



THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH IN THE ACRES

THE CHALLENGER



VOLUME 7 ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2008

Staying On Target

A clear call for ingestion of the Word of God

When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer. He knocked at the door in the gate, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to open it. When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the door, she ran back inside and told everyone, "Peter is standing at the door!" Acts 12:12-14

As a father when you hear that that someone has ingested something, it can cause your heart to ache. Ingestion sounds like something that happens when poison is involved or when you have indulged in something bad and now you are paying the price. But the idea of ingesting the Word of God may be a newer concept. Taking in the Word of God in large volumes. Yes, maybe even over dosing on it. Is that possible? Taking in too much of a good thing? There is one way to find out for sure; give it a try!

The passage above is something that happened when people gave something a try! The thing they tried was turning to God at a time of need. If you back track in that passage you'll see that Peter was imprisoned and was in danger. God's people chose not to mount a physical attack but rather a spiritual one. They gathered to pray and waited on God. Please do not let the simplicity of this action go unnoticed. The next thing that happened is that God dispatched help from Heaven. What a wonderful and powerful picture. When life gets out of control, when you and I need real answers, the thing we must do is what we see in Acts 12. We must both corporately and privately turn to God. Acknowledge our smallness and embrace His supremacy.

In the Acts account, an Angel was sent to release Peter from Prison and he went to the place where the power was being displayed! To the prayer meeting! Too often we (I) think the point of power is where the powerful people are.... Really the point of power is where the powerful and one and only God is present. Henry Blackaby suggests "Find where God is moving and go there".

Is God at work in something or someplace near you? Can you see Him at work in a person or an organization? What about in this or some other church? If God is at work, let us be swift to follow Him there!

With eternity in mind,

Pastor Greg

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New Fall Christian Living Schedule
- Classes and Bible Studies
- Saturday Night Dinners
- Invitations and Opportunities
- College Ministry
- Big E Fund Raiser Time



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LIVING OUT LOUD
Christian Living Schedule Update

**Sunday**

- 7:00a** **Monthly Men's Study & Breakfast**
9:45a **Celebration I traditional worship service - Sanctuary**
5:00p **All Church Fellowship Pot Luck Dinner - Walker Hall**
6:00p **Celebration II - Walker Hall**

Monday

- 6:00p** **A time when we encourage meetings (If all groups doing meetings aim for Monday night - it will keep us all from bring out every night during the week.)**

Tuesday

- 7:00p** **Women's Home Bible Study. A weekly gathering that studies the Bible and encourages personal spiritual growth**

Wednesday

- 6:30p** **Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary**
6:30p **Boy Scouts - Walker Hall**
7:30p **Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary**

Thursday

- 6:30p** **Family Night - Christian Education programming for Children, Youth and Adults. Gathering initially in the Sanctuary for opening exercises and then going to various class rooms.**

Friday 6:00p

- Praise Team Practice – Walker Hall**

Living out loud means that all we say we believe, we are actively involved in events and practices that help us deepen the roots of those beliefs. As you review the revised fall schedule, you'll see several things that clearly communicate our attempt to live out our beliefs. A few notations:

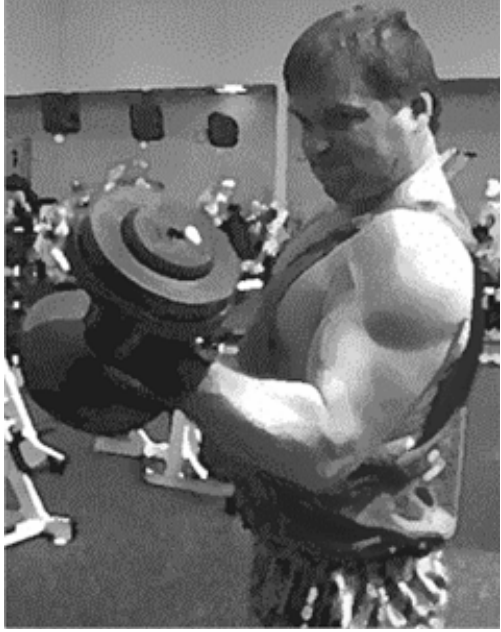
1. Sunday has two different options for worship. One that is traditional in the morning and another that is more contemporary in the evening. The same topic will be preached on most Sundays but completely different messages so you can enhance your spiritual growth should you decide to take in both services.
2. We have temporarily moved our Church School program from Sunday to Thursday night. This is a trial program until Dec. 18, 2008. This will allow for a less hurried worship experience on Sunday, a more open time for fellowship and connection, both at church and with relatives, and for a real intense time of growth on Thursday, where we can all gather first as a body, then in our peer groups to draw close to the Lord.
3. We are attempting to be very intentional about reaching out to men's and women's groups for the cause of Christ. It is our intention to deepen our faith by getting to know our Heavenly Father better and getting to know each other better.

