



First Baptist Church in Wickford

THE GOOD NEWS

February 2006

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STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Clifford R.
Hockensmith

Administrative Assistant

Cricket Genest

Director of Music Ministries

Elaine Alexander

Church Phone

294.4595

Fax Number

294.7628

Email

fbcwickford@verizon.net

Website

www.wickfordbaptist.org



Please join us on

SONDAY, FEBRUARY 19th

For a night of food fellowship and favorite hymns!!

We will be enjoying a delicious Spaghetti and Meatball

Dinner at **5:30 PM** in Fellowship Hall

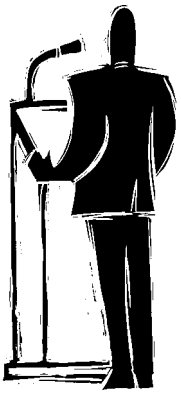
Followed by a Hymn Sing led by Pastor Cliff Hockensmith
and Pastor Jason Genest at **6:30 PM** in the Sanctuary

The cost is \$5.00 per person with a \$20 max per family
Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the church office.

EVERYONE is invited and encouraged to attend and

BRING A FRIEND!!!

THE DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE GOOD NEWS IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND



WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAYS

9:30 am

Sunday School
Chapel Building
& Stafford House

10:45 am

Worship
Sanctuary

11:45 am

Fellowship Hour
Fellowship Hall

TUESDAYS

1:30 pm

Prayer Group
Stafford House

WEDNESDAYS

10:15 am

Bible Study Fellowship
Stafford House

1:00 pm

Ladies Guild (2nd Wed.)

12:30 pm

Craft Workshop
(1st, 3rd, & 4th Wed.)
Stafford House

THURSDAYS

7:15 pm

Choir Rehearsal
Choir Room

Heaven

By Rev. Dr. Clifford Hockensmith

I want to invite you to a new Bible Study I am leading beginning on Wednesday, Feb 1st at 10:15 AM in the Stafford House. Our topic will be Heaven! We will search the scriptures and also review classic and recent books about heaven. Please join us. And now some thoughts about Heaven:

Why is this topic so roundly neglected by Christians and seminaries alike?
Where is heaven? Does it exist in space and time?
Can we possibly know anything about heaven?
Is everyone going to heaven?
Is there a hell?
What happens to our bodies when we die?
Is heaven connected with Biblical references to Paradise?
Is everyone equal in heaven?
What will we do in heaven?
Are my loved ones in heaven now?
Is heaven today the same as the eternal heaven of tomorrow?
Are animals in heaven?
What happens to this earth in eternity?
Can I be sure I am going to heaven?
Will I be spirit only, or will I have a body?
Can people who are in heaven now see us here?

A woman was asked to sing at her friends wedding, which she did. After the ceremony, she drove to the fine hotel where the reception was to be held. She entered the grand lobby, and ascended a grand staircase to the doors of the reception hall. At the door was a gentleman in a tuxedo, holding a clipboard with a list of names. The woman gave the gentleman her name. Upon searching the list, the gentleman said, I'm sorry, Miss, but your name does not appear on the list. I cannot admit you.

"But I was the soloist at the ceremony," she protested.

"I'm sorry, Miss, but I hope you understand- I have been instructed to admit only persons whose names are on the list."

The woman then recalled that there had been a formal RSVP with the invitation, which she had been too busy to return. She had been unaware of the vast, expensive and careful preparations the hosts had made for their invited guests. With a furtive glance inside the hall to see if she could get the attention of anyone who would know her, the woman finally relented and turned back toward the staircase. On the whole drive home, she wept- not because she did not get into that reception- but because she thought of the Grand Banquet of Heaven- and the tragedy of those who did not reply to the invitation.

Perhaps a careful study of Heaven is important for those of us who expect to travel there. Is not our final destination worth careful study and preparation?

Consider this your formal invitation to join us in an adventure to heaven!

For those of you who live out of town or who will find it impossible to join us, I commend to you our major text, besides the Bible, which is Heaven, by Dr. Randy Alcorn, Tyndale House Publishers, 2004.



FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE AS OF JANUARY 31, 2006

	<u>07/01/05 - 01/31/06</u>	<u>Plan</u> <u>07/01//05 - 01/31/06</u>
Income		
Pledges & Repeat Supporters	\$ 67,467.60	\$ 72,598.15
Other Income	\$ <u>17,711.02*</u>	\$ <u>21,869.35*</u>
Total Income	\$ 85,178.62	\$ 94,467.50
Expenses		
Current Operating Expenses	\$ <u>93,436.19</u>	\$ <u>94,467.50</u>
Net Income	\$(- 8,257.57)	\$ 0.00

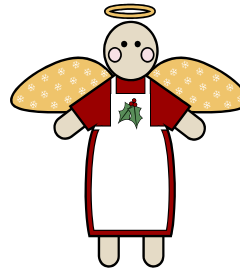
* Includes \$8,627.50 from reserves per plan.

WOMEN'S GUILD MONTHLY MEETING

The regular meeting of The Women's Guild will be held on **WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8TH AT 1:00 PM IN THE STAFFORD HOUSE**. Linda Brayman, Ellie DeMello and Linda Lundblad are hostesses.

WOMEN'S GUILD CRAFT SESSIONS

The Women's Guild Wednesday craft sessions will now meet at 12:30 PM on the 1st, 3rd, 4th and last Wednesday of each month in the Stafford House. Come and join us!!



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, Feb. 6th
7:00 PM
Personnel & Admin.
Stafford House

Wednesday, Feb. 14th
10:00 AM
Membership & Care
Stafford House

Wednesday, Feb. 15th
2:00 PM
Worship Committee
Stafford House

Monday, Feb. 27th
6:30 PM
Board of Deacons
Stafford House

SPECIAL EVENTS

Church Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 8th
7:00PM
Fellowship Hall

Spaghetti Dinner & Hymn Sing
Sunday, Feb. 19th
5:30 PM – Dinner
Fellowship Hall
6:30 – Hymn Sing
Sanctuary

Thank you to all my dear friends at the First Baptist Church in Wickford.

I want to report that I am recovering steadily each day and hope that it won't be long before I am able to meet with you again.

The accident on December 21 has made me aware of the tremendous support system we have in our church family. I was blessed to have received so many cards, letters and calls wishing me well and a speedy recovery.

I was reading a book the other day that offered a quotation by Albert Schweitzer. He said, "*In everyone's life, at some time or another, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit.*" That other human being is our friend.

I am thankful to have you, through our Lord Jesus Christ, to rekindle my inner spirit. Your words of encouragement and your prayers have lifted Audrey and me and we appreciate them.

-Al Schmid



Congratulations !!

Andy & Michele Pearce and Big Sister Caleigh welcomed Aiden Richard Joseph Pearce, to their family on Tuesday, January 17th. Very proud grandparents are Ken & Linda Lawrence!!

Welcome to the world Aiden!!



MISSIONS/OUTREACH COMMUNION AND SPECIAL OFFERING SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2006

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>
JANUARY	Emergency Assistance Fund
FEBRUARY	Habitat for Humanity
MARCH	*America for Christ
APRIL	Heifer International
MAY	*One Great Hour of Sharing
JUNE	Hospice Care of Rhode Island
JULY	South Providence Neighborhood Ministries
AUGUST	Bayside Family Health Care
SEPTEMBER	Salvation Army
OCTOBER	*World Mission Offering
NOVEMBER	North Kingstown Food Pantry
DECEMBER	*Retired AB Ministers and Missionaries

* Denotes activities specifically designated for support by American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island. Special envelopes are provided. The "communion" envelopes are used for other months.

In addition to the funds collected specially for the purposes listed above, pledged mission contributions are distributed to American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island (20%) for local mission/outreach and American Baptist Mission Support (80%) for national mission/outreach



MISSIONS SUPPORT UPDATE

Bucklin Family Back in U.S.

The Bucklin Family is now back in the United States from the mission field in Indonesia for a six month home leave. They are with the Wycliffe Bible Translators. They express their great appreciation for the support that our Church Family continues to give them.

Alaskan Missions Dinner

The Alaskan Missions Dinner, with an excellent presentation by ABCORI President Nancy Bancroft, was enjoyed by about 35 persons on January 11th. Donations of \$117.00 were received for the Kodiak Mission.

