

First Baptist Church in Wickford

# THE GOOD NEWS

March 2006

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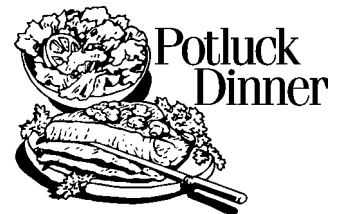
## The Alderson-Broaddus College Concert Choir is coming to Wickford!!

First Baptist Church in Wickford will be hosting the **Alderson-Broaddus 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 46 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. We will have many mouths to feed so 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!!



**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

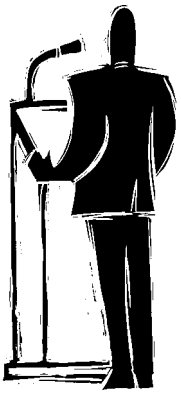
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www.wickfordbaptist.org

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THE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE OF THE GOOD NEWS IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22ND  
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## God's Faithfulness

By Rev. Dr. Clifford Hockensmith

*Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well. (Matt. 6:31-33)*

Our Church family has gratefully received a gift of over \$63,000 from the estate of Sybil Matheson, one of our members who passed away just two years ago. We extend a word of thanks to Sybil and to the executors of her estate. Through Sybil's faithful remembrance of her Lord and her church family, we are reminded of the constant and tender care of our Lord and His people for His Church. Her gift will continue to serve and grow God's Church for many years to come.

I must confess that I heard this great news with a mixture of joy and guilt: joy in Sybil's faithfulness and in the Lord's provision; but guilt that I was anxious over church finances to begin with. After 29 years as a parish minister, I have almost constantly witnessed this repeated generosity and faithfulness of the Lord and His people. But year after year I continue to worry over church finances and stewardship. Naturally there are always nay sayers concerning church finances and ministries, who cry gloom and doom, and seem to try to fulfill their own dire predictions. But my guilt comes in the fact that at times I let my own doubts creep in. When will I learn? It seems that the Lord knows all of this and continues to produce reminders like this most recent gift.

I pray now that the Matheson Estate Gift will empower two results. First, that we will all be convinced that God holds unlimited resources for His Church. And second, that each and every one of us will feel called to do our own part, in whatever way the Lord enables us. Giving to the Church is not for someone else to do: it is for you and me to do. What ever someone else does does not minimize what I am called to do. Instead, each one inspires another. This is the power of Christian community.

I am grateful to all of you who have remained faithful in your constant giving to this mission and ministry. The Lord's mission still beckons us. The ministry of the church, annually, must still be funded. But we do not rely on our human strength alone. God is among us in His Son.

How has God equipped you to give to His Church? What is God calling you to do, as His servant? What will you return to the Lord in thanksgiving for His blessings to you?

As Lent approaches, we anticipate a full calendar, as you will see in this Newsletter. May we seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness. And all the blessings of God's provision will be added unto us!

### 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



**FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE  
AS OF FEBRUARY 22, 2006**

		<u>Plan</u>	
	<u>07/01/05 - 02/22/06</u>	<u>07/01/05 - 02/22/06</u>	
<b>Income</b>			
Pledges & Repeat Supporters	\$ 73,680.00	\$ 80,746.00	
Other Income	\$ <u>19,443.00*</u>	\$ <u>24,323.00*</u>	
Total Income	\$ 93,123.00	\$105,071.00	
<b>Expenses</b>			
Current Operating Expenses	\$ <u>99,937.00</u>	\$ <u>105,071.00</u>	
<b>Net Income</b>	\$(- 6,814.00)	\$ 0.00	

\* Includes \$9,860 from reserves per plan.

**MISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

A box is available for the collection of **CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS** on the Mission Committee table located in Fellowship Hall near the Library. A list of eligible products is also available on the table. Many other products besides soup are eligible but they must say "Labels for Education" on the package somewhere. The committee is NOT collecting labels for the "Box Tops For Education" program, which is run by another company. Progresso soup labels are not eligible and should not be saved. If you are having trouble removing the soup label, the front portion that identifies the type of soup is what is needed, so please try not to destroy it. A knife or something with a sharp blade is helpful if it is used to cut the paper on either side of the glue on the back. Again, there are many products that are worth cash to our school (Bacone College, a Christian American Indian College in Indiana), so if it ever stays warm outside, you might feel like something else besides hot soup. Thank you all for your support in the mission effort!

