

THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH IN THE ACRES

THE CHALLENGER

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 7

SEPTEMBER 2009

Irish Spring



And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." *Acts 10:15*

During the hottest days in the summer a person could work up a fair amount of perspiration. A good day of yard work does not provide you an invitation directly to the dinner table. The first stop must be the bath room. Most specifically the shower! Deodorant soaps are nice, but rarely have a fragrance that lasts more than a few hours. Except for Irish Spring. It is a man's soap! When you get out of the shower, its strong perfume permeates through the entire house! A few hours later when you eating dinner or shaking someone's hand you can certainly smell the Irish Spring all over again. That is the way it must be with heavenly cleansing. What God has cleansed is clean! It's not the same anymore.

Maybe you have been experiencing the humidity of sin or simply, desensitized dull living, and desire for Irish Spring's kind of cleaning that leaves you not just smelling clean but actually deep down clean.

Even the idea that living the Christian Life could be active might seem a bit strange to think about, but our spiritual life is meant to be lived out in our physical existence! And when we do, it produces a level of cleansing that is simply wonderful. We begin to feel the love of God in new or renewed ways. Moving your Christianity into action not only effects the world around us but will indeed effect you and me as we live move and have our being fully in Jesus Christ.

May this month's *Challenger* challenge you! It is our hope that as you read the pages you will find some opportunities that you can take advantage of. We pray that God will encourage you to another level of living for Jesus. As you step up, may His healing step into your life.

(continued on page 2)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Pastor Greg's Ordination
- Discipleship Training
- Big E Fund-Raiser
- Project Homeless Connect
- Music Ministry



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(Pastor's Page continued)

James 2:14-24

“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*’ And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.”

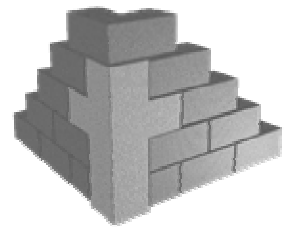
As you read about ways to deepen your knowledge of God and His word, helping those in need around you, enriching your marriage, male bonding and the like, we trust you will be moved to a deep place with our Master, Jesus Christ.

With eternity in mind,

Pastor Greg Dyson

CORNERSTONE

CORNERSTONE is a one day process to set the cornerstone of the camping ministry of TABCOM (The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts), e.g., a long term vision for **Grotonwood**.



CORNERSTONE will be held on Saturday, September 12th at Grotonwood. A continental breakfast will be served at 8 AM. Tours of the camp by foot, bus and boat will begin at 8:15. The envisioning process will commence at 9 AM sharp and will be led by Cheryl Harris (of Cheryl Harris and Associates). The result of our work that day will determine our programmatic and facilities direction for the next decade or more. So it is a VERY important process and your input is greatly desired. Lunch will be provided and we will conclude by 5 PM. Because of its large impact on TABCOM's financial health, Grotonwood will be the initial focus of the CORNERSTONE process.

We will use a planning process that is designed to bring 60-80 people together for the purpose of transforming capability into action. The process, similar to Future Search, brings people together from various walks of life. In a prayerful attitude, through dialogue we will discover a shared purpose and goal. The meeting relies on mutual learning as a catalyst for action. It will be an exciting day.

Church in the Acres will have attendees at this important denominational event. Please pray as we seek the face of God in all we do.

ORDINATION

What does it mean?

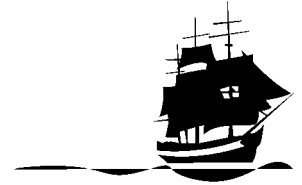


Over the last few months you have heard a lot of talk about Ordination. Particularly because your Pastor has been working on completing His with the assistance of The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts. This is a special process that can take 1-4 years depending on the denomination. For us this process includes things like:

- 1 year of pastoral mentoring
- Classes on the history of the Baptist faith
- Character references
- Ministry involvement
- Psychological evaluations
- Clarification of doctrinal positions
- Confirmation of pastoral education
- Participation in TABCOM
- Pastor examinations and more

The process is to help confirm the call of a minister to the life of ministry. From my first sermon in 1979 till today, God has been clarifying His call on my life and the purpose and direction of serving Him. It is a great honor to live out part of that service with you here at Church in the Acres. It is my hope that as I complete this process, we welcome others in our congregation to begin the process of finding out what God's call is on their lives. And as we find individuals that are called to specialized service for Christ, that we might help them into the Ordination process. What a great thing it will be to see Church in the Acres regularly mentor people in their relationship with Christ, and some of that mentoring may result in some of our folks seeking God's blessing on serving Him in new and exciting ways!

**ORDAIN
RECOGNIZE
ACKNOWLEDGE**



I would **seek** unto God,
and unto **God** I would
commit my cause.

Job 5:8

Sunday, September 20th 2009 2-4 PM

Join us at the **Mass Mutual Civic Center** (Down Town Springfield)

As we:

ORDAIN Pastor Gregory Dyson to full time ministry

RECOGNIZE Rev. Phil Chiang who was recently installed as the full time Pastor of the
Springfield Chinese Christian Church

ACKNOWLEDGE The work and ministry of the Lion's Den Youth Outreach Center

This special afternoon Celebration allows us as a church to celebrate what God is doing among us, and to do this with the friends and family of the Greater Springfield Area. We'll enjoy refreshments, sing, pray, enjoy Scripture and the laying on of hands.

There will be a special reduced rate to park in the Mass Mutual Center Parking Garage, and for those not interested in driving we will provide a Bus from Church in the Acres to the Mass Mutual Center and back.

RSVP Please call the church office and let us know of your plan to attend. Your friends and family are more than welcome to join us. It will be a great time to celebrate together. Call 782-2577.



FOURTH ANNUAL
“A Day for God’s Beautiful Women”

Saturday, October 17, 2009
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.

Join us for a time fellowship, food and pre-holiday shopping for our favorite jewelry, make-up, crafts, pottery, foods, decorations, gift baskets, handmade items, books, kitchen and housewares, etc. 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



September 18—October 4

Thank you to those who have signed up to fill the volunteer slots at the Cold Hollow Cider Mill booth for our annual BIG E church fund-raiser! There are still many time slots open at this printing. Please stop into the church lobby to add your name to an available shift, and plan to pick up your tickets at church in a week or two.

This is a fun way to get to know others in our church family while supporting our church’s ministries. Each shift is four hours and on each day you work, you will have free parking and entrance ticket to the fair.

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.

SECOND ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

The Silent Auction Committee is planning to hold this fun event in the Spring of 2010. Watch for details in upcoming Challengers, and start thinking about what you want to donate.

NURSING HOME MINISTRY

Monday Nights at 6.

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

For more information, contact George LaRoe at glaroe@comcast.net or 796-7848, or meet at the church Mondays at 6. Also, if you know someone who is elderly and would enjoy a visit, this team would be glad to visit them!



We thank Mike Giovaninni and his crew of volunteers who are currently renovating the Walker Hall stage area with new wiring, sound equipment, insulation, walls and storage areas.

The updates will greatly enhance the sound and capabilities for worship and events in our hall.

This project has been funded by a private donor and approved by the Board of Trustees.



THE JOY OF MUSIC

Jesus says to His disciples:
 “As the Father has loved me, so
 have I loved you. Now remain in
 my love...I have told you this so
 that my joy may be in you and
 that your joy may be complete.”

The most complete expression of His joy, for me, has been in praising God through music. It is, for me, an outward expression of an inward grace. Additionally, the joy of leading and encouraging music making by other musicians in worship has been and continues to be one of the delights of my life. But I do thirst for more.

Have you thought about making music to the Lord? Come and join the **Celebration I Choir**. Dismiss any fear. We are about fun, family and the joy of music. Quench my thirst and come join us. We meet on Wednesday nights, beginning September 9th, at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Be ready for some music and fellowship. You may call me for more information at 568-1751.

Joyfully,

Cathy Berry, Director of Music

Another glorious way to make music is through the **Handbell Choir**. The music of bells is from heaven itself. We really would like, and have need of, new members to our bell choir family. We meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For beginning date and further information, please call our Handbell Choir Director, Jeff Tisdell, at 525-7984.

PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT —

MUSICIANS WANTED

On Tuesday, September 29th, from 8 to 2, Church in the Acres will be involved with the Homeless Connect Project at the Mass Mutual Center. One of the many facets of the day will include some music making. I will be providing some keyboard music, but would also like to include other music, instrumental and/or vocal, as well.

If you would like to join me even for a short while (could be 15 minutes to a half an hour) with a song of your choice or an instrumental piece, please contact me. If you have or desire to perform a song, I will be glad to accompany you. Or, if you play an instrument and need an accompanist, I can fulfill that task as well. Or, if there is a group that wish to perform, that would be terrific. Just call me so that we can discuss arrangements. I look forward to hearing from many of you. Share your talent with the homeless. Call Cathy Berry at 568-1751.

With anticipation,

Cathy

See the enclosed Project Homeless Connect flyer page for more information and find out how you can volunteer to be a part of this vital ministry in our city.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Beginning on September 3rd, we will have a 14 week series of Discipleship Training sessions on Thursday evenings as part of our **Family Christian Living Nights**. Each Thursday, we will meet together for a light meal at 6 p.m. and then go to our various classes from children to youth to adult.

Discipleship topics will include: Salvation, Trusting in God, The Church, Hindrances to Prayer, The Holy Spirit, Discipleship, Humility, The Bible, Victory, Honesty, Adversity, Praise and Thanksgiving, Forgiving Others and Obedience. “Growing Disciples” is one of our goals as a church, and we would like as many people as possible to join together for as many weeks as possible. Please sign up by calling the church office (782-2577), speaking to a deacon or deaconess, or signing up on a yellow sheet at church.



LIBRARY CORNER

There are **3 new Children's Books** in our church library (in the Friendship Room): "The Big Blue Spot", "Stand Tall, Mary Lou Melon" and "You Are Special".

Thinking of going to the Apologetics Conference on November 13th and 14th? Our church library has 2 copies of "Loving God" by Charles Colson and a copy of "The Grand Weaver" by Ravi Zacharias, featured speakers at the conference.

Check it out !!

If you enjoy reading and writing, we invite you to write a brief review of a book from our church library to be included in our monthly *Challenger*.



Women's Bible Study

LADIES BIBLE STUDY will resume on Sept. 15th at the home of Nancy Hand. Gina Dyson facilitates this weekly study. All women welcome. For info, please call Nancy at 783-7197.

LADIES SCRAPBOOKING NIGHT:

Friday, Sept. 25th from 6-12.

FREE – please bring a snack to share or some scrapbooking item(s) to give away. This is a fun way to get to know each other a little better and share some of the special times in our lives. Call Nancy Hand or Gina Dyson if you have questions and to let them know you will be attending.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Christ's call is...to save the lost, not the stiff-necked; He came not to call scoffers but sinners to repentance; not to build and furnish comfortable chapels, churches, and cathedrals at home in which to rock Christian professors to sleep by means of clever essays, stereotyped prayers and artistic musical performances, but to capture men from the devil's clutches and snatch them from the very jaws of Hell.

But this can be accomplished only by a red-hot, where neither man nor traditions are worshipped or preached, but only Christ and Him crucified."

C. T. Studd (1860-1931),

quoted in C. T. Studd — Cricketer and Pioneer [1933], Norman P. Grubb, p. 163

NURSING HOME MINISTRY:

Monday Nights at 6

WANTED: Individuals seeking to reach out to those who are shut in and elderly. For more information, contact George LaRoe at glaroe@comcast.net or 796-7848, or meet at the church Mondays at 6.

