

*Spring 2004*

*Newsletter*

*The First Baptist*

*Church of Boston*

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# **FAITH THAT LOOKS FORWARD**

## *Annual Meeting Highlights*

While many were at home or elsewhere anticipating the outcome of the Superbowl, the faithful of FBC Boston were reflecting on 2003 and all that was accomplished. Percy Mathis provided sumptuous sandwiches which were enjoyed by all in attendance and Minister of Music Bruce Herrick led the membership with the hymn *Blessed Assurance*.

*(continued on page 2)*

## *A Report from Rev. Van Horn*

The other night, my wife Linda and I spent some time reflecting on some of the blessings we have seen in our first few months of ministry here at FBC of Boston. Our congregation has just seen our annual meeting and with it the selection of our new leaders for 2004. Let me say that I believe the Committees and Boards that we have in place are all filled with highly capable and talented individuals. I look forward with great anticipation into what I believe will be, with God's enabling, a great year for FBC.

My main priority during my first 4 months here has been familiarizing myself with the people of the congregation, learning the traditions and practices that have been handed down over the years and learning the leadership patterns that exist here. The ministry leaders we have had here during these 4 months have distinguished themselves in their dedication and level of expertise displayed in dispatching their duties. I have not shared the ministry with a more capable group than those on the boards and committees of this congregation. Please remember this - every single person who has given their time and effort to this Church this past year has made this a better place to Worship.

*(continued on page 2)*

## **UPCOMING SERMONS**

- |      |  |                      |
|------|--|----------------------|
| 3/5  | The Day They Kicked Jesus Out<br><i>Luke 4:22-30</i> |                      |
| 3/14 | The Greatest Thing                                   | <i>Mark 12:28-34</i> |
| 3/21 | The Oil Press  | <i>Mark 14:32-42</i> |
| 3/28 | No Greater Love                                      | <i>Luke 23:32-46</i> |

***For information on future sermons, please consult your Sunday bulletin or call the church***

## *Report from Rev. VanHorn*

*(continued from page 1)*

We have many “unsung heroes” here at FBC - people like Bill T. who takes care of the signage and setting up for Sunday School, the prayer group and hospitality workers like Gwen Jemmison and Percy Mathis. In my years of ministry work, I have become convinced that programs don't grow Churches - it is PEOPLE that grow them. If this conviction continues to hold true, then we are assured of a bright future as we work together with the Lord to build His Kingdom.

Looking back from September 14, 2003 through December 31, 2003, God has allowed the following:

Average Attendance	49.93
Counseling Sessions	13
Weddings	2
Sermons Preached	16
Visitations	6

We have been blessed to see fourteen people come to Christ (though I am not certain how many were first time commitments) during Worship times. Though we have not had a Service of Baptism yet, we should have one soon. The AM Worship attendance average is a great source of encouragement for me as well. When my family and I came to FBC, we were told that the average number of people out to Church on Sundays was 18-25 people. That being the case, this would indicate an increase of somewhere between 100% to 177% (depending on which previous average you use - 18 or 25). I am also hoping to start a tape ministry soon as some at Hale House have requested tapes and there are also others who have requested tapes of services to be mailed to them.

This year (2004), I plan to begin a steady program of in-home visitation. I am hoping, if the Lord wills it, to be able to visit people

of the congregation in their homes. These visits will be a non-threatening way to get to know people better.

The year 2004 will be a very exciting one for our church family as it will play a pivotal role in the future of FBC. We will face challenges and see many joys. My prayer is that the Lord will bless us with growth in His Spirit and in our numbers.

Yours in Christ  
Rev. Jay W. VanHorn

## *Annual Meeting*

*(continued from page 1)*

Moderator Dorothy Williams called the meeting to order and Melvin Jemmison read names from the Book of Remembrance.

The minutes were presented and Treasurer Henry Henderson and Financial Secretary Dorothy Williams presented positive financial reports.

The 2004 budget was voted and the annual reports were accepted.