Although there are activities going on almost every night of the week, we want to encourage you to use the "2, no more than 3" rule as a point of balance. It is great to be involved in 2 points of ministry, and probably healthier not to be involved in more than 3. We live in a hurried and busy world and it is easy to be sucked into a "busier than thou" mentality. Rest and family are two things certainly instituted by God, and we need to take advantage of them and to renew and refresh ourselves. By building a world of involvement that is full but not over-committed, we create an opportunity for longevity.

It is our prayer that you will fully engage in what God has to offer you through the work and ministry of Church in the Acres. Come on in, the water is fine.

Build a life and lifestyle where living out your Christianity is at the forefront of who you are.

Pastor Greg



A REAL MAN'S BIBLE STUDY & BREAKFAST

**Sunday,
Sept. 21
7-8:30A**

Meeting in Walker Hall

In addition to our Bible Study we will be reviewing "*The Enemy Within* — straight talk about the power and defeat of sin" by Kris Lundgaard.

Oh, and an excellent breakfast too!

LEADERSHIP CLASSES

ALL church leaders invited.

Repeat class offered 2 times a month until December (pick either one to attend).

(August 20th 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. *or* August 25th 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.)
 September 6th 9 – 11 a.m. *or* September 8th 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 October 18th 9 – 11 a.m. *or* October 23rd 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 November 8th 9 – 11 a.m. *or* November 17th 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 December 13th – all will meet from 8 – 11 a.m.



GET ON BOARD!

What we will do:

- * **Dual Teachers: Pastor Greg Dyson / Rev. Andy Kilpatrick**
- * **Dual Targets: Learning the Word of God / Learning how to apply it**
- * **Multiple results**
 - Learn who the church is
 - Learn what church leadership is called to do
 - Learn how one can serve God by serving others
 - Learn how to apply what we are learning in real time situations at our church
 - Learn how to prepare for the future

Who should attend?

Everyone in the church is welcome. We encourage especially those who have been in church leadership in the past and those who may be open to church leadership in the future.

This Bible class helps us to live out our motto: Keeping Christ at the Center and the Bible as our Guide. You matter! And we need you to join us in this study. The future of the church depends on this.



THIRD ANNUAL
“A Day for God’s Beautiful Women”
Saturday, October 25, 2008
from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Church in the Acres

An event for women to come out and enjoy fellowship, snacks and shopping at vendor tables. A place for you to discover new things and connect with several local representatives from various direct market businesses and to book a home party, if you wish. Door prize registration 9—12. Refreshments available all day.

We will donate all proceeds this year toward our church property maintenance.

Join us for a time fellowship, food and pre-holiday shopping for our favorite jewelry, make-up, crafts, candles, foods, decorations, handmade items, books, kitchen and housewares, etc. We hope to again have a “Minute-Massage” booth. Mark your calendar and invite a friend or two!

If you have a product line that you would like to share as a vendor, or to assist our team, please speak with us.

Planning Team: Lena Lee, Teresa Montemayor and Cheryl Nacewicz



David worshiped the Lord with these words:

“I will praise you, O Lord, with all of my heart;
 I will tell of all your wonders.
 I will be glad and rejoice in you.
 I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.”

Psalm 9

As we return to our regular worship schedule and daily routines, I heartily invite you to consider the words of David as an invitation to come “sing praise to the Lord most high”. Our celebration I Choir is a loving family, always seeking to grow, and always welcoming new members. Come, join us.

