said the same thing to the disciples before the five thousand that the prophet Elisha told his skeptics back in 1 Kings 4:

Take all you want; take all you want and there will be plenty left over...

And Jesus said the same thing to the disciples on the boat that people speaking for God have said in all the important stories in the Bible...

Do not be afraid!

This is precisely what it means to have the power of God inside of you and work to do God's will ~ the primary focus is not on ourselves. The primary focus is being a servant to others.

AN EVERYDAY DECISION

Finally, this power Paul mentions in Ephesians 3 is something we have to choose every day for our lives. It is like deciding to have Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior ~ our conversion is *not* a one-time event that we do and check off our list of

***Things we Have to
Do to Be a Good Christian.***

In the years I have been a Christian, I have found the voices of the world, at times, to be very convincing in trying to move me away from the Word of Jesus:

Ahhh... these ways of Jesus are for the weak. You don't believe all the things Jesus says about Love... do you ...really? If you are going to be successful in life, you are going to have to do it all by yourself. Whatever you do, don't trust anyone and never, never put your faith in something you cannot see.

That's the world talking.

The poet Mary Oliver talks about listening to those voices and then ~ responding in a way we know is the right way. This is her poem entitled ***The Journey...***

*One day you finally knew
what you had to do, and began,
though the voices around you
kept shouting
their bad advice--
though the whole house
began to tremble
and you felt the old tug
at your ankles.
"Mend my life!"
each voice cried.
But you didn't stop.
You knew what you had to do,
though the wind pried
with its stiff fingers
at the very foundations,
though their melancholy
was terrible.
It was already late
enough, and a wild night,*

*and the road full of fallen
branches and stones.
But little by little,
as you left their voices behind,
the stars began to burn
through the sheets of clouds,
and there was a new voice
which you slowly
recognized as your own,
that kept you company
as you strode deeper and deeper
into the world,
determined to do
the only thing you could do -
determined to save
the only life you could save.*

My belief is that the voice Mary Oliver says we need to listen to... and the one she describes as *our own* is really that Spirit of Christ ~ that Spirit of God speaking and guiding and saving us every single day of our lives.

We are called to be God's servants every day and we need to respond every day. And when we are tired and want to quit, we need to remember once again the words of Paul:

...you will be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

May it be so for all our days... AMEN

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of PAINTED POST
130 WEST WATER STREET + PAINTED POST NY 14870-1346

Coming Up on September 1st, 2009

To All the Volunteers Who Said Yes! to Sunday School ~

First of all ~ thank you! Children are a precious and important part of our church and their Christian education we pray the children will come to value. We are glad you are willing to be a part of this team.

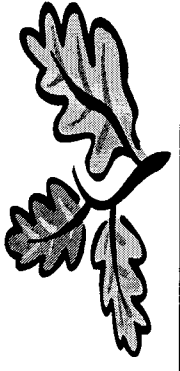
We are trying something new this year by asking people to take turns teaching in two week slots. Hopefully, this will give the kids a little more consistency from week to week. We would appreciate your feedback. Should we go back to one week or perhaps expand to three or four Sundays? Let us know.

As in the past, you may access the Sunday School curriculum online by going to the website: **wholepeopleofGod.com**. Go to the link **access my resources**. You will then be asked for the church email and you should insert.

fbcpaintedpostny@verizon.net.


Our password is **fbcppss** (First Baptist Church Painted Post Sunday School) and our congregation size is **50-100**.

In addition to internet access, Jill Gasparri will be sending each teacher the materials in the mail at the beginning of the week before your lesson. For some this works better. If you do not want to receive these mailings, please let Jill know.



September 2009

Sept. 19 Chicken and Biscuit Dinner 5-7
 Sept. 27 Food and Fellowship following
 worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			Prayer Meeting 6pm	6:30 Choir		
6 Communion	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8	9 ABW 9:30 Central	10	11	12
				6:30 Choir		
13 9:30 Sunday School Kickoff with Breakfast 10:45 Worship BYF ~ Harris Hill 5 Salvation Army Dinner	14	15	16 Retirees lunch 1:00 En~En Prayer Meeting 6 pm 6:30 Scouts	17	18	19
				6:30 Choir		5-7 Chicken and Biscuit Dinner
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Mens Breakfast 7am Central
			Prayer Meeting 6 pm 6:30 Scouts	6:30 Choir		
27 Food & Fellowship Put School kits together	28	29	30			
			6:30 Scouts			

A baby is God's opinion that life should go on. Never will a time come when the most marvelous recent invention is a marvelous as a newborn baby. The finest of our precision watches, the most super colossal of our supercargo planes don't compare with a newborn baby in the number of ingenuity of coils and springs, in the flow and change of chemical solutions, in timing devices and interrelated parts that are irreplaceable. ~ Carl Sandburg

The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof. What I want is so simple I almost can't say it:

...elementary kindness, enough to eat, enough to go around. The possibility that kids might one day grow up to be neither the destroyers nor the destroyed.
~ Barbara Kingsolver

The dollar is a miraculous thing. It's our personal energy reduced to portable form and endowed with power we do not ourselves possess. It can go where we cannot go; speak languages we cannot speak; lift burdens we cannot lift; save lives which we cannot deal with directly.

Our dollar given to the church buys more to relieve human needs than any other place we might choose to invest it.
~ Harry Emerson Fosdick

Some day,
after mastering
the winds, the waves,
the tides and gravity,
we shall harness for God
the energies of love.
And then,
for the second time
in the history of the world,
humans will discover fire.
~ Teilhard de Chardin

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... a diverse fellowship of loving and caring families who witness God's Love through learning, living and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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Worship 10:45

**FIRST SUNDAY
SUNDAY SCHOOL
September 13
INVITE A FRIEND**

and join us for a delicious
930am breakfast and get the
low down on the
ins and outs of worship
- a little breakfast seminar
with Jim Ketcham



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www.fbcpaintedpostny.org