The Nominating Committee presented the 2004 slate of Officers, Boards and Committee members with some new faces on the scene. This was the first Annual Meeting for Rev. Jay and Mrs. Linda VanHorn. All in all, it was a lovely day, a productive meeting and much thanks to all who made 2003 a memorable year in our Lord. In conclusion the Deacons presented the theme for the year which will be ***Faith That Looks Forward.***

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***God-He sits in three dimensioned  
silence, Above the noise and violence.***

Mellichamp

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## *The Book of Remembrance*

*is open to the pages honoring*

*Constance C. Hanson beg 3/7*

*Edna C. Morse beginning 3/21*

*Louise Wyman beginning 4/4*

*John J. Bowles beginning 4/18*

*Florence L. Archibald beg 5/2*

*Matthew Alfred Simon beg 5/16*

## *YLC at FBC!*

The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts Youth Leader Core (YLC) lead by interim director, Rayford Glasgow, an FBC Boston member, will be staying at the church for their sixth and final weekend gathering. The weekend of April 23-25 will see the church come alive with the energy of sixteen youth from around the state and even one youth who is from Maine. This is their mission weekend which includes a work project with Rebuilding Together Boston. (the nation's largest volunteer home rehabilitation organization dedicated to preserving and revitalizing houses and communities.) Sunday afternoon will also include the graduation ceremony of the youth from the YLC program at 2:00pm. These youth have been chosen to lead and serve As Christ has instructed, please join us on Sunday to celebrate their work and share the Joy they bring. They are truly a wonderful group of young people! On a more Personal note, I would like to thank my YLC advisors for another excellent year of leadership, love and support. They are Matty "Q" Quinlan Our college peer advisor, Heather Bradwin, Kris & Brianna Matney and Paula Kesseli. Dedicated adults in whom I put my trust and friendship. They make this program shine! Thank you

Rayford Glasgow

## *Lenten Series at Old South*

The annual Lenten Lecture and Supper Series will be held this year at Old South Church. The theme for the series is *The Bible for Today* and sessions will be led members of Old South. The series will commence on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and continue every Wednesday night throughout March, from 6:45 to 7:30 pm. Members and friends of First Baptist are most welcome and may sign up in Wayland Hall. There is a suggested donation of \$5.00 for supper and reservations for supper need to be made on the Monday preceding each Wednesday meeting. Ann in the FBC church office will call in for anyone on the sign up sheet.

### **March 3rd:** *New Truths from a Multi-Layered Text*

The Rev. Dr. Donald A. Wells.

### **March 10th:** *The Bible and the Worship of the Church*

John Heeckt.

### **March 17th:** *The Bible & the Classics of Devotional Literature*

The Rev. James Olson.

### **March 24:** *The Bible & the Qu'ran: Christianity & Islam*

The Rev. Monica Bauer, Ph.D.

### **March 31st:** *The Bible as a Source of Inspiration & Strength*

The Rev. Linda J. Knight

For those who don't know, the Wednesday evening Lenten series is a joint venture between several Back Bay churches that rotate as the host each year. First Baptist was host to the series in its first year and will host again in the near future. The lectures have been very popular and are becoming an anticipated yearly tradition.





*Gone to Glory*

*Mary E. (Molly) Sillen*

**Widow of former First Baptist Church  
pastor, Rev. J Walter Sillen  
on January 23, 2004.**

Donations may be made in her name to  
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation  
BayState Branch, 20 Walnut St. Suite 318  
Wellesley, MA 02481

*Book of Remembrance Names*

The following names were read at the Annual Meeting by Deacon Chairman Melvin Jemmison. If you know of someone who has been *Promoted to Glory* and was a part of this congregation please speak to Mr. Jemmison. This request requires a very small donation to the Memorial Fund.

*Florence Hewey Archibald*

*John J. Bowles      Olive N. L. Denniston*

*Maxwell Elliott      Alvira A. Ellis*

*Nellie Fike      William Gillis*

*Constance Conant Hanson*

*Mildred E. Jameson*

*Ruth S. Kirk      Eleanor Montgomery*

*Edna C. Morse      Earl A. Norman, Sr.*

*Ruth M. Parks      Charles Elliott Porter*

*Louise Clementina and Robert Pryce*

*Henry H. Ryder*

*Marvin and Martha Shupe*

*Rev. J. Walter Sillen*

*Charlotte Stone Thacker*

*Marion B. White      Ben Williams*

*Wilbur Tunstall Wyatt      Louise Wyman*

*Board of Missions Report*

*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? MICAH 6:8*

Dear Friends,

The America for Christ Offering gives us a unique opportunity to help strengthen our walk and work in making disciples of Jesus Christ in the United States and Puerto Rico.

American Baptist Regions and National Ministries seek to provide people, churches and communities with resources to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to help integrate Christ-centered decisions and acts into our daily lives. Some of those ministries include Christian centers, homes and hospitals, military and prison chaplains, camps and conference centers, volunteers, educational and devotional resources, new church planting, evangelism, and racial justice and reconciliation. Our America for Christ Offering makes sure these ministries happen.

Our America for Christ Offering helps encourage a young woman who makes a decision at a youth conference to pursue a call to ministry, a young man who dedicates his life to housing ministries for the poor because of kindnesses shown to him at a youth in a Christian center, and a retiree to become a surrogate grandparent to a special needs child.

I urge you to join me in giving generously to the America for Christ Offering this year. Christ showed us that we can make a difference by reaching out to our neighbors. Thank you for what you do to show love to your neighbors in this country and walk humbly with God as you give to the America for Christ Offering.

Please use the enclosed America for Christ Offering envelope for your gift and bring it to church with you when we dedicate our gifts on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

*Frederic Auguste Bartholdi*  
*100th Anniversary*

2004 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, sculptor of the Statue of Liberty, and the friezes on our church tower, which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Church Clerk Donald Thacker and Musee Bartholdi Conservateur Regis Hueber have been communicating and sharing information for several years about the sculptor.

Recently, the church received a 2004 journal/calendar celebrating 100 years of his death via a joint venture with the village of Colmar and the Musee Bartholdi in Alsace, France. Not only was the Statue of Liberty included, but, the museum honored our church with two full pages citing Bartholdi's most important work in the United States and even in French they referred to us as the *Church of the Holy Bean Blowers*, translated, *Eglise des souffleurs du saint haricot*. The Clerk is hoping to secure more editions from the Musee Bartholdi and expects to visit there again in the future.

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*Theme for 2004*

*Faith That Looks  
 Forward*

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*2004 Church Leadership*

One of the tasks undertaken by the church membership at each Annual Meeting is to elect or appoint the church leaders for the following year. This year the following people will serve in the church in various capacities.

**Church Officers**

*Pastor:* Rev. Jay W. VanHorn  
*Moderator:* Dorothy Williams  
*Clerk:* Donald Thacker  
*Treasurer:* Henry Henderson  
*Fin. Secretary:* Dorothy Williams

**Board of Trustees**

Earl A. Norman, Jr.	William Triantafilu
Marianne Norman	Percy Mathis
Bruce Herrick	Deborah Porter

**Board of Deacons**

Rayford Glasgow	Deborah Porter
Sarah Zettek	William Triantafilu
Melvin Jemmison	Gwendolyn Jemmison
Earl A. Norman, Jr.	

**Board of Missions**

Percy Mathis	Deborah Porter
Donald Thacker	

**Music Committee**

Sarah Zettek	Deborah Porter
Choir member: Laura Herrick	

**Christian Education**

Melvin Jemmison	Percy Mathis
Rayford Glasgow	Linda VanHorn

**Pastoral Relations**

Dorothy Williams	Melvin Jemmison
William Triantafilu	Henry Henderson

**Advisory Board  
 Honorary & Lifetime**

Mary Chin	Gwendolyn Jemmison
Melvin Jemmison	Marianne Norman
Percy Mathis	Louise Takvorian
Beatrice Wyatt	Dorothy Williams
Henry Henderson	