The **special offering for March will go to AMERICA FOR CHRIST**. Your contributions will go to support American Baptist Ministries throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Recipients will include new church planting, campus ministries, refugee resettlement, Baptist camps and conference centers, neighborhood action centers, and evangelism training, as well as many others. Please give generously.

Think spring and the **CHURCH YARD SALE to be held Saturday, April 22, 2006**. Find and clean up your unneeded, but wonderful, items for sale. It will be similar to that held last spring, where we made \$802.87, thanks to very enthusiastic support by our Church Family, as well as happy purchasers. As before the proceeds will be split between Church operations and missions. There will be 14 tables set up in the Fellowship Hall and Stafford House. Table use will be sold to individuals or groups for \$25. Additionally, there will be a Church table for items you may just want to donate. A sign-up sheet with table layout will be in the Fellowship Hall in March - get your table early.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Tuesday, March 14th  
5:00 PM  
*Missions Committee.*  
Stafford House

Wednesday, March 15th  
2:00 PM  
*Worship Committee*  
Stafford House

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

*AB Concert Choir & Potluck Dinner*  
Tuesday, March 7th  
6:00PM – Dinner in Fellowship Hall  
7:30 PM – Concert in the Sanctuary

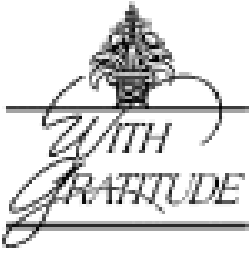
*NK Clergy Assoc. Lenten Luncheon*  
Wednesday, March 22nd  
12:00 PM  
Fellowship Hall

*Lenten Study & Dessert*  
Tuesday, March 28th  
7:00 PM  
Fellowship Hall



***Congratulations !!***

*Congratulations to Jessica Ortiz who was recently engaged to Kevin Sweeney. May God richly bless your new life together.*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at the First Baptist Church in Wickford:

It's been such a great opportunity for me finding a way to greet you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. How are you all doing? I hope with God's blessing and the Almighty, you've been quite cool and safe.

In February 2002, groups came from all around the United States. And it was from here that God sent Mrs. Cathy and Mr. Wes to find me here in LaRomana. And then I explained to them my wishes and the enthusiasm I have to study God's divine words. After I had explained all my testimony; how God has called me to be his disciple and through that desire the Holy Spirit touched Mr. Wes and he was motivated. He cried when he heard all my past. He took some photos of me and hugged me by saying, "Joel, God knows how to prepare the path where it doesn't exist." And he told me he would be in charge to take my testimony to the churches so that the congregations could help me pay the bills for bible studies (theology). That was the way it happened. And today I dedicated myself to write this memorial to thank all of you who have contributed in this task so important. And let me tell you that my brother, Wes, isn't just a simple missionary who got here in LaRomana to help the needy people but he is now a part of my family. God used him to be the godfather of my wedding and Mrs. Cathy became an adoptive mother for me. These are the spiritual family that God has given to me. Through my wife, Mariluz, we have our child, Jonatan Joel, who is the fruit of my wedding.

Now I am almost finished, in six months, the four years of school that is the greatest achievement. I've studied during these past four years bible anthropology, psychology, missionology and read 45 plus books. Now I'm ready and skillful to attend a church and help in all kinds of churches and attendances. I'm able to teach others all that I have received through the grace of God.

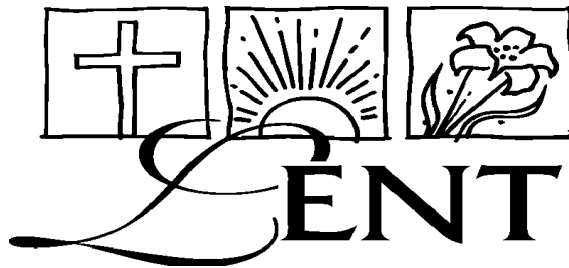
Thanks to all who have contributed and prayed and made it possible to finish this dream. I want this memory to be in a file or well archived in a church office in a joyful way. Let's work hand-in-hand in the deed of God knowing that our labor won't be in vain.

Thanks for helping me. May God bless you all.

Mr. Joel Pierre

\*It is my honor to pass this letter along to you from Joel Pierre. Although, I had to edit the original, just a bit for ease in reading, these truly are his words to you.

