

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BOSTON

110 Commonwealth Avenue
617-267-3148

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2002

Web-Site Enhanced!

Webmaster *Deborah Porter* has added additional features to our web-site, including a 'meter' to see how many visitors enter our home page, and she continues to update the history page. www.firstbaptistchurchofboston.org is the official domain. A Future enhancement will be email for the church.

Thanks Deb!

August Guest Preachers

AUGUST 4, 11, 18

Rev. Gary Andy

AUGUST 25

Rev. Finley Keech

Search Committee

The Pastoral Search Committee carefully and prayerfully progresses in the search of the next pastor since 1665, who hopefully will guide this ancient ship into a Christ inspired journey, and so this church may continue to be a beacon for all to witness the love of God.

--*Donald G. Thacker, Chairman*



My Brothers and Sisters

I was looking at a feather the other night. It is the feather of a bird that taught me a valuable lesson. Some of you may be thinking, "Here comes a bird brain story." And you'd be right!!

The day began with me fishing from a dock in Florida. I heard a squawk coming from the small island opposite from where I was. I finally located the source of distress. It was a white bird hanging by an entangled fishing line hooked to the top of a fifty foot tree. I remember feeling conflicted emotions, and a wave of sadness as what the probable outcome for the bird would be. All I could do was listen to the bird's cry for help.

I fell asleep frustrated, yet glad that I would be out of town the next morning. But, wouldn't you know it, the next morning, as I walked out the door; the first sound I heard was the bird squawking and flapping his wings from the top of his prison island.

It was also the first sound I heard when I returned later that morning. I placed a call to the local SPCA which informed me that they could do nothing as long as the bird was in the tree.

By mid-day, I made my way out to the fishing dock, again to face the sight and sound of the bird. I stared up at the flapping bird high in the tree. I sighed. Like Popeye the sailor says, "That's all I can stanz 'cause I can't stanz no more."

It was a hot day, and no one was boating on the waterway separating the island from the dock; so I borrowed a raft. The plan, at least what there was of it, was to float across the waterway with a saw, cut down the tree,

(Continued page three)

Family Portrait



Mel Jemison and Sarah Zetek and the Deacons continue to promote a positive spiritual environment at the church...**Edet Ituen** returned safely from his journey to Nigeria... **Vicky Ituen** is busy at work, while their children: **Afri** has moved to Everett, MA; **Asuquo** is studying at *Fisher College*; and **Emmanuel** is finishing school at *Cambridge-Rindge-Latin*; My how time flies and how they've matured... **Sarah Zetek** and **Deborah Porter** will be attending Sarah's brother's wedding on August 17th... Treasurer **Henry P. Henderson** received his *Chair* from Boston University, after 22 years as *Chairman of the Criminal Justice, and Urban Affairs Programs*. His 33 years of professorship also includes *Johns Hopkins* and *Wayne State Universities*; he received his *MA* in Architecture from *Carnegie-Mellon*, and his *PHD* in Political Science from *Cornell*; ...**Kara Mathis** has moved to Los Angeles and is doing very well in her career...**Barbara Pfenning** visited **Milt** and **Helen Ryder**, who send their greetings; **Barbara's** brother **John** is healing well; she also asks prayers for her cousin **Greg** after having three stints with heart problems...

Stephen Phillips has returned to the states and is working on his graduate studies; and a special thanks to **Rayford Glasgow** for helping him move to Philadelphia... Financial Secretary **Dorothy Williams** continues to serve on many boards and committees serving the

community and our denomination, and is very busy in her career at Mt. Auburn Hospital... **Earl Norman, Jr.**, just purchased a gorgeous new sports car and everyone wants a *tour-de-force* ride, especially **Granny**... Christian Ed. Chairman **Fadie Thomas Coleman**, and **Rayford Glasgow** escorted the church youngsters to their respective ABC church campsites at **Grotonwood** and **Oceanwood** (*what would the children do without you?*)... Also thanks to **Ray** for a new and welcoming message on the answering machine... **Gwendolyn Jemison** is always upbeat and gracious as hostess during fellowship hour... It was refreshing to see **Alan Andersen** at church recently, and the church garden is blossoming well... Long-time member **Laura-Jean Rood** worshipped with us on July 14th, on her annual visit from Boca Raton, Florida.

The worship service this summer has been blessed with superb soloists: **Velma Dupont, Karin Kramer, Deborah Porter, Robynn Stewart**, and **Sarah Zetek** led by maestro **Bruce Herrick**, and inspirational sermons by, **Rev. Gary Andy, Rev. Finley Keech, Rev. Henry Stonie**, and **Rev. Arthur Whitaker**. Well done **Deacons** and the **Music Committee**.

If you wish to provide information for **Family Portrait**, please contact Percy Mathis or Donald Thacker. For all other information, please contact the Chairmen of each respective board or committee, or Church Officer, at least one week before the end of each month, and it will be given to the church office.



The Little Bird (continued from page one)

and rescue the bird before it drowned or died of heat.

Just as I started to cross the waterway, a boat came out of no where. I explained what was going on, and he said, "I'll take you to the other side. Get in." Within ten seconds, we were ready to land at the island. Just then the bird fell from the tree into the water, and we were able to rescue it using the fishing net. The bird was distressed.

When I returned to shore, I was surprised to discover that many people had been watching the bird just like me. The came from many and various condos, some with water, some with food, and someone had already called the SPCA. Before I knew it, the bird was gone and all that was left for me was the feather, AND a very important lesson about Faith.

