

THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH IN THE ACRES

THE CHALLENGER

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 5

JUNE 2009

To Whom Do You Belong?

Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field *belonging* to Boaz, who *was* of the family of Elimelech.

Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD *be* with you!"

And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!"

Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers,

"Whose young woman is this?" Ruth 2:3-5 (NKJV)

In the Children's movie "Toy Story" the plot centered around a toy that was lost and other toys that rescued it. In the story, other toys that were no longer "owned" shared how they used to belong to a child, then the children grew up and no longer wanted them. The question in Ruth 2:5 made me think of the line from the movie about how nice it is to belong to someone. The idea of belong is a two edged sword. To not belong is sad, lonely and depressing. On the other hand, is anyone ready to say they "belong" to someone. When you read the words in Ruth 2 it is easy to think of the civil liberty issues that are being violated in ownership.

Let's allow our thoughts to move heavenly. What would it look like if you and I "belonged" to the King of the Universe? If we are at His beck and call and responded quickly to His every whim? Maybe this summer could be a chance to find out. We are just beginning the summer and with it comes the normal changes related to the season:

Lazy days
Sunshine
Gardening
Beach
Tan
Reading
Charcoal

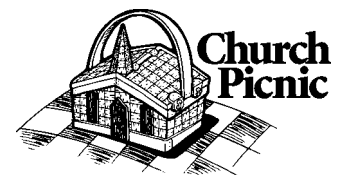
Maybe we could add another set of words:

Jesus
Scripture memory
Prayer
Christian Music
Forgiveness
Joy
Smiles
Sharing your Faith

(continued on page 2)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Graduation
- What Is God Up To?
- City Tour
- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- Summer Worship Series



June 21st

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(Pastor's Page continued)

Why don't we consider it a summer challenge? We could call it the I BELONG challenge and as we belong to Jesus, let us live out our faith in amazing ways this summer AND let's share with each other exactly what God is doing in and through our lives.

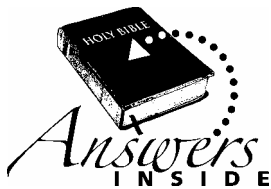
I will take up the challenge with you! I am seeking to increase my prayer, fellowship time with Jesus. I want to spend 2 hours each day with Him. I am scared to say that out loud! How will anything get done?? You and I know better than thinking that, but I can't help it! It keeps leaking out! My sinful nature! Thank you for having the courage to live a spectacular summer! Rest, reflect AND rejuvenate your faith in Christ and your walk with Him. Let's share stories this summer of His exploits in our lives!

With eternity in mind,

Pastor Greg

"The work is infinite— we are finite. You cannot manage the work, so manage your time."

A re-quote from a friend!



10 weeks

What Is God Up To?

Summer Seminar

Thursday nights from June 25 - Aug 27 6:30 - 8:30 PM

- *Nurture Disciples of Christ*
- *Build Friendships*
- *Broaden Horizons*
- *Strengthen Our Church*

WHAT is God up to in the areas of:

Sharing my faith	Technology
Women's Ministries	Holy Spirit
Men's Ministries	Prayer
Finances	Sacrifice
Marriage	Witchcraft

Registration Fee \$30 per person / \$50.00 per household

Register on the following dates: June 7th, 14th and 21st

*Meet * Eat * Chat * Listen * Look * Pray*



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

PRESTON BECKWITH graduates from Roger L. Putnam Vocational High School. He will be taking Nursing and EMT courses at Springfield Technical Community College. Preston is currently working as a cook at Red Robin restaurant.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

LEAH WILLIAMS graduates from Minnechaug Regional High School. She will be attending Wheaton College where she will be majoring in Biology, with a possible minor in English or Music and will be in the college's work-study program. Leah was in the National Honor Society, on the honor roll all four years, and received the following awards: Talented Teens in the Arts, Koplick Certificate of Master, and John and Abigail Adams Scholar.

OUR COLLEGE AND BEYOND GRADUATES:

KATIE FOSTER graduates from Western New England College with a degree in Law.

SARAH TISDEL graduates from Worcester State College with a degree in Nursing.

(More graduation information will be printed in the July/August *Challenger* if received by June 15th.)

NURSING HOME MINISTRY — Monday Nights at 6 p.m.



WANTED: Individuals seeking to reach out to those who are shut in and elderly.