Also, if you know someone who is elderly and would enjoy a visit, this team would be glad to visit them!

SACRED DANCE WORKSHOP

Sept. 26th from 10 – 3 at Second Baptist Church in South Hadley. For age 16 and up. \$30 fee includes lunch. See the posted flyer/registration form at church and take a copy. Sign up by Sept. 12th. For more information call Lori at 536-0626.

**DEADLINE
FOR
OCTOBER
2009
CHALLENGER
ARTICLES IS:
SEPTEMBER
15TH**

LEARNING AND GROWING “IN TIMES LIKE THESE”

As we learn new songs in the congregation, know that there is old history some of the things we are learning these days. May God strengthen us with this encouragement from Steven Crain.

['In Times Like These'](#) by Steven Crain

As my wife and I watched a recent 6:30 p.m. newscast, I thought about that beloved old song “In Times Like These.”

With unemployment rising, a hard-hit U.S. economy and with Israel at war with Hamas in Gaza and with numerous other concerns on my mind, why wouldn't lyrics from Ruth Caye Jones' classic hymn run through my head?

Here are some words from that famous song:

“In times like these you need a Savior / In times like these you need an anchor / Be very sure, be very sure / Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

(Chorus) “This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He's the One / This Rock is Jesus, the only One! / Be very sure, be very sure / Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!”

Ruth Caye Jones, known as “Mother Jones,” reportedly found inspiration to write “In Times Like These” during World War II when she was moved by reading the words of 2 Timothy 3:1: “This know also that in the last days perilous times will come.” As she read those words, inspiration for the song came, and she jotted lyrics on a small notepad she had in her apron pocket.

As the mother of five children and wife of a busy pastor (a Church of the Nazarene pastor, I believe), Jones' life was full. She never aspired to do something “great” or “famous” and had no formal music training. But God took her song and sent it around the world to bless many. When Jones watched George Beverly Shea sing her song on a Billy Graham telecast, tears came to her eyes and she said, “I can't believe I had any part in writing this song. I just feel that God gave it to me, and I gave it to the world.” She had written 15 other songs, but “In Times Like These” became her best known.

The story goes that Jones' old family clock on the mantel (a wedding present) had been broken, but 15 years after “In Times Like These” had been written and the clock finally repaired, Jones realized that the first four notes of her song and the first notes of the clock's “Westminster chime” were the same. She had used some notes from a clock that chimed to accompany words to a song about “time.” Jones died in Erie, Pennsylvania, on August 18, 1972, following a short bout with cancer.

Jones wrote her acclaimed hymn during stressful World War II days, and her message remains timeless. The first verse of “In Times Like These” affirms our need for Jesus as Savior. Without Jesus, we'll find no safe harbor from fears, worries and “the times we live in.” Jesus, “the Cornerstone,” is our Solid Rock. As hymn writer Edward Mote wrote, “On Christ the Solid Rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand.”

In her song, Jones says to “be very sure your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock.” Is your faith placed totally in Christ's death and resurrection? Are you mistakenly trusting in your good deeds to try to get into heaven or wrongly adding your “works” to what Christ has done for you? Even older Christians need to recall these words (from the song “Rock of Ages”) penned by Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778): “Not the labors of my hands / Can fulfill Thy Law's demands / Could my zeal no respite know / Could my tears forever flow / All for sin could not atone / Thou must save, and Thou alone / ...In my hand no price I bring / Simply to Thy Cross I cling.”

The second verse of “In Times Like These” points to God's written revelation to us: “In times like these you need the Bible.”

Jesus said, “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105).

Jones also tells us, “In times like these, O be not idle.” Jesus said, “I must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4).

When hearing news of wars and troubles, I find comfort in affirming the words found in the last verse of Ruth Caye Jones' famous song: “In times like these I have a Savior / In times like these I have an anchor / I'm very sure, I'm very sure / My anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!”

