



*The First Baptist Church
of Boston*

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Newsletter

Spring / Summer 2006

Youth Leader Core at FBC

Fifteen youth, under the direction of YLC Director and FBC Deacon, Rayford Glasgow, spent a very busy weekend here at First Baptist during April. Youth Leader Core is sponsored by the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts and for the past few years First Baptist has been their unofficial 'base camp' during their final week of service and graduation. This year they participated in *Rebuilding Day* on Saturday, April 28, joining volunteers across the country on this day to help make a difference in the lives of some very special homeowners. The YLC youth, who hail from across New England, worked with other volunteers for Rebuilding Together Boston to stabilize and revitalize homes in Boston at no cost to the recipient. This initiative brings homeowners in need together with volunteers from all walks of life to reduce the risk of homelessness by improving the quality of the lives of the recipients.

Rayford is very enthusiastic about his Youth Leader Core advisors, Kris Matney, Brianna Wright-Saunders, Maria Botti and Dan Rhoda, who he calls his "eyes, ears, hands and legs throughout the program year," and thanks them for "their dedication, spiritual support, love and Christian attitudes." He is equally proud of the youth and cites their "amazing spiritual energy." Of the program itself Rayford says, "The Youth Leader Core has been a fantastic youth program for 25 years and we pray it will continue to inspire and work with many wonderful youth for another 25 years to come. Leading and Serving...that's how we roll!" On Sunday, April 30, the fifteen young men and women participated in the morning worship service here at First Baptist and held a graduation ceremony to celebrate their completion of the program. They and Rayford want to thank First Baptist for being a gracious host.

Two Guest Preachers Grace Our Pulpit

On Sunday, April 30, Rev. VanHorn participated in a pulpit exchange with Rev. Wesley Roberts of Peoples Baptist Church. Rev. Roberts has led the congregation at Peoples for over 25 year during which the church has grown in numbers and opened the Owens/Roberts Christian Education Center in 1983. He is an author and educator, has been active in many religious and civic organizations and held numerous interim pastorates before coming to Peoples. That Sunday, he preached on *The Path to Emotional Healing*.

Rev. Craig McMullen joined us on May 21 while Rev. VanHorn and family took some time off. Rev. McMullen is currently on the faculty of Gordon College and the Director of Gordon in Boston: A Semester of Urban Studies. He has been active in youth ministries and served as co-pastor at Dorchester Temple Baptist Church with Rev. Bruce Wall.

Rev. McMullen and his wife are residents of that neighborhood where they are raising two daughters. Rev. McMullen's sermon was titled *The Commanded Blessing*.



The Class of 2006, Youth Leader Core

“When did we see you thirsty?”

It happens every day. Usually we handle it so quickly and routinely that it hardly registers in our consciousness. “It,” is thirst. Such an ordinary part of life that we, at least those of us reading a letter like this, rarely stop to think about it.

We’ve become a hydration nation. Our doctors tell us to drink eight glasses of water a day. Our televisions urge us to consume a vast array of liquids, from beer to coffee to soft drinks to water. Quenching our thirst is such a routine part of our lives that we rarely stop to think about the amazing amount of work that has gone into making water come out of the faucet when we turn the tap.

And then Katrina hit the Gulf coast. Suddenly we *saw* how precarious life becomes when the systems we take for granted break down. We *saw* the paradox of people desperately thirsty while surrounded by water. Salty seawater. Contaminated waste water.

American Baptists *saw* those thirsty people. We joined with millions of others to respond with amazing generosity. In just a few short weeks, American Baptists gave an unprecedented \$3.5 million to help the Gulf coast hurricane victims. Part of what made that generosity so amazing was that it came when many of us were still giving to help the survivors of the Asian tsunami. American Baptists also *saw* those thirsty people, and responded with over \$2.5 million of assistance to those whose lives had been washed away by that powerful wave.

Can we *see* people whose suffering is not just critical but chronic? Can they emerge into our awareness, without an emergency? Will we let the Spirit of God give us eyes to *see* and hearts to *respond* to those whose suffering is not on the evening news?

When you give to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, your gifts testify that you *see* people in need, even when they are not on TV.

First, your gifts help to address the needs of those who cannot count on the same kinds of systems that make our lives what they are (safe drinking water, secure shelter, economic opportunity, effective healthcare). Second, your gifts enable emergency response agencies prepare to act quickly when the next wave, flood, famine or earthquake hits.

Ask the Lord to let you *see* thirsty people — in the U.S. and around the world. When you *see* them, give to the One Great Hour of Sharing. We will receive the offering in June here at First Baptist. Please give as generously as you can.

Yours in Christ,
The Board of Missions

It’s remarkable what your gift will do.

Many American Baptists understand the OGHHS offering to be the “disaster relief offering.” That’s true! But the OGHHS provides for much more. Commitments of funding for development projects and refugee ministries to national, international, and ecumenical partners totaling over \$1,850,000 have already been made for 2006. A sampling of some of the projects, along with the amount of the approved grant, is provided below.

Cameroon – Small Loans for Women’s Businesses \$10,000

Cameroonian women may not have much power in their society, but they are the cornerstone of the national economy. By providing small loans for the working poor, we enable women to help themselves. A loan of \$200 provides the necessary funds for a woman to rent a market stall and sell food—the income from which will feed her family nutritious food and provide for her children’s schooling.

China – Education for Children of Migrant Workers \$5,600

China has experienced tremendous economic growth, especially in its cities. Beijing is booming as it prepares for the 2008 Olympic Games. Job opportunities in the cities have attracted thousands of migrant workers from the rural areas. However, government regulations prohibit these workers, who come to the city without a permit, to enroll their children in public schools. The Caohou Village School was started by the Amity Foundation to meet the educational needs of the children of these migrant workers. Our grant will furnish the equipment needed for the school.

Rochester, NY – Hot Lunch Program \$12,000

Poverty is often the root cause of hunger. In the United States, people are typically not hungry because of nationwide crop failures, food shortages, or famine resulting from drought. They are hungry because they cannot afford the food that is available. More than 36 million Americans, including 13 million children, live in households that experience hunger or the risk of hunger. In response to the poverty and subsequent hunger of people within their community, the Cameron Community Ministries began a hot lunch program that serves a meal six days a week. It is because of this ministry, that served over 25,000 meals in 2004, that many within the Rochester area do not go hungry.





Family Portrait

The VanHorns recently returned to Philadelphia to visit Linda's ill father and are enjoying the ocean breezes in Hull (they have been to Hull and back twice)... Marianne Norman continues to be active in many charitable groups and as always is faithful to the choir and church... Rayford Glasgow (Mr. Orange) is totally absorbed with the YLC (Youth Leader Corps) and is doing a cooooool job!... Rob and Marilyn Root enjoyed a much earned respite in beautiful Charleston, South Carolina recently... Alan Andersen is recuperating and we hope to see him soon and appreciate his efforts to develop the church garden... Deborah Degenhart is out of hospital and is doing fabulous... Deborah Stinson has landed new employment and we applaud her diligence, and her husband Greg has just been to Bath, Maine visiting friends and relatives... Dorothy Williams continues to be involved with many responsibilities at Mt. Auburn Hospital, family, and her works at church... Henry Henderson attended his great niece's wedding in Coral Gables, Florida in February... Donald Thacker will be honored along with many other past National Presidents of the Interior Design Society in late April at the International Furniture Market in High Point, North Carolina... The church welcomes Laura Harper from the First Baptist Church of Shreveport, Louisiana and Deborah Fletcher Stinson from

Trinity Church Boston, as new members and voted in at the Annual Meeting... Percy and Charles Mathis entertained their daughter Kara and her beau James from Washington, D.C. (or was it Granny, Annie Mae Everson that did all the work?)... It is great to hear Lynda Yong in the choir with her beautiful voice... Alison Yong, Michaela, Sarah, and Seth VanHorn, and Kimmie Moulaison are a great group representing our youth... Isaura Delgado is recuperating from another health setback and in she is in our prayers... Henry Henderson, Melvin Jemmison, Earl Norman and Donald Thacker continue to represent our church at the ancient Boston Baptist Social Union... Gwendolyn Jemmison as always is the gracious hostess at the fellowship hour each Sunday in Wayland Hall (thank you Gwen for the brownies)... Mary Chin will have a special day this summer and we're not telling (private)... Pastor's Emeriti Milton and Helen Ryder, Charles and Helen Griffin, are enjoying their retirements and we are just a little bit envious... Deborah Porter will be traveling with a friend to Aruba during the Easter season and we wish them bon voyage... Bill T. is looking for a new kitty and we thank him for taking care of church heating problems... Sarah Zettek was away on holiday as of note and is also doing fine works in maintaining music matters with the Music Committee... Pro-tem organist Stefan Weist continues to fulfill the big shoes of Minister of Music Dr. Bruce Herrick as he heals from a fall...

Music Committee News

By far the biggest musical news is the return of Minister of Music and Organist Bruce Herrick. Dr. Herrick's recovery and successful return to his duties is an inspiration to us all and we are delighted to have him back!

In Bruce's absence, the choir and Dr. Stefan Weist maintained the high musical standards that congregants here have come to expect.

On April 30, Stefan played for the worship service for the last time and Dr. Herrick returned; doing something he has rarely, if ever done, sit in a pew! During fellowship, Dr. Herrick accompanied the choir singing *God Be With You Till We Meet Again* and Stefan was presented with a copy of *A History of the First Baptist Church of Boston* inscribed with messages of friendship and gratitude from all of us. During his tenure here Stefan became a valued and appreciated member of the FBC family and we all wish him happiness and success as he moves home to Germany.

On Sunday, May 21, the choir sang its last service until the fall. The summer, as always, will feature various soloists each week and the choir will return in the fall on September 10. Happy summer vacation, choir and enjoy sleeping in on Sundays!

The Book of Remembrance Summer 2006

June 4	Henry H. Ryder
June 18	Alvira A. Ellis
July 2	Charles E. Porter
July 16	Albert Sheung Ang & Rose Chin Ang
August 6	Ruth S. Kirk
August 20	Eleanor Montgomery



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Java Earthquake Disaster, Volcano activity, East Africa drought/famine, Christine Chin Rob Tucker, Valerie, Bill & June Stephan, Lemy Stinson, Bruce Herrick, all who were affected by Hurricanes Wilma, Katrina and Rita, the earthquake in Pakistan and the mudslides in Guatemala, Ben Crahalla, Sarah Zettek's family, Charles Zettek, Daniel Wood, Richard, Walter Norden, Larry Strong, Evelyn Pypes, the pastor and congregation of FBC Jamaica Plain, Betty Jenkins & family, Rev. Chester L. Smith, Robin McGregor, the Wyatt family, Laurajeane Rood, Dorothy Williams' family, Liz Simon, Fadie Coleman, Raine Moulaison, Tara Walls, Kenneth Manley, Rick Poor, peace in the Middle East, an end to the civil wars in Africa and Asia, the national economy, our church, church growth & ministries, local, national and world leaders.



The Flowers in the Chancel are given for
the glory of God...

6/4	for those who fought and fight for our freedom and our democracy for the United States of America and the Free World.
6/11	by the Deacons
6/18	by the Deacons
6/25	for Mary Chin, in honor of her 80 th birthday
7/2	by the Jemmisons for Gwen's parents & a friend
7/9	by the Deacons
7/16	by the Deacons
7/23	by the Deacons
7/30	by the Deacons
8/6	by the Deacons
8/13	by the Deacons
8/20	Alan Andersen
8/27	by the Deacons.