We will resume our rehearsals on Wednesday, September 3rd at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

In loving expectation,
Cathy

LADIES’ SCRAPBOOKING NIGHT

Last spring, the ladies of our church began getting together to work on cropping and scrapbooking of our family photos. This is a fun time of sharing and getting a “peek” into the special times each other’s lives.

We invite you to join us again on Friday, September 26th from 6 to 12 in the Friendship Room and Lobby.

Your \$5.00 donation includes snacks, door prizes, give-away materials and informal assistance. Beginners welcome! Invite a friend or relative.

Please let us know if you plan to come: Gina Dyson (782-0839) or Nancy Hand (783-7197).

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday

9 a.m. —12 noon

and

Tuesday through Thursday
 afternoons from 1 — 3.

(Closed on Saturday and Sunday.)

Information deadline for the Sunday bulletins and the Weekly Challenge is always Wednesday noon.

DEADLINE FOR

**NOVEMBER /
 DECEMBER
 2008**

**CHALLENGER
 ARTICLES IS:**

**OCTOBER
 15TH**

“WHO IS JESUS?”

Article submitted by Rev. Andy and Mary Kilpatrick

In Chemistry, He turned water to wine.

In biology, He was born without the normal conception;

In physics, He disproved the law of gravity when He ascended into heaven

In economics, He disproved the law of diminishing return by feeding 5,000 men with two fishes and five loaves of bread;

In medicine, He cured the sick and the blind without administering a single dose of drugs;

In history, He is the beginning and the end'

In government, He said that He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace;

In religion, He said no one comes to the father except through Him;

So, Who is He?

He Is Jesus!

In God I've found everything!

The Greatest Man in History, Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him *Master*.

He had no degree, yet they called Him *Teacher*.

He had no medicines, yet they called Him *Healer*.

He had no army, yet kings feared Him.

He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.

He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.

He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

I feel honored to serve such a Leader who loves us!



FALL EVENTS AT GROTONWOOD

Sunday, September 21 from 6-8 p.m.

“Ladies Night Out”

Appetizers begin at 5:30, Dinner at 6:00.

Entertainment and Program: Special Music by “Faith Full”, a women’s musical group from Grace Chapel in Lexington, MA.

\$13 pp OR \$11 pp for groups of 5 or more.

Reservations: Grotonwood 978-448-5763.

Sunday, November 16 from 6-8 p.m.

“Men’s Fellowship Supper”

Appetizers begin at 5:30, Dinner at 6:00.

#13 pp OR \$11 pp for groups of 5 or more.

Call Grotonwood for more information and for reservations 978-448-5763.

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN’S MINISTRIES

PRESENTS: FALL WOMEN’S DAY

Saturday, October 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

First Calvary Baptist Church, North Andover

“Come to the Edge: Looking Beyond Ourselves”

Come, participate and hear about Mission.

See the aqua flyers posted at church for a listing of all the presenters, all other information, and reserve by Sept. 21st.

You may also call Ruth at 978-251-4448 or email her at ruthcloues@verizon.net.



**Be Surprised by God's People:
Receive. Give. Be transformed!**

We follow Jesus because God used someone to share the Good News. We have continued and grown as followers of Jesus because God has used others to celebrate with us in victory, encourage us in defeat and call us forward in faith.

You can help to make the same things happen in the lives of people half a world away! That's why our congregation annually supports the World Mission Offering, helping more than 2,500 missionaries, bringing U.S. and Puerto Rico churches together with partners in 76 countries in cutting-edge ministries that tell the good news of Jesus Christ while meeting human needs.

Our giving to the WMO helps people

- come to Christ,
- grow in Christ and
- change their world with Christ.

We have received from the Lord. Let us also give, be surprised by what God can do, and be transformed by God's grace!

You will hear more about this offering in our church during October and we will collect the offering on October 26th. WMO envelopes will be available in the sanctuary and Walker Hall.

WORLD MISSION CONFERENCE

Suffield Connecticut

September 19—21, 2008

A World Mission Conference is coming to our backyard! There will be great music, several missionaries and more. One of the speakers will be Rev. Hanna Massad. He is a Baptist pastor in the Gaza Strip, the only Christian pastor in this very volatile area of the Middle East. He literally puts his life on the line every day of the week. It would be worth coming to this conference just to hear his testimony! But there will be so more more! On line registration is available now at www.abconnn.org.

