



# The FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BOSTON NEWSLETTER

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## Summer 2005

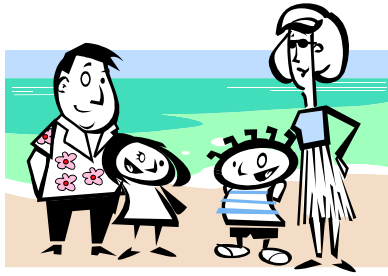
### FROM THE PASTOR

What would you do if you woke up one morning and found out that you were being watched? What if you picked up your phone and you realized it has been tapped; there are news crews in your front yard and a police officer on stake-out across the street? Does this sound a little outlandish? Well, it is, but have you ever considered the fact that as a believer you really are being watched? Hopefully there are no news crews in your yard, nor stake-outs across your street. But nonetheless we are under surveillance by the non-believers we face every day.

This is the reason why Paul told us to “walk circumspectly” (as we also recite in our Church Covenant) - we need to walk in a way that is mindful of how we are regarded by those in our sphere of influence. In addressing this idea, Jesus told us that we are to be like “salt” (Matthew 5:13). Why would Jesus liken the way we should walk as Christians? How are we to relate to the secular world? When Jesus used salt as a means of describing the way Christians need to live in the world, He chose His words carefully. When He pictured us as “salt” He meant that we are to exhibit its characteristics! So, what characteristics would Jesus like us to show the world?

First of all, just as salt was/is used to add flavor to the things we eat, WE should add flavor to the world we live in! We need to show the world a zest for life that shows the world how we love God and the Life that He has given us! As a non-Christian said once, “those Christians need to lighten up and have a sense of humor!” Why have people gotten the idea that we believers are sour pusses? Because we have earned that reputation! We are better

known for all the things we DON’T do than all the pure and honest things we enjoy DOING! Some of the most fun people I know are Christians. Lets show the world a positive and optimistic outlook. Lets show the world what real Christian love and compassion means. Remember, people don’t care how much you know until they know how much we care! Secondly, salt was used as a preservative. Since the people of Bible times did not have “Kevinators” and “Frigidaires” they used salt as a means of retarding spoilage on the various meats they enjoyed eating. We likewise have been called to act as a preservative in our world. Preserve what, you might ask? It has been said that the Christian Gospel is only one generation away from extinction. That means that if we fail in our duty to bring the truths of the Gospel to our generation and the one coming right behind us, then the *Message* would die with us. In the ancient sport of Sumo wrestling, the combatants will step up to the side of the “ring” and ceremonially cast salt into the ring. This is done to “cast out evil spirits” and to express unity and peace with the person they are about to throw out of the ring (!?!). Maybe we should do that before every business meeting. Just kidding. But what about us? Are we willing to be the “salt of the earth?” Are we willing to go into the world and make disciples of all nations? I believe its time for us, the people of the First Baptist Church of Boston, to get out of the salt-shaker and into the world! In so doing, we will show the world a love for God and life. We will bring the truths of the Gospel with us where ever we go.



## FAMILY PORTRAIT

**Percy Mathis** and **Annie Mae Everson** were recently featured on *Chronicle* about programs provided by Boston Elder Services. **Isaura Delgado** is healing well and is back at church in full force. **Henry P. Henderson** attended his great-nephew and great-niece-in-law's wedding in the Rocky Mountains. God be with you **Michael and Molly Newborn** who are residing in Boulder, Colorado. **Marianne Norman** is president of three women's federated organizations: Boston Parliamentary Law Club, Women's Club of Melrose, and the Council Club. The **Van Horn's (Jay, Linda, Colin, Michaela, Sara, and Seth)**, vacationed in the Pennsylvania Poconos at Linda's parents' cottage on Lake Whitney. **Dorothy Williams** had the honor of presenting the First Annual Diversity awards at Mt. Auburn Hospital with hospital President **Jeannette Clough**. She also thanks all church members and friends for their faithful support and friendship. **Donald Thacker** attended his father's (**Donald Thacker, Sr.**) 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in Huntington, West Virginia. **Mary Chin** will be visiting her sister in Las Vegas this summer. **Henry Henderson, Melvin Jemmison, Earl Norman and Donald Thacker** continue to attend every Boston Baptist Social Union event. (Earl was reelected as a director).

**Sarah Zettek** was away on vacation and took loving care of her father who is ill. Sarah was very helpful with Bruce Herrick's banquet. **Deborah Porter** continues to upgrade our church website and over 12,000 have visited us from near and afar. (now you can also listen to the website)

She is also focused on the four points of giving for ABC National Missions. **Megan Brown** received her Masters in Art History from Boston University. Congratulations! Megan's mom will be with us for most of the summer. It was great to have Pastor Emeritus **Milton P. Ryder** and former First Lady of First Baptist **Helen Ryder, Rev. Henry J. Stonie** and his wife **MaryJo Stonie** at Bruce's gala.

**Rev. Dr. Bruce Herrick** is in our prayers as he heals, and we thank **Velma Dupont, Brian Jones** and **Gerald Howard** for filling in on his behalf. **Alison Yong** will become a freshmen in high school this fall. **Linda Yong** is a sophomore and may attend the Christian Education Conference. Thanks to **Earl Norman** for hosting the Back Bay Garden and Gate tour. Over 800 guests visited our church. And thanks to **Marilyn Root** and **Ann Herrick** in assisting the garden tour. We welcome **Laura Harper** who has decided to become a member. She is from First Baptist Church of Shreveport, Louisiana.

**Rayford Glasgow** has been very busy with the YLC (Youth Leader Corp) and is now back home. Cooooool orange Ray!!!!!! **Bill T.** is still ill and we love him. **Louise Takvorian** continues as Archivist and keeps accurate files.. **Frowis und Pumpkin** fliegen nach Deutschland fuer ferien. im Steinhudemeer neben Hanover. Guten riese! The Friends of Boston, First had their annual luncheon at Skipjacks..

# Memorial Flowers Policy to Change



The Board of Deacons have revised their policy on memorial sanctuary flowers.

The cost of weekly of floral arrangements is now at \$50.00 per arrangement including delivery.

The board has decided to install beautiful seasonal silk memorial decorations for Sundays not dedicated to loved ones that reserve with live bouquets.

If you would like to dedicate a Sunday using the silk arrangements you are more that welcome to offer a donation with the name(s) of your loved one(s) to be mentioned in a particular Sunday program not reserved for fresh flowers.

If you prefer *living flowers* then please present your gift two weeks in advance of your scheduled date in the amount of \$50.00. All gifts should be made out to the church c/o Financial Secretary, Dorothy Williams. Thank you!

-Melvin Jemmison, Chairman Board of Deacons.

# BACK BAY GARDEN CLUB VISITS CHURCH IN DROVES

On June 7, the Back Bay Garden club held its annual hidden gardens of Back Bay tour. This year they included our Church on the tour, which also includes some interiors. It was a wonderful day that saw close to 800 visitors come through our doors. The Church Historian Earl Norman had the pleasure of spending the day talking about our Henry Hobson Richardson Church, Hook and Hastings organ and our Tiffany window. It was a great day and we look forward to the next time we are asked to participate. Thank you Earl!



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**FOR LEASE** nearly 2700 Square feet of developed space in our former daycare center at negotiable rates to non-profit organizations. Please call Earl Norman or Donald Thacker for details.

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## THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

*is open to the pages honoring*

**Charles E. Porter beginning  
7/3**

**Albert S. & Rose C. Ang beg  
7/17**

**Ruth S. Kirk beginning 8/7**

**Eleanor Montgomery beg 8/21**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

Sunday School has come to a quiet end for the season. The youth have had an interesting year with regards to class lessons and festive parties. I feel lots of learning has continued here at FBC Boston and there is more to come. I most definitely would like to give a huge shoutout and "THANK YOU" to Mel Jemmison for leading the adult classes, Linda Vanhorn leading the older teens and Megan Brown for leading the younger kids. Their steadfast support, love and teaching knowledge has been awesome and inspirational to me and I'm sure to those sitting with them around the table. Thank you very much!! We are looking forward to another festive season of Christ-centered learning when we all return to the Sunday school environment in September. We will have some new materials to use and explore but for now, take a moment to rest, kick your feet up and relax...Enjoy your summer fun and vacations.

Wow! An adventurous six months was had by all participating YLC1 youth this season. The group traveled across the commonwealth of Massachusetts and New England from the shores of Ocean Park, ME to the woodlands of Sterling, MA and many other church sites in between. I would personally like to acknowledge and thank all the supportive members of FBC Boston for their assistance and warm welcoming nature to the 15 youth whom just recently graduated from

the program last month. On behalf of them and the wonderful adult advisors I had, we thank you!

Lastly, I am looking forward to another festive summer of warm sunny weather and the opportunity to meet some visitors to our great church and to make the acquaintance of many new campers at CYC. I am psyched to have a few of our youth involved with the Christian Youth Conference, It has made all the difference in my life. I have had the opportunity to walk & journey with many wonderful people and I am happy to share it with others. The stories are real and the moments are eye-opening, breath-taking, Fun and Christ truly can leave friendly footprints on your heart. For those of you out there who have teenage youth, please consider this experience for a youngster, it is an experience that will last a lifetime. Just ask Earl Norman, Kimberly or myself. Check out the website for more information, [www.cycop.org](http://www.cycop.org). Get psyched and enjoy your day!

Peace & Orange!!  
Rayford Glasgow



## DEACON'S PRAYER LIST

*PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...*Sarah Zettek's family, Charles Zettek, Shelia MacLean, Daniel Wood, Richard, Walter Norden, Stanley Wright, Mary Hallisey's mother, Donald G. Thacker, Sr., Larry Strong, Evelyn Pypes, the pastor and the congregation of the First Baptist Church of Jamaica Plain, Betty Perkins & family, Rev. Chester L. Smith, Percy Mathis, Stacey Anderson, Deborah Anderson, Robin McGregor, Robert Glasgow, the Wyatt family, Mai Woo, Laurajean Rood, Dorothy Williams' family, Deborah Porter, Liz Simon, Fadie Coleman, Raine Moulaison, Tara Walls, Lemy Stinson, Kenneth Manley, Rick Poor, June Stephan, peace in the Middle East, an end to the civil wars in Africa and Asia, the national economy, our church, local, national and world leaders and all of the victims of the Asian Tsunami.

# A LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF MISSIONS

Toward the end of his earthly ministry, Jesus made plain his expectations of each of us. Whenever we encounter persons who are hungry or thirsty or strangers or desperately poor or sick or imprisoned, we encounter Jesus. *"Truly I tell you,"* he said in Matthew 25:40, *"just as you did to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*

Today, it is virtually impossible to turn on the television, boot up a computer or open a newspaper without encountering strangers who are hungry, thirsty, poor, sick or imprisoned by shackles of misdeeds or injustice. In recent months, the world has witnessed unspeakable horrors and natural disasters: wars, genocides, tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes and more. We have seen tens of thousands perish and millions ripped from their homes and jobs many to wander the earth in despair. Were it not for the assurance of God's presence and love, all would seem lost.

The December tsunamis, one of the greatest natural disasters in modern times, have also reminded us of other critical needs. While human beings probe the devastation on the shores of Indonesia, southern Asia and eastern Africa, others are left homeless by political turbulence in Rwanda and Sudan. Thousands are still suffering from the effects of severe earthquakes, including the one that leveled Bam, Iran, in December, 2003. In our own land, people are bowed under the weight of poverty, crime and lack of education. In Florida and other states, the clean-up from four powerful hurricanes last fall continues.

All of these needs combine to make this one of the most important One Great Hour of Sharing Offerings in recent history. The appeal to each of us this year is to dig deeper and give more than ever before. This small planet is a lonely and desperate place for millions. Many of us are thankful to God that we have not personally experienced the upheavals so many have suffered. Our response to others must now be as big as the grace of God has shown us.

Please use the enclosed envelope for your gift and mail or bring it to church with you.

In Christian love and service,  
Deborah Porter, Chair of the Board of Missions



## Happy Birthday!

July	
15 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Herrick
17 <sup>th</sup>	Velma Dupont
August	
26 <sup>th</sup>	Michaela VanHorn

## A THANK YOU FROM BRUCE

The cat was out of the bag two weeks before the so-called choir luncheon. My daughter was peppering me with strange questions and there was an air of mystery about the church. Two of my friends RSVP'ed to me directly. I was (and continue to be) deeply honored by the recognition of my many years here at First Baptist. So you can imagine my disappointment when a mild fainting spell the night before the big event put me in the hospital and prevented me from attending! My daughter Ann and sister Laura stood in for me, gave me a full report of the wonderful afternoon and gave me my gifts, including the lovely Paul Revere bowl presented to me by the church. I'm fine now and appreciate all the attention more than you know, but what I missed the most was the chance to spend time with my friends, old and new, from near and far. Those friendships and my home here at First Baptist are the greatest gifts of all. Thank you all!

Bruce Herrick, Minister of Music

## AND FROM ANN

*Thank you all so much for honoring my father, especially all who worked so hard on the luncheon, in particular Velma Dupont, Henry Henderson, Melvin Jemmison, Percy Mathis, Earl Norman, Jr., Rev. Milton Ryder, Donald Thacker, Linda VanHorn, Rev. Jay VanHorn and Dorothy Williams. Thank you also to the music makers who made the event even more special: Rev. Brian Jones and the choir, Phillip Bailey, Justin Collins, Laura Herrick, Lucas Medrazo, Walter Norden, Marianne Norman, Deborah Porter, Robynn Stewart and Sarah Zettek.*

# The Paradox of Our Age

We have bigger houses but smaller families;  
more conveniences, but less time;

We have more degrees, but less sense;  
more knowledge, but less judgement;  
more experts, but more problems;  
more medicines, but less healthiness;

We've been all the way to the moon and back,  
but have trouble crossing the street to  
meet the new neighbor.

We built more computers to hold more information  
to produce more copies than ever,  
but have less communication;

We have become long on quantity,  
but short on quality.

These are times of fast foods  
but slow digestion;

Tall man but short character;

Steep profits but shallow relationships.

It's a time when there is much in the window  
but nothing in the room.