



The Messenger

A Monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Rochester

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www.fbcrochester.net

Infused with new dose of grace...

We are sent.

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I love it when someone comes up to me after worship any given Sunday and says, "Why do we...?" There are any number of rites and practices they could be asking about and I very much enjoy chatting about what lies behind the images of our worship. I enjoy it because there is a wealth of spiritual and theological riches to be found within the symbols we practice, but the reason I *love* to be asked about elements in worship is because it reminds me that you're thinking about it.

As Christians we believe that we are in relationship with God who is made known among us in the form of spirit. We cannot see or touch or feel (physically) the presence of God, but in worship we put all of our senses to task in working out the relationship. We hear the voice of God in the music and liturgy; we taste God's abundance in bread and wine (or juice); we see the images, symbols, and gathered community; and we feel the water wash over us in remembrance of baptism. Some Christian traditions even smell incense rising to the heavens. Worship is the time and place that our relationship with God is manifest in ritual. When I get questions about why we do certain things in worship, the questions are not just about an order of service. They are about how we relate to God.

PASTOR'S COMMENTARY

continued...

I'd like to tell you about one of my favorite parts of every service. You might think I'm particularly fond of the sermon. I *am* a preacher after all. You may even guess that communion is at the top of my list, because you've no doubt gathered by now that table imagery is deeply meaningful to me. I do love those moments, but there is another which churns my heart each and every time. It's the benediction.

Having made my love for the close of a worship service known in the past, I have been accused of simply being ready for lunch. I am usually ready for a bite by then, but my appreciation for the final moments of a service come from something else. In the benediction we pass blessing one to another and ask God to go with us. Then having heard from God in the presence of the gathered saints we turn the church inside-out. Infused with a new dose of grace, a helping of inspiration, having prayed one for another, and having lent our physical bodies to the celebration of resurrection within us and around us – we leave. We go out. We are sent. The new life we've found within travels with us into our lives, our families, our vocations, and all that we do. We who have been redeemed go out as redeemers. We who have been healed go out as healers. We who have been loved go out to love. That is such a beautiful and impactful thing to celebrate that I embody it by walking all the way out of the church building at the conclusion of each service. I literally go out.

Of course, I come back in for fellowship and second hour activities, but not before I have felt the air outside. In so doing I've felt the chill of winter, the scorch of summer (mostly in Texas), I've been rained on and snowed on. I've been greeted by marathon runners along the boulevard where my Austin church was located. I've been greeted by birds, neighborhood dogs, and passers-by. Each time I go out I am greeted by something new. The world feels fresh, possibilities are renewed, I am refreshed and ready to present within the wider world again – until next Sunday when I will gather with my people again.

That's why I love the benediction. It reminds me that our relationship with God is not meant to be bound up in brick and mortar. It is to be lived out among creation.

I wonder what moments of worship impact you most.

Pastor Brent



The season of Lent is fast approaching. Your FBC family will help one another in our collective worship and contemplation through the season by putting together a daily reflection guide. If you would enjoy writing a very brief reflection based on one of the daily lectionary readings during Lent, please sign up at the Vitality Table, contact the church office by phone (244-2468), drop-in, or email us at office@fbcrochester.net.

We are seeking 38 writings, so your help is needed. Thank you.

SPECIAL OFFERING CONCLUDES

The Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering (RMMO) concluded at the end of January. If you meant to give but had not yet done so, it is not too late. Please mail or drop off your check (RMMO) in the memo line.

This offering assists those who have served, or who are now serving and in need of emergency funds.



Faith through Gratitude

Retired
Ministers &
Missionaries
Offering



OUR COMMUNITY

Reaching Out to Others



The Brighton Food Depot

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING FOOD DRIVE

Our youth are once again seeking your help to supply the Brighton Food Depot with 1000 items. You can donate food items or dollars, and all gifts will go right to the food depot to meet one month's packing needs. **Yes, we said 1 month!** So please be generous.

Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive needs:

Tuna, Macaroni and Cheese, Canned Fruits, and Canned Vegetables.

Women's Circle Remington-Hubbell

We are continuing our collections for Cameron Community Ministries.

Hygiene Items - Shampoo, Conditioners, Combs, Tooth Paste, Tooth Brushes, Deodorant, and Soap.

Clothing - Socks and Underwear

A basket for donations is located by the Vitality Table in the Garden Room.

Thank you!



Eldergarten will meet on **Thursday, February 16 at 12:00 Noon**. This month's topic is Haiti. Tobey Mansfield, will discuss the current conditions of this needy country and share details about a mission project. Since 2013, Tobey has been traveling to Haiti and working with a group of 30 other Christians in support of an orphanage and church.

Please bring a sandwich; soup, dessert, and beverage will be provided for a donation of \$1.

Eldergarten is a group of precocious seniors over age 55 anxious to learn and make new friends in fellowship. All are welcome.