See the posters and pick up a flyer at church. Rev. Andy and Mary Kilpatrick are planning to go; won't you join them?

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On July 6, 2008 the Diaconate voted to extend The Right Hand of Fellowship to our newest church members (on August 3rd):

Rebecca Bicknell, Shiloh Bradshaw,
Lianexis Collazo, Debra Rondeau, Jeffrey Rondeau
and Linnae Rondeau.

REV. RONNY LANIER will celebrate her 90th birthday in September – ninety years of serving the Lord passionately and completely. Friends are invited to send cards to her at 102 Tremont Street, Melrose, MA 02176. After many years of service as a minister, mission work, on staff of TABCOM and much more, Ronny still has fond memories of living with our church family one summer in the 1960's and leading our day camp. She has never left our hearts.

You are invited to her birthday party on September 28th at 5:30 p.m. at her church, the First Baptist Church, 561 Main Street, Melrose, MA. If your name begins with A-F, please bring chips, raw veggies and dip, G-N sandwiches or finger goodies, O-Z fruit or desserts.

SHARE YOUR HOME, CHANGE THE WORLD.

**Host a Youth For Understanding
(YFU) Exchange Student.**

Youth For Understanding is one of the world's oldest, largest and most respected international exchange organizations. Join more than 2000 American families and welcome a young person from Brazil, Japan, Germany, or one of over 60 countries into your home for an academic school year or semester. For information call YFU USA at 1-866-4YUUSA, or www.yfu-usa.org.



HOME COOKED DINNERS RETURN!!

- CHURCH IN THE ACRES
- WALKER HALL
- 2ND SATURDAYS
- 5—7 P.M.
- TAKE OUT OR DELIVERY AVAILABLE

FIRST FALL DINNER:

OCTOBER 11, 2008

PREPARED BY THE MISSIONS TEAM

SECOND FALL DINNER:

NOVEMBER 8, 2008

ADULTS \$7 AGES 4-10 \$4

SIGN UP AT CHURCH OR CALL FOR RESERVATIONS.

(WALK INS —FIRST COME FIRST SERVED)

VOLLEYBALL

AT 2ND BAPTIST, SOUTH HADLEY

Second Baptist Church, 589 Granby Road, South Hadley has invited us to join them to play volleyball. They have completed an addition which includes a gym and want to make good use of it.

On Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30, beginning Sept. 23rd, the gym will be open to area churches to come play volleyball. No team needed; they will mix it up.

What a great opportunity for fun and fellowship. For information, call Lori at 536-0626.



On Sunday, July 13th, **Phil Lovell** was honored as he retired from his position as Church Treasurer. Phil has been a true steward of our church's financial resources for many, many years. His dedicated service to our church in this volunteer capacity has been a blessing to all of us.

Please shake his hand and say "Thank you for a job well done" when you next see him.

We thank our very capable Assistant Treasurer, Michelle Giovaninni, who is temporarily taking over the duties of the position.



September 12—28

Great job signing up to fill the volunteer slots at the Cold Hollow Cider Mill booth for our annual BIG E church fund-raiser! There are still some afternoon time slots open at this printing. Please stop into the church lobby to add your name to an available shift, and to pick up your tickets.

PLEASE FULFILL YOUR COMMITMENT.
If you have an emergency which prevents you from being able get to your shift, please try to get a substitute and call our coordinator, Bob Baranowski at (413) 531-0117.

Pastor Greg will be working several shifts, so you might see him there!


COLLEGE MINISTRY

We are committed as a church to reach out to the community around us and some of that community includes college students, staff and faculty.

Recent touches with the college community:

- Touring WNEC Resident Advisors around Springfield
- Participating in College move in day @ WNEC
- Members of CIA involved in weekly Bible Studies on Springfield College, AIC and WNEC campuses
- Leading community awareness talk at Williams College
- Assisting with a weekly module at Springfield College


On October 3-4 Church in the Acres will host an InterVarsity Fall Retreat "Rest & Risk" for some 75-100 area college students. They will participate in classes, praise and worship and learning activities including overseeing the Lion's Den annual Block Party on the 4th. Pastor Greg will be their key note speaker and others from the CIA family will be involved to make this a special event. If you know of a college student who should go to this event or would like more information, please call Pam Winters at 413-222-8102.