In our lives, we are confronted with difficult and uncomfortable tasks and situations. It may be that we have to give a speech, to share the Gospel, to visit the sick, or to start anew. We wish that God would do it for us. But there comes a time when we must take the first step and reach up as high as we can, and trust God to do the rest. Birds of a feather flock together!!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Gary Andy (Pastor Gary)



The following poem was submitted by Archivist and former Secretary *Miss Louise Takvorian*

To Jesus

**Thyself from love Thy heart didst not
defend;
From heaven to earth it brought Thee
from Thy throne.
Beloved, to what sheer depths didst
Thou descend
To dwell with man, unhonored and
unknown,
In life and death to enrich us without
end.
Homeless and poor, with nothing of
Thine own
Thou here didst come alone,
For Thou wert called
By Love unwalled,
That all Thy heart did move.
And as about the world Thy feet did
go
'Twas Love that led Thee always
everywhere,
Thy only joy, for us Thy Love to show,
And for Thyself no whit at all to care.**

**From the Italian of Jacapone da Todi,
1250?-1306**

*Board of Deacons
Spiritual Leadership
Role*

The Board of Deacons wishes to thank all who have helped us in looking after the Church. We are the Board responsible for the spiritual oversight and nurture of the Church, and promoting Christian character. We are truly blessed to have inspiring guest preachers every Sunday morning for our worship service. We give thanks to God for giving us guest preachers through the end of September and will work on October pulpit supply soon. Many people have also praised the worship service bulletin format for its easy readability and it gives proper prayer and praise to the Living God. We invite all to come and worship with us on Sunday morning at 11:00 AM. We ask that you continue to pray for the church at this difficult time of spiritual leadership. We will continue to provide a preacher for every Sunday and know that God will supply our church with a pastor. We continue to support one another in this effort and the church theme for this year is: BEING THE CHURCH BY SHARING GOD'S LOVE. May God continue to Bless The First Baptist Church!

In Christian Love,
Sarah Zettek, Co- Chairman
Board of Deacons

*Wednesday Evening
Prayer Meeting*

We continue to meet every Wednesday evening at 7:00pm during the summer months. We keep praying for the church in its search for a pastor. We also pray for the lay leadership especially for the Board of Deacons as they are responsible for the spiritual oversight and care of the church. We continue to pray for members and friends who are

ill, in the hospital, homebound or have other needs. We also pray for the larger community as events happen to catch our attention. We are also mindful of the world and what goes on in other countries- the ongoing violence in the Middle East, the problems in Africa, and the world economy.

We know that the prayers of God's people are being answered and we praise God's mighty Spirit working in the lives of our congregation. We welcome all to join us at the prayer meeting and experience the presence of God and may He continue to bless the people of First Baptist Church.

In Christian Love,
Sarah Zettek
Prayer Group Leader

Prayer List

Beatrice Wyatt, John Pfenning, Board of Deacons, FBC Prayer Group, Becky Bliss, Sandra Ewing, Middle East Conflict, The National Economy, FBC Young Adults

Kids At Camp!

Well folks, as you may or may not know some of our little angels are off to summer camp this year. With your help and support along with Donald and Dorothy, Fadie and I are happy to report all is well. Kimberly was the first to venture off to camp Grotonwood located on a beautiful lake in Groton, Massachusetts. She enjoyed an early July camping experience. Following in her foot steps, along came Alison, Charles, Raine and Stephen. Fadie, her husband David, Lynda and I had a festive afternoon in mid July as we drove this crew of youngsters up to Grotonwood once again for another fantastic "Water Week" camp experience. I must say Grotonwood has a wonderful pick-up drop-off system in place. Although we may have been a little late in arriving, the quick and seamless registration process was made easy and painless. Some of the kids had an opportunity to meet Larry Thompson, a good friend of mine and one of

Grotonwood's many outgoing and cheerful staff personalities. Thanks for all your help Larry!

Last but certainly not the least of our energetic youngsters is Lynda Yong. She will be on her way up to camp

Oceanwood for her "Horseback Riding" experience starting on August 3rd. Once again Fadie and I will drive Lynda to her camp destination located in Ocean Park, ME. A wonderful Christian community near on of Maine's most beautiful beaches, Old Orchard Beach. Who knows, while trotting around in the area she may even catch a glimpse of Milt and Helen Ryder, they live very nearby the camp and it's always nice to see them.

As for me, yes, I too will enjoy a festive camp experience this summer. After a short one year sabbatical, I have once again joined my Christian friends in Oceanwood for another fantastic Christian Youth Conference gathering. Held every summer for more than 80 some odd years, high school teenagers have enjoyed a spirited 2 weeks at CYC and the lovely surroundings of Ocean Park, ME.

I started as a teenage camper and worked my way up through their counseling staff and now in my 20th year, I will return as the assistant director for the young men's camp, Camp Judson. I'm looking forward to sharing a fun and festive challenging two weeks with youth from all around New England the US and the world.

By-the-way, another FBC member has also been a long time friend of CYC and my Judson brother as well...

Can you guess who he might be? Have a splendid summer everyone and I'll chat with you again.

Enjoy!!

Rayford Glasgow, Deacon and Sunday School Bus Driver

August Guest Preachers

August 4 – Rev. Gary Andy

August 11 – Rev. Gary Andy

August 18 – Rev. Gary Andy

August 25 – Rev. Finley Keech

Book Of Remembrance

Louise Clementina Pryce

Strawberry Festival

Gwen Jemmison will host the Annual Strawberry Festival on August 11th following the fellowship hour. The Woman's Society Love Gift will be collected at that time.