



Off the Record

Greetings to All!

Every single one of us lives a life that is like a roller coaster ride. While each of our lives is a bit different, none of us avoids the many ups and downs of everyday life. As I've noted many times, being a Christian doesn't exempt us from the challenges of our earthly existence. Instead, we endure the ups and downs knowing that God is with us, God loves us, and God will help us through difficult times.

On Sunday, September 24th, I was probably a bit more tired than usual. I arrived back to Connecticut around 1:30 am from Mexico. The trip to Mexico was preceded by a trip to Florida to witness firsthand the destructive force of Hurricane Irma on our condominium on Marco Island, Florida. While en route to Mexico, my flight was diverted to San Antonio because of an earthquake in Mexico City. After an unexpected night there, I made it to Mexico, where I had the opportunity to purchase and bring food to a town that was severely damaged by an earthquake a few weeks before. The cousin of a friend in Mexico City was hosting a community meal every day for about 100 residents who lost their homes in the earthquake. Before leaving Mexico on Saturday morning, that small town was the epicenter of another earthquake that shook me out of bed before dawn. I was feeling down about that and many of the other events of the week.

But a boost from God comes in unexpected ways. I was confused when the children went to the back of the sanctuary when I invited them to join me up front. They came forward with birthday cards and a birthday cupcake. At the Rally Day lunch, I was surprised with a special birthday cake baked by Theresa. Before embarking on a grueling Sunday afternoon of "to do" items, I sat at my desk in the Church office and read every single card made by the children and reflected on how I was caught off-guard by the acknowledgements of my birthday. The acts of kindness lifted my spirits and reminded me that God's love was present in my life, even when things weren't necessarily going that well.

Thank you for the birthday celebration and thanks be to God for the gift of your presence in my life! I hope and pray that God will bless you with similar kinds of boosts as you journey through life!

Blessings,

Pastor Mike



ABCCONN Calls New Executive Minister

The Rev. Dr. Harry Riggs, II has been called to the position of Executive Minister of ABCCONN. Dr. Riggs has been active in ministry for 30 years, faithfully serving three churches, which includes his current pastorate at the First Baptist Church, Lincoln, NE where he has served for the past ten years. He has also worked on the denominational level with American Baptist Home Mission Societies of the American Baptist Churches USA, (formally National Ministries) where he served as the National Director of Congregational Transformation. Dr. Riggs has also served on the staff of Palmer Seminary as an adjunct professor in the D. Min. program for Congregational Transformation and Renewal.

Dr. Riggs received his M. Div. degree from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, NY. He also holds a D. Min. degree from Palmer Seminary in Marriage and Family. He has been married for 31 years to the former Deidra Shelton. They have two children, Jordan and Alexandra.

Always trying to bring a relevant perspective to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Dr. Riggs values the life-changing power of the Word of God, maintaining relationships with family and friends, personal integrity, and accountability. Dr. Riggs likes to witness transformation in individuals and church families. As a pastor, he has seen his role as being God’s agent of change towards a preferred future.

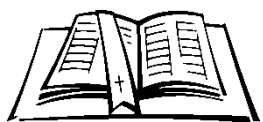
As a deeply devoted follower of Jesus Christ, loving husband, father, Dr. Riggs' over-arching aspiration is to leave a legacy in the Church of Jesus Christ that is relevant and meaningful for the generation that will follow.

Life Verse: "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." Philippians 1:6

Dr. Riggs will begin as our Executive Minister on November 1st.



**DAILY BIBLE READINGS
OCTOBER 2017**



Come Together in Faith and share the Joy of the Lord.

OCTOBER

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 11 Corinthians 11:17-34 | 11 Psalm 72 | 21 Deuteronomy 1:1-18 |
| 2 Psalm 7 | 12 Psalm 73 | 22 Deuteronomy 8:1-20 |
| 3 Psalm 9 | 13 Psalm 75 | 23 Deuteronomy 10:1-22 |
| 4 Psalm 10 | 14 Psalm 82 | 24 Deuteronomy 11:1-17 |
| 5 Psalm 12 | 15 Psalm 85 | 25 Deuteronomy 11:18-32 |
| 6 Psalm 15 | 16 Leviticus 25:1-22 | 26 Isaiah 11:1-16 |
| 7 Psalm 17 | 17 Leviticus 25:23-38 | 27 Isaiah 25:1-9 |
| 8 Isaiah 26 | 18 Leviticus 25:39-55 | 28 Isaiah 32:1-20 |
| 9 Psalm 50 | 19 Numbers 27:1-11 | 29 Isaiah 33:10-24 |
| 10 Psalm 52 | 20 Numbers 36:1-13 | 30 Ezekiel 34:1-31 |
| | | 31 Psalm 48 |

All in the Family...

We rejoice that **Theresa** is doing well and is even back to working a few hours each week. Thanks to her, we have an October Record after its absence in September... **Nettie Fairchild** has been in the hospital and rehab, but is now home. All our love and best wishes to you for your recovery Nettie... Our condolences to **Aurelia Woodbeck** in the loss of her brother... **Debbie Dellaquilla** was recently hospitalized, but is back home and doing better... Our condolences also to go out to **Lynn and Joel Fairchild** in the loss of Lynn's father, Robert Barry... **Bob and Karen Geckler** are doing well after Hurricane Irma... **Rally Day** was celebrated on September 24th. A luncheon and ice cream sundae completed the celebration and was enjoyed by all who attended... We also celebrated **Pastor Mike's** birthday. The children presented him with a cupcake and many handmade cards during the Children's Message... **Pastor Mike, April, Ted and Lynn** attended a Reaching New Members conference hosted by West Hartford Baptist Church and led by Paul Nickersen. Please pray for them and for His guidance. Look for more news of this in the coming months.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

...During the month of October, we will be receiving the World Mission Offering for the support of the International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches in the USA. There are special envelopes for this offering included in this month's edition of The Record and in the pew racks.

