



January 2008

# The *Beacon*



## Annual Meeting is Jan. 27

Please join us for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 27 in Fellowship Hall at 12:30 p.m. following our traditional potluck dinner. All are welcome to share in the fellowship and discussions about what can happen at FBCN in 2008 and beyond.

Our boards and committees, ministerial staff, and church officers will give their reports and the Budget Committee will recommend the final 2008 budget for adoption by the congregation. The budget is of critical importance as it sets the priorities for where our funds will be spent or not spent. Everyone should be a part of this decision.

Please sign up for the potluck dinner at the "Transformation Station" (the table in the Chapel) and join a very special annual event where we come together to share our blessings, hopes and plans for the future, as well as our favorite family foods.



One of the highlights of the Christmas season at First Baptist, the *Very Important Christmas Pageant* shared laughter, music, and a meaningful message with a delighted audience on Sunday, Dec. 23.

## FBCN to form task force on membership and growth

The Church Council decided at its December meeting to form a task force to look deeper into what makes us tick and how we can share this with more people in the wider community that will, among other things, help us continue to grow in numbers, spirituality and service. The charge for the task force is set forth below:

*The Task Force shall consist of 6-10 members (not necessarily formal members) of the Congregation, including the Senior Minister, for the purpose of:*

- *Researching trends in FBCN membership, attendance, support and giving;*
- *Gathering information and input from members by way of surveys, Sunday forums, small group sessions, etc. for the purpose of:*
  - *Evaluating the current membership and attendance at Church worship and programs to determine the underlying reasons for being a part of FBCN vs. another congregation; and*
  - *Learning what current members see as strengths and weaknesses in the current FBCN Church life, including worship, education, support, community, service/outreach, pastoral and lay leadership, governance, and the like,*

*Continued on Page 3*

From the Senior Minister

# It's the E100!

*Or, How I Learned to Stop Procrastinating and Start Reading Scripture*

Like some of you, I get a lot of mail. E-mail, Snail mail (as regular post mail has come to be called), and voicemail.

When I get a notice of a new program or an offer, I must admit that I often view it with a very skeptical eye. I get claim after claim about this evangelism program or that fundraising tool or some new software or convention. If I investigated them all, I could just do that: I could be your Senior Mailman instead of your Senior Minister.

But one out of about every 100 of these mailings does contain something useful, and out of the roughly 1,000 pieces of—let's say — *opportunity* that I received last year, one has stood out as being important enough to bring to your attention and for our congregation to undertake.

**It's called the E100; no, it's not Eastman's Century. It's a targeted Bible reading program to get you reacquainted with scripture in 100 days.**

We're going to do it together and we'll use some of the passages in worship, in study, and in art. We're going to challenge ourselves to get back to the book we claim has been hijacked by louder voices. We're going to not just say the Bible is important to us. We're going to *make* it important by actually reading it, every day.

It's called E100 for *Essential 100*, or those readings the editors felt would give you the big, broad picture of the story of God and God's people across the Old and New Testaments.

**Now remember, this is not the whole Bible.** Instead, it's a survey, a way to get back in touch, to allow the truths of Bible to reinvigorate our faith together. The bar is not so high that you cannot attain it. Most of the readings are about one chapter a day, and they are great selections, with great stories,

designed to really get you thinking. We will coordinate other programs along with the reading program to enhance what you're finding there.

**How do you get the E100 readings?** One of two ways: either you let me know that you would like one of the attractive folded progress cards I have, with punch-outs for each reading completed, or you may sign up for my daily e-mail that will send you each reading with a few questions and a prayer topic. If you'd like to participate—or just want to know more — please e-mail me at [cfe3@firstbaptistnewton.net](mailto:cfe3@firstbaptistnewton.net).

Either way, use whatever version of the Bible you prefer. And really, the only way you could blow this would be not to participate! Even if you miss a reading here and there, you will still be that much more scripture-literate than when we began.

**The E100 Program at First Baptist in Newton will begin on Wednesday, Feb. 6 (Ash Wednesday) and end Friday, May 16, 2008.** As such, it will be our shared journey in Lent, and we'll get through most of the readings from the Old Testament during that time. This program is portable, intergenerational, and very important. I hope you will feel empowered to participate.

In Christ,

*Charley*



## Terry Kitchen to headline Beacon Coffeehouse on Feb. 15



The Beacon Coffeehouse resumes on Friday, Feb. 15 with Terry Kitchen, a Boston-based singer-songwriter, and James Casey and our own Charley Eastman as the opening acts.

Stay tuned for more details on this exciting show in the February issue of the Beacon. Due to a late cancellation, there will be no Beacon Coffeehouse performance in January.

*From the Minister of Christian Education*

# Action speaks louder than words

Since August, I have been giving you a tool each month that you can use to build on the foundation of what we are doing at First Baptist Church in Newton. January marks the half way point of the list.

So I will start this one with a question to check on your progress: What action have you taken since August to build on the foundation and be transformed throughout this year? Your January tool is a phrase and reminder that: *Action Speaks Louder than Words*.

We had an enriching and meaningful Advent Bible study as we celebrated Christmas in December. We studied Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, Simeon and Anna, and we learned about Joseph. Joseph was an amazing man. Even though he did not have to, he did an admirable thing and listened to the angel in his sleep. He took care of Mary. He watched over Jesus. He protected them from Herod and did what he could to protect Mary's reputation. He suffered ridicule from the townspeople about Mary and kept doing what he was asked.

When you read the Christmas story, do you notice that Joseph does NOT say a word? Throughout the scripture, you read what the angel asks of him and then you see Joseph wake up and DO what he was asked. I am sure he had questions and concerns, but he had faith and trust in God to answer the call and DO the ACTION. Can you imagine the impact that Joseph had on Jesus' life

and ministry because of his actions? What an influence he must have been. Are you imagining the impact that Jesus is having on your life because of Joseph's influence as well?

One of the participants for the bible study was one of our members, Anna Zhou, who has given me permission to share her insights with you. She said that ACTION is what being transformed is all about. Anna shared that it was because of Pastor Charley challenging us to be transformed that she decided to be involved in the Advent bible study. Just like Joseph, Anna understood that it takes ACTION from our part to be transformed and to DO what it takes to improve our relationship with God.

So, I ask you the question – what action have you taken to build on the church's foundation, to help your relationship with God and be transformed? Anna and Joseph, thank you for being wonderful examples of what happens when action speaks louder than words.

Blessings and Peace,

*Linda*




---

## FBCN to form task force on membership and growth

*Continued from Page 1*

*and their vision for the future;*

- *Exploring different approaches to reaching out to encourage others to come and be a part of the congregation; and*
- *Making recommendations to the Church Council for next steps in achieving long-term membership growth.*

The Task Force will report its progress periodically to the Church Council and make a presentation in May 2008 with the expectation that the final report with recommendations will be presented to the Congregation at the 2008 Spring Business Meeting.

Kathy Wade, Moderator, will be contacting members of the congregation to serve on this task force. While the number on the task force is relatively small, everyone will have a chance to share his/her thoughts and dreams about who we are and what we can become. It should be an exciting few months as we explore

## Guess Who's Coming to Dinner was a success!



Our bi-annual mystery dinner was a success once again. Nearly 30 members of our community braved the weather to visit the Palmer, Weisz and Swan homes. The food was good, the laughter was better, and the fellowship was just what everyone needed.

If you weren't able to attend or have never



done it before, just mark your calendars for May 2008. It is a great way for us to join in celebration and break bread among friends. And what could be better than that?

## Have you submitted your 2008 pledge yet?

As the congregation contemplates its hopes and plans for the future, it certainly helps to know how much will be coming from pledged support.

Being a part of this wonderful church community also includes an obligation for all of us to help sustain its worship, educational, musical and outreach programs. At the Fall Business Meeting, the congregation adopted a preliminary budget that included a 6.4 percent increase in income from annual pledges. If insufficient support is pledged by mid-January, the Budget Committee may need to



adjust the final budget, reducing some of the funding for programs or building maintenance and repairs that were planned for the year.

If you have not already submitted your pledge for 2008, please do so as soon as possible to help the Church reach its goal. Pledge cards are readily available in the Chapel or from a member of the Stewardship Committee. You can also contact Donna Vello in the Church office at (617) 244-2997 and she will gladly send you a pledge card.

## Have you talked with someone from Nominating yet?

As we prepare for our Annual Meeting, many of us - but not all - are aware that members of the Nominating Committee are busy circulating among us, putting together the slate of officers and board and committee members to lead the church in the 2008 year ahead.

All officers are elected (or reelected) each year. Board (Deacons, Trustees, Outreach, Education), Stewardship Committee and Church Council-at-Large members serve three-year terms. So each year we need new people and, over

the years, have benefited richly from the new people that have agreed to serve.

If you've already been contacted, please consider (or reconsider) saying "yes" to serving in some way. If you haven't been contacted, and/or have questions, please consider how important your getting involved can be and contact one of the Nominating Committee members — John Bewick, Bill Buff, Lisa Crockett, Frank Olney or Wanda Pazmino. Then, one way or another, your answer can be "yes"!

# In the FBCN Family

## JOYS:

Wanda Crockett has gone back home to Virginia, to be with her family and continue rehab!!

## SPECIFIC PRAYERS:

Hazel O'Donnell, recovering from second knee surgery

Eunice Wilson, knee replacement on January 2

## ON-GOING PRAYERS:

Tom Ashbrook

Jeff and Molly Edmonds and their family

Clara Gallup

Betty and Joyce Morin

Philip and Heather Palmer

Luz Reardon

Sanborn family

## THANK YOU'S:

Thank you for the beautiful (and very soft!) prayer shawls you presented to us. They represent love and support, and many, many prayers offered for us from our church family during this difficult time.

Peg and Rich Carroll

The Cooke family (Lisa Crockett, James, Elizabeth, and Laura Cooke) wish to thank the church family for the concern and caring we were shown this fall as Lisa's stepmother, Wanda, dealt with her spinal cord injury here in Boston. The prayers, cards, visits and expressions of concern were all very much appreciated both by our family and by Wanda. We are happy to report that she successfully moved to her new rehabilitation facility, Heritage Hall in Blacksburg, Virginia, on Dec. 20, so she is now much closer to home and her friends and family there. She has made great strides in her physical and occupational therapy in the last weeks, and was able to walk 60 feet with some assistance. She still has a long road ahead of her, and we appreciate your keeping her in your prayers. We count our blessings for having such a caring church community.

**Do you have something to share??** If you have any joys, news, or specific prayers to share, please let Linda Moore know. [Lmoore@fbcnewton.org](mailto:Lmoore@fbcnewton.org) or 617-244-2997 x 12

## Praise for FBCN's Advent Bible Study

The Advent Bible Study that Charley and Linda so capably led was super!

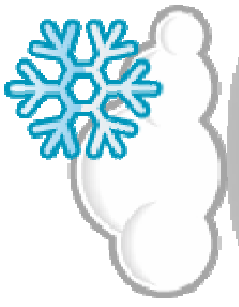
A definite time for the study of the scripture is so very valuable. On our own we can quite easily forget this important discipline. No matter how many times we have read scripture, a fresh reading always provides more enlightenment. The soup and bread are nourishing and delicious also.

Doing this with a group of friends means our souls are enlarged by the many ways Christ speaks uniquely to each of us. In our concluding opportunity for prayer we receive help from others and God to enact what we have learned into life.

With joyful anticipation we look forward to the next seasonal session and to meeting you there too!

*Edith and Gordon Swan*





# January 2008

## January

### Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Best wishes to FBCN members celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in January:

### Birthdays

- 2- David Dodson Gray
- 4 - Charley Eastman
- 4 - Charlie Young
- 9 - Molly Edmonds
- 10 - Trevor Grams
- 11 - Carrie Eastman
- 17 - Blanche Hubbard
- 17 - Frank Olney
- 25 - Jonathan Dwyer
- 27 - Emmett Eastman
- 28 - Beth Beaumont
- 28 - David Pazmiño
- 30 - Jennifer Holthouse

### Anniversaries

- Jan. 3 - Atula Jamir and Mangyang Imsong

If you have an anniversary or a birthday that is not listed, please contact Linda Moore at [Imoore@fbcnewton.org](mailto:Imoore@fbcnewton.org)

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> New Year's Day Church Office Closed	<b>2</b> 6am BKC* 7pm Food Addicts	<b>3</b> 6am BKC* 7pm Cub Scouts	<b>4</b> 6am BKC*	<b>5</b> 6pm BKC*
<b>6</b> Food Pantry Collection <b>Sunday Worship Schedule—See Page 6</b> 12:30pm BKC* 6-8pm Youth Fellowship	<b>7</b> 7pm Yoga Class	<b>8</b> 6am BKC* 9:30am Yoga 7pm Yoga 7:30pm Board Meetings	<b>9</b> 6am BKC* 7pm Yoga Class 7pm Food Addicts in Recovery	<b>10</b> 6am BKC*	<b>11</b> 6am BKC*	<b>12</b> 8:30am Yoga Class 6pm BKC*
<b>13</b> <b>Sunday Worship Schedule—See Page 6</b> 12:30pm BKC*	<b>14</b> 7pm Yoga Class	<b>15</b> 6am BKC* 9:30am Yoga Class 7pm Yoga Class 7:30pm Church Council Meeting	<b>16</b> 6am BKC* 7pm Yoga Class 7pm Food Addicts	<b>17</b> 6am BKC*	<b>18</b> 6am BKC*	<b>19</b> 6pm BKC*
<b>20</b> <b>Sunday Worship Schedule—See Page 6</b> 12:30pm BKC* 6-8pm Youth Fellowship	<b>21</b> <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> Church Office Closed	<b>22</b> 6am BKC* 9:30am Yoga 7pm Yoga Class 7:30pm Communications Committee	<b>23</b> 6am BKC* 7pm Yoga Class 7pm Food Addicts in Recovery	<b>24</b> 6am BKC* 8am Life Line Screening	<b>25</b> 6am BKC*	<b>26</b> 8:30am Yoga Class 6pm BKC*
<b>27</b> <b>Sunday Worship Schedule—See Page 6</b> 12:30pm BKC* <b>12:30pm Annual Business Meeting</b>	<b>28</b> 7pm Yoga Class	<b>29</b> 6am BKC* 9:30am Yoga 6pm— Meetinghouse 7pm Yoga	<b>30</b> 6am BKC* 7pm Yoga Class 7pm Food Addicts in Recovery	<b>31</b> 6am BKC*		<b>*BKC—Beautiful Korean Church</b>

# Our Sunday Worship Schedule

*First Baptist Church of Newton*

8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

9:15 a.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Fellowship

*See the Calendar on Page 5 for additional events and activities*



## Adult Sunday School for January

### Faith in the World

**Jan. 6**

Speaker: Dr. Bill Herzog, Dean of Faculty at Andover Newton Theological School

**Jan. 13**

Speaker: Phil Rounseville, Topic: Astronomy and Faith

**Jan. 20**

Topic: Recording of Bill Moyers' interview with James Cone on "Lynching"

**Jan. 27**

Combined study with Nurturing our Faith

### Nurturing our Faith

**Jan. 6**

"Twelfth Night": On darkness and light (Isaiah 60:1-6)

**Jan. 13**

What happens when the heavens open? (Matthew 3:13-17)

**Jan. 20**

Who is Jesus? (John 1)

**Jan. 27**

And shall we follow him? (Matthew 4:12-23)



### Thanks to the Christmas Pageant crew!

I am so grateful to everyone who participated in and enjoyed the Christmas Pageant. It was a wonderful experience to share in the Christmas story with everyone of all ages. A big thank you goes out to Carolyn Dwyer and Atula Jamir, who were Assistant Directors and to Karen Schoonmaker, who was our Costume Designer. Everyone did a great job, enjoyed the time, and shared in the spirit that Christmas is meant to be. Thank you!

*Linda*



848 Beacon Street  
Newton Centre, MA  
02459-1801  
(617) 244-2997

Non Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 55438  
Boston, MA.

# What would you like to do for 2008?

E Q C H G N F G L H L G Y S X  
 S L T F Y O Q O O W W N K H L  
 E N B D D X T T O S N M D A O  
 T U N I Y N S O H O F W F R V  
 O F N G B L D U C M S X T E E  
 N E E I C E I F S H U T H T F  
 E V O G B U H M Y E U B Y O A  
 T A S R X E U T A N J R Q Y M  
 I H Q X T F H C D F B E C S I  
 R X K H C C X N N A P L V H L  
 W M A A T G X Y U H E L Z O Y  
 M A K E C A R D S A Z R E A L  
 H E L P F R I E N D S O R H L  
 H C R U H C P L E H D P J I Q  
 C I S U M Y A L P S I N G F F



Find these words or phrases in the word search

GO TO CHURCH  
 HELP FAMILY  
 LOVE JESUS  
 PRAY  
 SING

HAVE FUN  
 HELP FRIENDS  
 MAKE CARDS  
 READ THE BIBLE  
 SUNDAY SCHOOL

HELP CHURCH  
 LOVE FAMILY  
 PLAY MUSIC  
 SHARE TOYS  
 WRITE NOTES