



THE CHALLENGER



VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2009

Radiation of Joy!

And Mary said:

*"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—Holy is His name.*

Luke 1:47,47,49

Radiation defined: The complete process in which energy is emitted by one body, transmitted through an intervening medium or space, and absorbed by another body

When we hear the word "Radiation" there are different words that flood our minds: sickness, cancer, cells, pain, nausea, medicine, etc. I hate that sometimes the meaning of a word gets changed over time. The word, in its purest form can have a good meaning. In fact those who have experienced radiation treatments will say that the end result is designed to be good. Destruction of sickness inside one's body. This is done by emitting something very, very powerful. Mary emitted something for sure! She emitted joy and gladness for what God had done and was doing in her life!

As we look towards a new year, let us emit joy. May joy radiate from our very being! Why? It is right to give Him thanks and praise! God is so very good! We should review His goodness at Church in the Acres.

- A strong missions focus and missions trip to Mexicali, Mexico
- Easter Service at the Eastfield Mall
- Youth Group goes to Mt. Monadnock
- Summer Vacation Bible School
- Celebration II – Summer, Fall and Winter PM service
- Springfield Chinese Christian Church
- Silent Auction
- Big E
- Family Night Thursdays
- Choir & Handbell Ministry
- Boy Scouts
- College Ministry
- Men's Bible Study & Breakfasts
- Women's Bible Study
- Women's Ministries
- Angel Tree Outreach
- Project Homeless Connect
- Rescue Mission Outreach
- Leadership Bible Study

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Annual Meeting
- Women's Ministries
- Mission Works 2009
- College Ministry
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



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(*“Radiation of Joy!” continued*)

These different activities help us live out our creed to “make disciples to transform the world”.

When God radiates through you, it will become infectious and you will not want to keep it to yourself; rather you’ll find ways that fit your personality and style to express your faith in Christ. These out workings are just a few of the things that God has provided as means for you and me to express our radiating Faith in the one true God! It is our joy as a church to serve Jesus in so many different ways!

Just like with any radiation, there are some “user warnings”.

Caution:

- Living for Jesus may radically change your life.
- You may find yourself loving others, unexpectedly.
- People will ask you what happened to you.
- As much as you will speak of Jesus, others will also see Him in you even when you are silent.
- When given the choice, you’ll choose Jesus over yourself every time.
- Revival of the heart is eminent.

Doing for Jesus will become more a part of your being.

Just about a year ago, our hearts ached with the calling out of our Pastor for 8 years, Pastor Dan Nicewonger, and his family to new fields of life and ministry. We did not know what God was doing with Pastor Dan or with Church in the Acres. Certainly both have faced trials and challenges over this past year, but we can praise God for His direction and protection of Dan, Nancy and the church.

2009 will be a year marked by your renewed walk with Jesus Christ; the world around you may not be ready for it, but your heart (and mine) aches with the joy that is created only by submitting to Him. Let the radiation flow!

With eternity in mind,

Pastor Greg

[2 Timothy 1:7](#)

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.



Women’s Bible Study

WOMEN’S MINISTRIES

Our **Women’s Home Bible Study** group will resume meeting on January 6th each Tuesday evening at Nancy Hand’s home. For information and directions please call Nancy at 783-7197.

American Baptist Women’s annual **Spiritual Retreat** “Come to the Edge with Renewed Hope” will be held January 30-31 at the Seacrest Resort in North Falmouth, MA. See the posted flyer on the lobby bulletin board and take a copy of the flyer/registration form.



ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH AT 11:45 A.M.

Church members—mark your calendar for this very important Annual Business Meeting.

New business to come before the annual meeting must be submitted in writing to the church clerk, Cheryl Nacewicz, two weeks before the meeting (January 25th).

Annual Reports from all church officers, board and committee chairpersons, and leaders of all organizations in our church must be submitted to the church office by January 18th. Please e-mail reports to info@churchintheacres.org, fax to 782-6856 *or* drop off at the church office.

The **Meeting Agenda** will be posted at church after any new business has been received.

Please note: There *may* be a combined 9:45 worship service on that day to make it easier for everyone to attend worship and the meeting — please watch for details in the Weekly Challenge on Sundays.

WILLIAMS COLLEGE STUDENTS VISIT JAN. 31- FEB. 3

Please pray for the students from William's college as they travel from Williams town to Springfield for a time of making a difference in the city of Springfield.

Their activity will include:

Enjoying and participating in services at Church in the Acres

- Assisting with teen & youth outreach at The Lion's Den
- Meeting with College students from regional colleges regarding Christian Journals on campuses
- Serving at the Overflow shelter
- Street Outreach with those in need

The students will be sleeping at the Lion's Den during their stay in the greater Springfield area. If you are interested in assisting with food for 6-10 college students during their stay, please contact Gina Dyson at 413-782-0839.

2009 PROPOSED BUDGET MEETING SUNDAY, JAN. 11TH AT 11:30 A.M.



A Proposed Budget Meeting has been called by the Board of Trustees to present the budget requests for 2009 to the Church, and give members an opportunity to discuss and act on proposed changes.

The order of business shall be:

- Official Call
- Presentation of Budget
- Discussion
- *Action
- Adjournment

*Voting is reserved for church members.