Senior Outreach — Helping those who may be shut in or in need. George LaRoe is leading this team. For more information, contact George at glaroe@comcast.net or 796-7848.

Also, if you know someone who is elderly and you believe they would enjoy a visit, this team would be glad to visit them! We can also visit at other times, or send out a card or letter to people who are far away. One of the worst things in this world is to be alone. Please give an hour or so a week. You will never know the difference that you could make.



During the summer months, the Celebration I choirs take a break. In July and August, **we offer an invitation to anyone who would like to share their musical talent** on a Sunday at our 9:45 a.m. service. Please speak to

our Director of Music, Cathy Berry on Sundays after Celebration I or call the church office. We welcome solos, duets, trios, instrumentals, etc.

IT'S SOFTBALL SEASON!

Double headers **almost every* Tuesday

5:45 and 7:00 p.m. on our field**

Come, bring a lawn chair and cheer our team on!!! Pick up a copy of the schedule at the bulletin board in the Lobby or Walker Hall.

*No games scheduled on June 23rd

**Games are at Szot Park on June 16th





One Great Hour of Sharing is the American Baptist response to worldwide disaster relief. Combined with 9 other denominations and Church World Service, OGHS provides a channel for international aid.

The year of 2008 saw many countries suffering unbelievable tragedy from war and nature. In the country of Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, thousands were struck by cyclone Margi along with a tidal wave that caused over 100,000 people to lose their lives....as many were left homeless. The Myanmar land is used for rice growing and was now under saltwater. OGHS helped provide food, clean water and housing to thousands. This country has the largest population of Baptists in the world. It is the country where the Judsons began their ministry. Closer to home in the Caribbean the 2008 hurricane season wreaked havoc on Haiti, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. Once again OGHS was there providing clean water and housing.

We will take this offering for OGHS the end of June...please keep in mind all that your generous gift will mean to people in their darkest hours of disaster. God Bless You.

*Bev Vautrain
Mission Outreach*

City Tour



Sunday, June 7th

There is a great place on the map—Springfield! We'd like to give you a chance to see it up close and personal. With our mission being to make disciples to transform the world, having a chance to see that world will be fun and encouraging! We'll take a 2 hour tour around the city of homes. A few of the highlights:

- * The Springfield Armory
- * The Basket Hall of Fame
- * The Quadrangle

Just to name a few!

We will depart from CIA at approx 11:30AM and return there at 1:30PM. Light refreshments will be provided. Your tour guides: Pastor Greg and Sally Nauman. Sign up at church (limit 15).

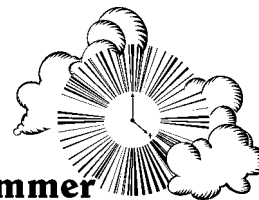
We are excited to take this time together to see the place were God has planted us all and to consider how we can impact it for Christ.

With eternity in mind,
Pastor Greg



**CHURCH PLANNING
CALENDAR:
DATE REQUEST TIME**

All church boards, committees, teams and organizations must submit any known date requests (meetings, dinners, rummage sales, etc.) for the church calendars for September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 by **June 15th** to hold your dates, before outside group requests are entered.



**Summer
Office Hours**

Beginning the week of June 22nd, the church office will be on summer hours: **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9-12 and 1-3** (closed Friday through Monday).

**DEADLINE
FOR
JULY & AUGUST
2009
CHALLENGER
ARTICLES IS:

JUNE 15TH**



my Testimony

WHAT THE RIGHT CHURCH MEANS TO ME

BY JIM FIELDS APRIL 2009

To me the right church should be Christ-centered worship, the celebration of God for who He is and what He has done for us. It should be a Bible sound church that has a high priority on praising God with good Bible instruction. The church should believe in, honor and teach God's Word in such a way that you understand the Bible and see how it applies to your life. I've realized *you can't grow beyond what you know.*

The church should have good fellowship that goes beyond coffee and doughnuts. It should also be a time of sharing the life of Christ among its members. True fellowship occurs when we are involved in each others' lives and have a sense of belonging. The church should be a ministry of outreach by sharing our time and talents visiting the sick, caring, encouraging, correcting and loving one another. That is why I am a member of Church in the Acres, and I give God the glory and thank Him for leading me to Church in the Acres. I've come to realize *it's not what the church can do for me; it's more of what I can do for the church.*