Submitted by Pastor Greg

FAMILY NEWS PAGE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

(Our members 60 and up)

- Sept. 9 Mary Ann Jones
- 11 Bruce Williams
- 12 Doris Murray
- 12 Janet Potter
- 15 Elda LaMontagne
- 18 Louise Villeneuve
- 22 Pat Copeland
- 22 Eleanor Moore
- 22 Mary Smith

BABY DEDICATION

On July 12th, Leah Eloise Tuohey was baptized during our morning worship service by Pastor Greg. She is the daughter of Brian and Sara Tuohey and granddaughter of Brian and Pam Tuohey.



A BIRTH IN THE CHURCH FAMILY:

Congratulations to Jenn and Dave Bamford on the birth of their son, **Toby Michael Bamford**, on July 21st.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

The Right Hand of Fellowship was extended to Charlotte and George LaRoe and Robert Cabey on July 19th, and to Vincent Washington on August 23rd.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Marie and David Angers | 9-21-02 |
| Jennifer and David Bamford | 9-16-01 |
| Sue and Dan Bushey | 9-18-82 |
| Lorelei and John Ebersold | 9-05-59 |
| Katie and Paul Foster | 9-26-97 |
| Teresa and Christopher Montemayor | 9-29-90 |
| Beverly and Jeff Tisdell | 9-24-77 |
| Louise and Vernon Villeneuve | 9-19-92 |
| Elizabeth and Walter Worthington | 9-22-51 |

THANK YOU NOTES

have been received from Christina Cabey for her scholarship, Emily Hand for her campership, Muriel Sullivan for flowers, Horace and Olive Edwards for their 50th wedding anniversary celebration, and from the Lion's Den for our church's ongoing support and partnership in the youth ministry there.

BAPTISM

On June 29th Jessica Dyson was baptized in the Atlantic Ocean, Salisbury, MA by her dad, Pastor Greg Dyson.

LAY CARE LIST

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

(Addresses are in the 2009 Church Directory. Office 782-2577)

Week of:

- Sept. 6 Frances Cray
- 13 Jean Rondeau
- 20 Rena Ward
- 27 Phyllis Larson



Caring for our HOMEBOUND

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED:

- Louise Bushey (Wingate, Springfield)
- Nelson Bushey (Wingate, Wilbraham)

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Chris Potter who will be deployed to Iraq for a year with the MP's during September

CHURCH DIRECTORY CHANGES:

Have you picked up your copy of the 2009 Church Directory?

To keep your copy up to date, please write in these changes:

Blairs' phone number is 788-3873.

Add new member, Vincent Washington, 79 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 Ph. 596-2270.

Rena Ward's room # is now 409B.

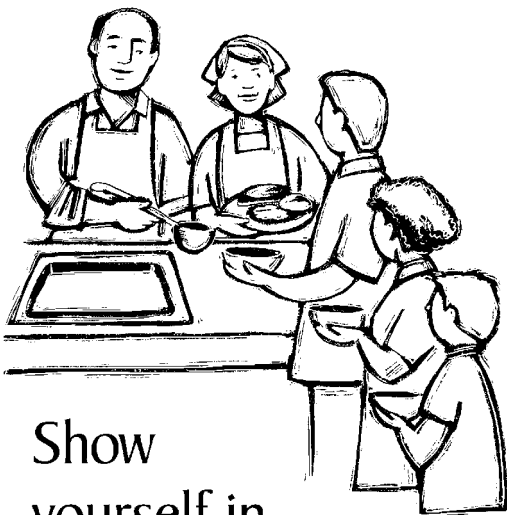
Church in the Acres (Baptist)
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Springfield, MA 01119-2614

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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 August 27, 2009

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Show
yourself in
all respects a model
of good works.

Titus 2:7

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
Don Williams, Sandy O'Neil
Ric Norris
Ruth Butler and Joanne Case