HABITAT EASTER CANDY

BUILDING FOR TOMORROW



2017 Easter Candy Sale to Benefit Flower City Habitat for Humanity

Members and friends are encouraged to participate in the 2017 Easter Candy Sale. Proceeds from this sale will be used by the Brighton Coalition of Churches to help build a Habitat House in 2018. Catalogs of the delicious candy choices will be available. Orders will be taken from February 5 through February 26. Candy may be picked up after March 30. Easter Sunday is April 16, 2017. Contact Person: Marge Forth at mforth@rochester.rr.com



The **Welcoming and Affirming Committee** will not meet in February. We are looking forward to our next meeting on March 13, 2017 at 6:30 PM. We invite you to join us as we explore ways that we are able to welcome all who attend First Baptist Church. Watch for more information in the March newsletter.

FEBRUARY BOOK CLUB



The FBC Book Club's January meeting was cancelled because of driving conditions. Therefore, on the fourth Tuesday of February, February 28th at 11:30 AM in the church library we will gather for a light lunch and discussion. Each reader will report on a book which were read individually. Everyone is welcome to join us.

GOINGS ON

OCCURRENCES OF INTEREST

Wednesday, February 1

Missions Meeting 5:00 PM
Brown Bag Fellowship 5:30 PM
Study 6:00 PM - *Lectionary Study*
Adult Choir 7:15 PM

Saturday, February 4

American Baptist Foundation Gathering
Special Workshop 10:00 AM to Noon

Sunday, February 5

Boy Scout Sunday
Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday
Worship 10:00 AM - *Communion*
Souper Bowl of Caring Fellowship 11:00 AM
Young Professional/Adult Group 11:00 AM

Wednesday, February 8

Second Hour 11:30 AM
Brown Bag Fellowship 5:30 PM
Study 6:00 PM - *Listening to the Heartbeat of God*
Adult Choir 7:15 PM

Sunday, February 12

Worship - Jazz 'n Jeans 10:00 AM
Fellowship 11:10 AM
Forum 11:30 AM - *Muslims in America*

Monday, February 13

Library Meeting 9:30 AM

Tuesday, February 14

No Trustees Meeting tonight

Wednesday, February 15

Brown Bag Fellowship 5:30 PM
Study 6:00 PM - *Listening to the Heartbeat of God*
Adult Choir 7:15 PM

Thursday, February 16

Eldergarten 12:00 PM

Sunday, February 19

Worship 10:00 AM
Fellowship 11:00 AM
Forum 11:30 AM - TBD
Youth Group

Monday, February 20 - President's Day

Office Closed
Council Meeting, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, February 22

Brown Bag Fellowship, 5:30 PM
Study 6:00 PM - *Listening to the Heartbeat of God*
Adult Choir 7:15 PM

Sunday, February 26

Worship 10:00 AM
Fellowship 11:00 AM
Forum 11:30 AM - *Contemplative Listening*
Youth Group

Monday, February 27

200th Anniversary Team Meeting 6:00 PM

Tuesday, February 28

FBC Book Club 11:30 AM - Reader's Choice

Wednesday, March 1

Ash Wednesday Service

WITH APPRECIATION

LOOKING BACK, AS THE YEAR ENDS

Our FBCR Corporate Meeting on January 22 marked the end of a full, exciting, and successful year. We have so many of our members to thank for our success. In reading the numerous annual reports, we can clearly see all that has been accomplished toward serving our mission. We have a new Pastor, selected through the careful work of the Pastoral Search Team. Our Committees have been active in planning worship, education, fellowship time with one another, and in reaching out into the community where needs are many. The Board of Trustees has managed our finances, building, and property upkeep. The music program continues to be of quality. The appointed Task Force and Committees have provided ground work information, essential for further development. Our Delegates to outside organizations have represented us well. The Food Depot has consistently provided food to families of city school children. All the above reflect members who have given their time and talent so generously. We are most fortunate.

Several Committee Chairs have moved from their leadership positions and need to be mentioned and thanked for their service: Diane Iacopelli (Fellowship), Amanda Hefferon (Missions/Outreach), and Daryl Hunt (Worship). Also, Marcia McCarthy will no longer serve on the Board of Trustees. Sally Dodgson, as a Delegate to numerous groups for many years, is no longer able to assume this responsibility. We thank her for her service.

We have an excellent staff. Janet Richardson, Minister of Programs and Operations, is highly knowledgeable about the business of the Church. She knows us. She readily serves as a resource to all and smooths out the rough spots. Mary Lou and Bonnie are truly assets to the day-to-day financial and administrative functions of the Church. And let's not forget the talents and dedication of our custodial staff.

As I reflect on this past year, I realize how much I have depended on each of the groups mentioned and how grateful I am to their members. And finally, thank you all for my gifts. The Palmers gift card is very much appreciated. The pictures of our Church and our Cross, framed together are beautiful and will be cherished. Thank you.

Lynn McClellan


Service to be held on March 1