I was taught at a young age, love is like a spoonful of sugar; when you've got *love* in your home you've got *joy* in your heart. Like Jackie DeShannon once said, "Put a little love in your heart." That is one of the reasons why I open my home during the Christmas season for anyone to enjoy my display/collection of decorations, but my door is also open to anyone the other 364 days of the year. Another way in which to express God's love is by taking five minutes out of your busy schedule to make a telephone call to a shut-in just to say "hello"! You'll be surprised what a difference it makes in their lives. Outside of the walls of my home I recently have been blessed by baking a birthday cake and visiting a shut-in. It was a good way of showing love. She called to tell me that it made her day; little did she know it made mine as well.

In one of Gladys Knight's songs, she sings about the best thing that ever happened to her. Putting Christ back in my life was the best thing that ever happened to me. You see, I have not always been a regular church attendee; in fact there was a time in my life I did not attend a church at all. Since I've been attending Church in the Acres I've experienced the Lord lift many weights off of me. I believe it wasn't the nail that held Christ to the cross, it was the love that he had for you and me. God has blessed me in a way I can't describe. However I do know this: *I am not where I want to be yet, but I am not where I use to be.*



Church in the Acres
family,

Garden Space Available

I have quite a bit of land ready for planting and I am offering it free of charge to anyone who may like to plant very large garden areas for themselves. Please contact Barbara Lavalley, 500 South Washington Street, Belchertown. 283-6948 pegasus500@charter.net

Next Membership Information Class: Step 1

Tuesday, June 9th 6:30—8:30 p.m.



Membership Class

If you have been part of our church fellowship for a while and have been thinking about membership, please consider joining us for this class to learn more.

You may sign up in the Lobby or Walker Hall entry, or call the church office at 782-2577.



“JESUS”

VERSES BY VINCENT WASHINGTON

When I think about Lord Jesus
And how He walked upon this earth
To bring sinners to repentance
Through the experience of rebirth

I can't help but be amazed at
The fact that God became a man
Just as the scriptures prophesized
In God's holy diving plan

The Bible tells about His coming
Along with where He would be born
How He'd preach love and peace for everyone
While enduring hate and scorn

What is written in the Gospels
Has withstood the test of time
Some have tried hard to refute it
But it's been an uphill climb

I read the Bible daily
And every time I do
I see things I didn't see before
There is always something new

He performed a lot of miracles
In the brief time He was here
And showed how people ought to live
Through a message that is clear

He talked about a Kingdom
That was made by God above
Set aside for those who worship Him
And full of peace and love

One can't get there with big money
Or through accomplishments or fame
There is just 1 way to Heaven
And for all it is the same

One must first believe in God's existence
And that Jesus is His son
That through His death and resurrection
Sin's price was paid for everyone

See, life on earth won't last forever
Despite how hard we try
Just make sure your soul is ready
For when it comes your time to die

For those who think this life's the last stop
That when we die there's nothing more
Woe is you seems very fitting
Once you've tasted what's in store

Life for some is like a picnic
Full of happiness and fun
While others suffer every minute
Until their time of earth is done

Either way life's just an instant
When compared to eternity
What you do here is what matters
Too bad not everyone can see

To those who have possessions
Many things of every kind
Like the houses, cars and money
That we all must leave behind

We can't take anything with us
Even if, they'd have no use
For Heaven's promise is a paradise
A true offer one can't refuse

Even if you don't believe it
Doesn't mean it isn't true
The consequence of the wrong decision
Could be one you come to rue

To be sure, one ought to try God
Let Him know you know He's there
Ask Him to come into your life
And show you that He cares

To everyone who's done this
I know of none who haven't changed
His love can melt the coldest heart
And twisted lives get rearranged

If your life is missing something
Or even if you think it's good
Including God can make it better
If you just ask Him if He would.



CHURCH LIBRARY CORNER

BOOK REVIEW

“THREE CUPS OF TEA”

By Greg Mortenson and David Oliver

“One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace, One School At a Time” *Relin*

This a powerful true story about Greg Mortenson who was an emergency room nurse by vocation and an avid and experienced mountain climber as a avocation. While attempting to climb K₂ (world’s deadliest peak) of Mt. Everest, he gave up reaching the summit when he stopped to help rescue a fellow mountaineer who was injured and in trouble. Then he tried to hike back to his team on the main road, he took a wrong turn off the trail and became lost as well as sick and very disappointed not to have reached the top. He eventually wandered into a small isolated mountain village in northern Pakistan. The village people there in Korphe (where a foreigner had never been) welcomed him and nursed him back to health. As one reads the book the significance and meaning of the title becomes clear.

His youngest sister, Christa, had died in 1992, the year before this climb, and he had wanted to honor her memory by leaving her favorite necklace at the summit of K₂. While getting well, he learned a lot about these isolated people who were mostly farmers and herders. He asked them what he could do to thank them for their kindness and friendship. They said “build us a school; the government doesn’t care about us poor, isolated people and has done nothing but promise!” So he promised to return one day to build them a school for both boys and girls to attend. One thing led to another. Back in USA, Greg was living out of his car but he sold his few possessions and launched this humanitarian effort by the seat of his pants. The schools became his life’s work and eventually evolved in Korphe an organization called the Central Asia Institute (CAI). In 1997 (4 years after he made that promise) the first school was built but not without many hurdles and dangers. This was just the beginning. Other villages asked for schools, teachers had to be trained, supplies had to be bought and delivered, its. The Taliban needed to be dealt

with, plus there were death threats and he was imprisoned once and he was separated from his wife and children for months at a time.

The book was published in 2006 and, as of June 2009, 78 permanent schools have been built, four dozen temporary schools, hundreds of teachers have been trained and 30,000 children’s lives transformed by education. Two-thirds of these children are girls!

In the June issue of Good Housekeeping there is an excellent article about Greg Mortenson and his 12 year old daughter, Amira, who is already an activist and helping her Dad with speeches and raising money through “Pennies For Peace”.

“Three Cups of Tea” shows what one man’s humanitarian effort is doing to bring about peace and understanding through education of boys and girls!

Available now in paperback is a young reader’s edition of “Three Cups of Tea” selling at \$8.99. Also a new book “Stones Into Schools” is coming out in December, continuing the story.

Book review by Mary Kilpatrick

BIRTHDAY SURPRISE AT THE BALL GAME

On May 12th, church softball teams, fans, family and friends of John DeMaria, our team captain and pitcher, surprised John with a 60th birthday cookout on our field.



The festivities were kicked off by the singing of “Happy Birthday” led by Pastor Greg and his bullhorn! See more photos at www.interchurchsoftball.com.

The Joy Factor

“Is the Joy of the Lord YOUR strength?”

Summer Worship Series



June

- 7 Graduates' Sunday
 C1 Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Tony Pappas, Executive Minister of The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts: **Let Him In** Rev. 3:20
 C2 **Joy in Creation** Gen. 2:1-3
- 14 Children's Day
 C1 **Joy in our Children!** The KPaw Team will lead the service this Sunday! Please come prepared to be blessed by the children and their leaders.
 C2 **Joy in the Rescue!** Gen. 3:15,
- 21 Father's Day / Baptism / Annual Church Picnic
 C1 **Joy in Obedience**
 C2 **Joy in the Rainbow** Gen. 9:8-17
- 28
 C1 **Joy in Trusting God** Gen. 24:1-26
 C2 **Special Night of Praise (Special musical guest)**
Joy in Hiding Exodus 2:1-10

July

- 5
 C1 **Joy in America** Proverbs 1:1-10
 C2 **Joy in Wisdom** Proverbs 3:14-35
- 12
 C1 **Joy in Time** Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
 C2 **Joyful words** Ecclesiastes 5:1-6
- 19
 C1 **Joyful Memories** Ecclesiastes 12:6-8
 C2 **Joy in Fear** Ecclesiastes 12:13,14
- 26
 C1 **Joy in the Future Pt. 1** Isaiah 35:1-10
 C2 Speaker: Rev. Andy Kilpatrick: **Joy in the Future Pt. 2** Isaiah 35:1-10

August

- 2
 C1 **Joy in the Past** Isaiah 35: 8
 C2 **Joy in Gender!** Speaker : Evangelist Mary Sowell
- 9
 C1 **Joy in Retribution** Psalm 37:1-8
 C2 **Joy in Waiting** Psalm 40:1-3
- 16
 C1 **Joy in Evangelism** John 4:1-26
 C2 **Joy in Holiness** Romans 8:1-11
- 23
 C1 **Joy in Serving** Nehemiah 4:19,20
 C2 **Joy as a Way of Life** Philippians 4:1-9
- 30
 C1 Guest speaker (TBA)
 C2 Guest Speaker: Pastor Jack Desroches: **Joy in the Fruit!**

FAMILY NEWS PAGE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:
(Our members 60 and up)

- June 2 Beverly Vautrain
- 9 Frances Davidson
- 24 Helen Williams
- 26 Dorothy Perman
- 27 Dottie Rempp



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Louise and Nelson Bushey	6-06-48 = 61	Marilyn and Stanley Szpakowski	6-24-72 = 37
Teresa and Clodo Concepcion	6-17-89 = 20	Marian and Joshua Duncan	6-20-59 = 50
Patricia and George Copeland	6-06-59 = 50	Dell and Gage Hotaling	6-12-40 = 69
Lisa and Shawn Corbitt	6-14-03 = 6	Karen and Matthew Pasquale	6-09-01 = 8
Debra and Jeffrey Rondeau	6-02-79 = 30	Julie and Jeff Whittemore	6-28-75 = 34

BABY DEDICATION



Alexander Gino Deschaine, son of Brad and Stephanie Deschaine, was dedicated in our church by Pastor Greg Dyson on May 31st during our morning worship service.

LAY CARE LIST

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

(Addresses are in the Church Directory and will be printed in the Weekly Challenge in each Sunday bulletin, or you may call the office (782-2577) for a current address or phone number.

Week of:

- June 7 Lillian Miller
- 14 Frances Davidson
- 21 Jean Rondeau
- 28 Rena Ward



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following people were welcomed into our church membership during worship services on May 17th:

- Nylee Charles
- Mary Ann Jones
- Phyllis Richard
- Brantley Sweat

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Marian Duncan

ADDRESS CHANGE

Megan Smith, 164 Stafford Road,
Holland, MA 01521

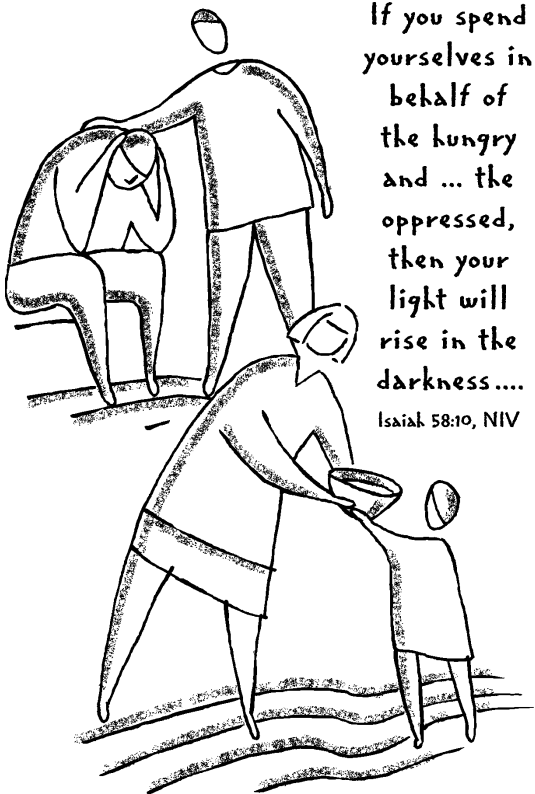
Church in the Acres (Baptist)
1383 Wilbraham Road
Springfield, MA 01119-2614

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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 May 28, 2009

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



If you spend
yourselves in
behalf of
the hungry
and ... the
oppressed,
then your
light will
rise in the
darkness....
Isaiah 58:10, NIV

The Challenger is a monthly publication of the Church in the Acres (Baptist) except for a combined July/August edition. 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 each month. (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

Pastor
Pastor Emeritus
Administrative Assistant
Director of Music
Handbell Choir Director
Celebration II Worship Leaders
Weekday Custodian
Weekend Custodians

Gregory S. Dyson
Rev. E. Gage Hotaling
Cheryl Nacewicz
Catherine Berry
Jeff Tisdell
Sandy O'Neil, Don Williams
Ric Norris
Ruth Butler and Joanne Case