There *may* be a combined 9:45 worship service on that day to make it easier for everyone to attend worship and the meeting — please watch for details on Sunday.

WNEC SUPPER FUND RAISER

FEB. 21ST 5-7 P.M. IN WALKER HALL

The Annual Alternative Spring Break Supper Fund-Raiser will be held in our hall on Saturday, February 21st. Tickets will be available after worship services on Feb. 11th and 18th, as well as by calling for the church office for reservations after the 11th.

The Alternative Spring Break program is one in which students spend their vacation doing mission work in and outside of our country.

Our church helps support this important program by allowing them to have the fund-raiser supper here each February, and you can individually support it by attending the supper.

MISSIONWORKS 2009

**MARCH 6-7 IN
FITCHBURG, MA**



The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts' Mission and Stewardship Team presents: "Be Astounded!" (Habakkuk 1:5), our annual weekend of Mission Speakers from around the world. Featured will be Denton Lotz—International Focus, Karen Smith—Thailand, Dana Perkins—Russia, Howard McLendon—Ghana, Brian McClatchy—Tibet, Florence Li—Asia/National Ministries, Don Bradley—Local, with music by Patrick Evans and Youth Program.

For more information and registration, go to www.tabcom.org

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY JANUARY 18—25

The American Baptist Churches, USA invite every congregation to join in this prayer with the global Christian family during the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. What a powerful experience to realize that on that week our prayers and supplications will be a part of a great world-wide offering up of prayer to God for the unity of the church.

This year's theme is "That they may become one in your hand" (Ezekiel 37:15-19, 22-24a).

WINTER STORM CLOSINGS

As we continue through the winter months, if you think a church service or event may be cancelled due to a storm, please tune in to TV22, ABC40, or log on to WGGB.com. (Please note: TV40 will only broadcast worship service cancellations; other events will be listed on their [website](#).)

NOW YOU MAY ALSO GO TO OUR CHURCH'S WEB SITE FOR CANCELLATION INFORMATION:
www.churchintheacres.org

Many factors are considered before we cancel, safety being number one. Small meeting cancellations will be handled by phone calls.

H I P A A REMINDER

There are still many church members who have not filled out a consent form for the Pastor to visit you in the hospital *or* to have your name placed on our prayer list. The blue forms are in the folder rack by the church office door. If you don't remember whether you have completed one, call the office and ask. **And remember to call the church when you are ill or hospitalized to let the Pastor know.**

**DEADLINE
FOR
MARCH /
APRIL
2009
CHALLENGER
ARTICLES IS:
FEBRUARY
15TH**

FAMILY NEWS PAGE



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:
(Our members 60 and up)

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| <u>Jan.</u> 4 | Don Gaines | <u>Feb.</u> 7 | Bryon Nelson |
| 12 | Bob Baranowski | 15 | Polly Nelson |
| 14 | Lee Lovell | 18 | Warren Christensen |
| 19 | Chris Balch | 19 | Mary Lamotte |
| 21 | Gage Hotaling | 25 | Elizabeth Dudek |
| 21 | Muriel Sullivan | | |
| 26 | Louise Bushey | | |
| 29 | Bill Moore (see address below) | | |
| 29 | John Wanat | | |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:
(Multiples of 5 and 50+)

Penny and Junior Irizarry who will celebrate their 20th anniversary on January 2nd

EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION

have been received from Rev. Gage and Dell Hotaling with deep appreciation for the reception and gifts they were given on December 7th; from the Giovaninni with deepest gratitude for prayers and support during Keith's illness; the Kennedy family for prayers and support during Darren's hospitalization; and from Rena Ward for the flowers and cards she received.

RECENTLY BAPTIZED

The following people were baptized by Pastor Greg on November 30th during our evening worship celebration:
Patrick Caine, Nick Cormier, Isabella Gaston, Patrick Caine and Carla Wilson.

LAY CARE LIST

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

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

- | | |
|--------|------------------|
| Jan. 4 | Phyllis Larson |
| 11 | Catherine Snow |
| 18 | Lillian Miller |
| 25 | Frances Davidson |
| Feb. 1 | Jean Rondeau |
| 8 | Rena Ward |
| 15 | John Wanat |
| 22 | Muriel Sullivan |

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Darren Kennedy, Gil MacCallum,
Elva McAllister

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY TO:

Jeff and Bev Tisdell on the passing of Jeff's aunt;
The family of William Moseley, Jr. who passed away in December

ADDRESS CHANGES:

- Rev. Anisteen Robinson**, 746 Saint James Avenue, Apt. 5, Springfield, MA 01104-2814
Courtney Ferguson Lee, 276 Hillcrest Avenue, West Springfield, MA 01089
Mary Smith, 4 Ian Circle, Easthampton, MA 01027
Bill Moore, Renaissance Manor, 279 Cabot Street, Holyoke, MA 01040
Letha VanHorne, 2811 Broxton Mill Ct., Snellville, GA 30039
Robert Henthorn, P.O. Box 292 East Longmeadow, MA 01028

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 December 31, 2008

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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 Team Leaders	Sandy O'Neil, Don Williams
Custodian	Ray Dalinsky
Weekend Custodians	Ruth Butler and Joanne Case