Cathy Horridge



The North Kingstown Clergy Association will once again be holding Lenten Luncheons on each Wednesday during Lent. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend these luncheons. Below are the dates and locations of each luncheon. For more information please contact the church office.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
March 1st (Ash Wednesday)	FBC North Kingstown, 1135 Tower Hill Rd., NK
March 8th	St. Bernard's, 415 Tower Hill Rd., NK
March 15th	St. Johns The Divine, Willett Rd, Saunderstown
March 22nd	FBC Wickford, 44 Main St., NK
March 29th	NK United Methodist, 450 Boston Neck Rd, NK
April 5th **	St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 55 Main St., NK
April 12th (Holy Week)	7th Day Adventist Church, 8050 Post Rd., NK

\*\* Pastor Cliff will be speaking at this service

## FBC WICKFORD LENTEN STUDIES AND DESSERTS

We will be gathering together on three Tuesday nights during Lent to study and fellowship together. We will be sharing in dessert at the first and third gathering with a special Fish dinner for the second gathering.

Below is a list of the times and places. For more information contact the church office.

- † Tuesday, March 28th 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall
- † Tuesday, April 4th Fish Dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by the study in Fellowship Hall
- † Tuesday, April 11th at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Maundy Thursday Service—Choral Cantata

Thursday, April 13th at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Community Good Friday Service - Stations of the Cross

Friday, April 14th from Noon-1:00 PM in the Sanctuary

## Easter Morning Worship Services

Sunrise Service—7:00 AM at the Town Dock followed by breakfast in Fellowship Hall

Easter Morning Worship—10:45 AM in the Sanctuary

*(The following letter was received on February 16 along with a donation to the church in the amount of \$63,398.04. )*

February 1, 2006

First Baptist Church in Wickford  
44 Main Street  
North Kingstown, RI 02852

Dear Members,

It was a cold and sunny Thursday afternoon in mid- January just a little over two years ago now that Aunt Sybil (Sybil C. Matheson) departed her once lively and vivacious but now frail cancer stricken body to join our Lord in Heaven for eternal rest and peace.

Not only was Sybil my Aunt, but she was also my very close friend and confidant, whom I miss today as much as I did the day we whispered our final goodbye's at the Newport Rhode Island hospital. Likewise, Aunt Sybil was a friend to many, both within her immediate family, and to those she loved to surround herself with. As an expression of her love and caring for her family and friends, Aunt Sybil left in her Will, the residual of her estate to thirteen (13) different individuals and institutions.

Although love, friendships and caring are immeasurable, the enclosed check represents the gift that Aunt Sybil desired to leave you upon her passing. William J. Alarie (husband of Jacquelynne Rockwell Alarie) and I have been responsible for settling Aunt Sybil's estate and will gladly share specific information with anyone who makes that request to either of us.

We hope that you are pleased with this thoughtful remembrance from my Aunt, cousin, and dearest friend, Sybil C. Matheson.

In loving memory & with best wishes,

Michael A, Kauppi – Nephew and Co-executor for the estate of Sybil C. Matheson

William J. Alarie – Husband of Jacquelynne Rockwell Alarie & Co-executor for the estate of  
Sybil C. Matheson

## COMMUNION SERVERS



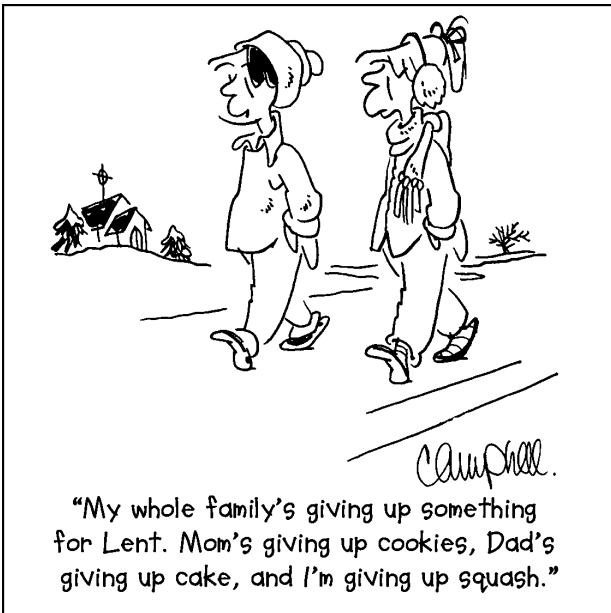
The Worship Committee has assembled a group of people to serve Communion to those unable to join us on Communion Sundays for Worship.

If you or someone you know is unable to attend Worship on Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of each month, and would like someone to come to your home to share in Communion with you, please contact the church office at 294-4595.



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

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



### **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

**10th** Joe Lambiase

**13th** Tyler Gould

**15th** Barbara Bullock

**16th** Mary Ostiguy

**23rd** Paul Lundblad

**26th** Christopher Ryan

**27th** Cricket Genest