Missionaries to the Dominican Republic

Cathy and Walt Horridge will be departing on February 26 for a one-week work mission trip to La Romana in the Dominican Republic. This will be the 16th trip for Cathy and the 4th for Walt. They greatly appreciate the support that the Church Family has given to them, and the persons they help. We will look forward to hearing from Cathy and Walt in a presentation in the Spring



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FEBRUARY 8, 2006

The Board of Deacons will provide a mid-year update during a Congregational meeting
ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 FROM 7- 9PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Topics to be included in the session are:

- The status of our budget through the first seven months
- Preliminary plans for the 2006-7 budget and stewardship campaign
- Information regarding an upcoming art auction fund raiser
- A report from the By-laws committee which will include a handout documenting recommendations for revisions to our current by-laws
- Communications regarding Outreach, Membership and Care, Missions and Building and Properties Committee activities and plans
- A question and answer and discussion period

I encourage all to attend and participate. Light refreshments will be provided.

Ken Lawrence
Moderator



SAVE THE DATE!!!

The Alderson-Broaddus College Concert Choir is coming to Wickford!!

First Baptist Church in Wickford will be hosting the
AB Concert Choir on Tuesday, March 7th!!

We will be having a "double" potluck dinner at 6:00 PM
followed by the concert at 7:30 PM

The AB Concert Choir is made up of 50 students from Alderson-Broaddus College in Philippi, West Virginia. The Concert Choir will be on their spring tour and we are very excited that they will be performing for us here in Wickford!!

Prior to the concert we will be able to share in a time of fellowship and dinner with the students and directors at a "double" potluck. That means that everyone is asked to sign up to bring something and then double it!! This will ensure that we all have a hearty meal before the concert!!

More information and details will be available in the bulletins
and March Newsletter!!

A Little Laugh

Taken from:
www.butlerwebs.com/jokes/religious-kids.htm

A child was watching his mother sift through and delete a long list of junk E-mail on the computer screen.

"This reminds me of the Lord's Prayer," the child said.

"What do you mean?" the mother asked.

"You know. That part about 'deliver us from E-mail.'"



Casey asked her Sunday school teacher a question: "If the people of Israel are Israelites, and the people of Canaan are Canaanites, are the people of Paris called Parasites?"



One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex was staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and small American flags were mounted on either side of it. The seven-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the boy, and said quietly, "Good morning Alex."

"Good morning pastor," replied the young man, still focused on the plaque.

"Pastor McGhee, what is this?" Alex asked.

"Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 8:30 or the 11:00?"



A child came home from Sunday School and told his mother that he had learned a new song about a cross-eyed bear named Gladly. It took his mother a while before she realized that the hymn was really "Gladly The Cross I'd Bear."



A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon.

"How do you know what to say?" he asked.

"Why, God tells me."

"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"



A mother took her three-year-old daughter to church for the first time. The church lights were lowered, and then the choir came down the aisle, carrying lighted candles. All was quiet until the little one started singing in a loud voice, "Happy Birthday to you, happy birthday to you..."



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
IN WICKFORD**
34-44 MAIN STREET
NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI 02852

**TIME VALUE - DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

**FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAYS**

- 1st** Breta Gammell
- 2nd** Jeri Bellisle
Erika Kirwan
- 5th** Carolyn Bassett
- 12th** Rita Darling
- 14th** Amanda Arkwright
- 18th** John Armstrong
- 19th** Jennifer Wright
- 21st** Brandon Jackman
- 25th** Carolyn Bronkar
Bob Hanna



O U T R E A C H

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a
BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY ON FEBRUARY 19TH

Everyone is asked to invite a friend either to the morning worship or to the Evening Hymn sing. The friend can either be a member who has not attended for awhile or a person who has never been to our church.

Studies show that the most effective church growth program is friends inviting friends!

Bring a friend to morning worship and get a free ticket to the dinner!!

We will be organizing several **FOCUS GROUPS** to discuss who we are as a faith community, what we believe, what our purpose is, what we do, and how we wish to portray ourselves to the public. These groups are being planned to occur during Lent, following our **COLORS / SPIRITUAL GIFTS STUDY**.

THE NORTH KINGSTOWN FOOD PANTRY needs your help. We provide volunteers on Wednesdays to distribute food at North Kingstown United Methodist Church on Boston Neck Rd. The schedule is flexible to accommodate your own schedule. See Carol Chasse or Carol Hockensmith to get involved.