As for our family...

With school starting, schedules are getting busy again. Sometimes you might feel like you're going in too many directions and forgetting what's really important. Use the key below to remind you of where your family's real focus should always be.

	A	B	D	O*	N*	R*
KEY:	E	F	H	S*	T*	U*
	I	L	M	V*	W*	Y*



B

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JOSHUA 24:15B

Answer: "But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."



FALL SERMON SERIES

Pastor Greg's fall sermon series will take us through the **Book of ACTS**. Please join us each Sunday as we explore together the lessons learned by the early church and learn to apply them today at Church in the Acres.

FAMILY NEWS PAGE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

(Our members 60 and up)

- Sept. 11 Bruce Williams
- 12 Doris Murray
- 12 Janet Potter
- 15 Elda LaMontagne
- 18 Louise Villeneuve
- 22 Pat Copeland
- 22 Eleanor Moore
- 22 Mary Smith

- Oct. 3 Horace Edwards
- 10 Marian Duncan
- 16 Phyllis Gregg
- 25 Earl Murray
- 28 Beverley Anderson
- 30 Barbara Piner



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

(Multiples of 5 and 50+)

Elizabeth and Walter Worthington who will celebrate their 57th anniversary on September 22nd
 Helen and Warren Christensen on their 60th wedding anniversary, October 2nd
 Doris and Earl Murray, celebrating 54 years of marriage on October 2nd
 Doris and Raymond Lord on their 63rd wedding anniversary, October 6th
 Beverly and Kenneth Anderson who will celebrate their 40th anniversary on October 18th

THANK YOU NOTES

have been received from Christina Cabey for her college scholarship from the church and from the Springfield Rescue Mission for By coins, volunteers and many years of support from our church.

ADDRESS CHANGE: Marty and Joe Fleming, 32 Regency Park, Agawam MA 01001

LAY CARE LIST

Send a card, make a call, say a prayer...

(Addresses are in the Church Directory. Office 782-2577)

- Sept.7 Muriel Sullivan
- 14 Florence Dow
- 21 Hazel Jawan, Wingate at East Longmeadow,
32 Chestnut St., East Longmeadow, MA 01028
- 28 Frances Cray
- Oct. 5 Elizabeth Wallace
- 12 Phyllis Larson
- 19 Catherine Snow
- 26 Lillian Miller



The family of Marguerite LaBier who passed away on June 28th.

Rev. Linda Shaw on the sudden passing of her husband, Jack Samplatsky on July 25th.

WEDDINGS:

Congratulations to Katharine Beckwith and Daniel Champagne who were married on August 8th

And to Ninnette Huot and Louis Blair, Jr. who were married on August 30th.

Church in the Acres (Baptist)
1383 Wilbraham Road
Springfield, MA 01119-2614

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*Where Christ is at the center,
the Bible is our guide, and People matter.
Growing Disciples to transform the world.*

Time Valued Material
Mailed September 4, 2008

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*"For where two or three
come together in my name,
there am I with them."*

Matthew 18:20, NIV

The Challenger is a bi-monthly publication of the Church in the Acres (Baptist). Articles should be placed in the office drop-off folder outside the office door, the drop-off box on the office counter, mailed, placed in the Walker Hall door mail slot, faxed or e-mailed by the 15th of December, February, April, June, August and October. (Articles may be edited for length.)

E-mail: info@Churchintheacres.org *Fax:* (413) 782-6856

The Church Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, *and* Tuesday through Thursday from 1 to 3 p.m.. *Phone:* 413-782-2577

Interim Minister	Gregory S. Dyson
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. E. Gage Hotaling
Administrative Assistant	Cheryl Nacewicz
Director of Music	Catherine Berry
Handbell Choir Director	Jeff Tisdell
Celebration II Worship Leaders	Sandy O'Neil, Don Williams
Weekday Custodian	James Santamaria
Weekend Custodians	Ruth Butler and Joanne Case