Fall is Here!

A NOTE OF THANKS:

Lynn and Joel Fairchild wish to thank everyone for their prayers, concerns and kindness in the passing of Lynn's dad. His 10-year struggle with Alzheimer's Disease on earth has now ended and he is with his Lord and Savior. We feel blessed to have our church family praying for his comfort so many years.



Congratulations to Amanda Zdanis and Charles Jackson on the birth of their daughter, Autumn Dawn Jackson, born August 24th.

Congratulations also to grandma, April Zdanis.

As you know, **April and Lynn** are redoing the nursery area to accommodate our youngest members. We are in need of a "changing table". Would anyone happen to know where we could obtain one for our use? Any help would be greatly appreciated.



SEMI-ANNUAL FALL CLOTHING GIVEAWAY

The First Baptist Church of Plymouth, CT is currently receiving donations of gently used fall/winter clothing for our Semi-Annual Fall Clothing Giveaway. You may call the church office at 860-283-6181 to make arrangements for all clothing drop-offs. Please leave a message if no one is available to take your call. Your call will be returned as soon as possible. All donations are greatly appreciated.

The Giveaway will be held on Friday, November 10th from 4 – 7 p.m. and on Saturday, November 11th from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Gaines House, 2 North Street, Plymouth, CT.



If anyone is available to help Scott and Tammy in any way with this wonderful ministry, please contact them at either 860-549-7575 or 860549-4409. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!



THE MUSIC CORNER

OCTOBER 2017

My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music. Psalm 57:7

While most choirs took the summer months off, the FBC continued to meet and diligently studied reading music. We looked at reading rhythms, naming notes, understanding the symbols found on a music score, and learning proper breathing techniques. I can confidently say that everyone increased their ability to read and sing the language of music. As we somewhat reluctantly bid the summer days good-bye and settle into the usual routine, the choir has now begun to sing during services.

At this point we have five members in our choir; welcome to Rev. Wu and Eric Kriebel. As I talk with other congregation members I am finding out that many of you had been in choir before and/or have musical backgrounds. Consider joining the choir; we welcome all voices to come together in singing praise to the risen Lord. Remember Rev. Wu's sermon from a couple of weeks ago when he spoke about Christians having a chip on their shoulder, thinking that he or she is not good enough to do the Lord's calling. Leave the trepidations of your voice behind and join in singing!


We rehearse on Thursdays from 7:00 - 8:00 in the Gaines house.

Julie



Susan Cybulski	10/3
Damian Navarro	10/4
Kurt Johnson	10/5
Amanda DiBella	10/16
Dorothy Hall	10/17
Aurelia Woodbeck	10/18
Christopher Petty	10/20
April Zdanis	10/25
Marc Fiermonte	10/28
Christopher Mannix	10/28
Tonya DiBella	10/30
Edward Pomianowski & Parisah Green	10/15



	<p>MOMENTS OF MEDITATION NOW ON PODCAST Listen to M.O.M. with Pastor Mike by going to firstbaptistplymouth.ecucomm.ro and clicking on the podcast link .</p>
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LOOKING AHEAD...

November 22nd - Community Thanksgiving Eve Service

Sign of grace


Make this sign to hang on your wall as a daily reminder of God's amazing gift of grace.

What you need:

- White poster board
- Large wooden letters that spell GRACE
- Painter's tape
- Tempura paint
- Paper plates
- Paintbrushes
- Colored pens or markers

What you do:

1. Place the poster board on the ground (outside, if possible).
2. Put tape on the back of the letters and secure them to the board. No tape should be visible.
3. Paint and draw all over the poster board. Be creative with splatters, handprints and so on.
4. When paint is dry, remove the letters and hang up the poster.



PUZZLE

The gift of grace

God's grace is a free gift, not something we can earn on our own. How do we have this gift?

Directions: Complete the Bible verse by placing the capital letters from the gifts on the blanks below.

F	u	O	R	L	t	A	s	W	v	w	G
I	x	V	p	E	N	M	q	O	S	a	r
E	r	S	e	G	R	m	A	C	E	d	T
R	U	n	T	H	T	H	R	k	O	U	G
H	j	J	E	S	f	U	S	u	C	o	H
R	b	I	y	p	S	T	J	O	i	H	N

" _____ the _____ was _____
 through _____ ; _____ and
 _____ came _____
 _____ ."
 _____ 1:17, NIV

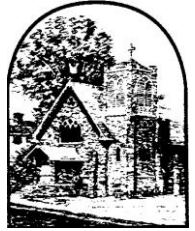
Answer: "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." John 1:17, NIV

†PURPOSE†

“God calls us together; we seek to respond to His word as disciples of Jesus Christ by ministering to one another, to the community in which we live, and to all humanity.”



The Record



October 2017
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Return Service Request

Dated Materials – Deliver Promptly to: