

First Baptist Church of Littleton Good Newsletter



“Journeying to God’s Sacred Beat” October 2012

Who is my neighbor? Here is how we answered the question “**who is my neighbor?**” in worship on Rally Day. Based on the Luke 10:25-37 our neighbors are:

1. Persons who are homeless
2. People you give money to
3. People who don’t have transportation
4. People who are telemarketers
5. People who are Illegal immigrants
6. A person who is a stressed out boss
7. People who don’t like you
8. People who don’t like dogs
9. People who you trusted and did you wrong
10. The person who cut you off in the road
11. The person who you just don’t like
12. People who are the 83%
13. People who are the 1% and the 99% &all the % points in-between
14. People who are gay
15. People who are cheerful Jehovah’s Witnesses
16. People who are addicts and recovering addicts
17. People who enjoy a glass of wine
18. People in a political party other than your own
19. People of a different faith tradition than your own
20. People with multi-colored hair
21. Little children
22. Little children who can’t sit still
23. Child who has a broken home
24. God
25. People who have a bad experience in church
26. People who have personal hygiene problems
27. People we are an example for/to
28. People who are non-Boston sports fans
29. People who are not politically correct

30. People who are judgmental and argumentative
31. People who are afraid of God
32. People who are lonely
33. People who are loving
34. People who are widowed who have lost touch with God
35. People who are anti-miscegenationists **
36. People who don’t understand
37. People who are physically or mentally challenged
38. People who believe they know-it-all
39. People who know they don’t know-it-all
40. People who are freshmen in school
41. People who are criminals
42. People who are zombies
43. A person on the road who is elderly
44. A person who is traveling
45. People that take and never give
46. People who bring coffee cake
47. People who are comedians
48. People who use profanity and spray mailboxes
49. People willing to accept us with our quirks
50. People who are tax collectors and other collectors
51. People who are loud
52. People who are your co-workers
53. You
54. Everyone!



**Picture by Henry Martin, used with permission*

** persons opposed to interracial marriage.
<http://www.religioustolerance.org/marracbib.htm>

Pastoral Daze

Will Our Children Learn how to love? Forget how to hate?

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.

Impress them on your children.

Talk about them when you ride in your mini-van, sit in your living room with your dog, go to the dentist office for a cleaning, or enjoy chocolate chip cookies and red punch during church coffee hour. Talk about them while they are watching something a bit too violent, or when their television show is interrupted because of a special news report. Talk about the love of God when you sit by their side at midnight when they cannot sleep, when they are emulating a sports hero or rock star (or rap star, pop star or an American Idol judge). Talk about them when they hold the door for someone, when they say “thank you,” or when they do an act of kindness.”

(In other words – when there is an opportunity to talk to your children about loving God with your whole being – do so.)

“Talk to them when they do something right, and do something well, not only when they are doing something wrong. Reinforce the positive, give them a compliment, and explain why you are doing so. Most of all model the lessons and qualities that you want to teach, as children and youth will remember what we do, much longer than what we say.

Bind those lessons on their guitar straps, knapsacks, bracelets, and baseball caps. Write them with crayons, in frosting, on paintings, on newly fallen snow, whenever and wherever you go.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (DJB)



Recently my friend Caroline, mother of three, wrote a column entitled *Crazy Train*. It started with the lyrics to a song, and ended up being a lesson on

competition, respect, and the choice that we all have not to hate. In the teaching moment she engaged the listening ears of her children by bringing to their attention the lyrics of a song, one that they often sung mindlessly. She ignited their critical thinking skills on the topic of competition, hate, good sportsmanship and respect. They talked. These would most likely be reinforced in different situations at different times. I love listening in to their conversations.

You may read her article below or on her blog here: [Crazy Train](#).

Hate does seem to be everywhere and it is insidious, relentless, and contagious. Will love be able to counter the growth of hate? A simple lesson, offered in love by a parent, using the tool of music, teaching awareness and a way to respond to hate, is a good start. Love is stronger than hate, which can be defused by the spreading of love.

I also have a song in my head, one which plays over and over in my thoughts, just as *Crazy Heart* ran through the minds of Caroline’s children. It is sung by Susan Tedeschi of the Tedeschi Trucks Band. She sings with gritty resolve and determination, declaring her intent to “*Learn How to Love You*.” She is going to work at loving someone, and she “won’t give up.” It “won’t be easy,” but she “won’t let go.” I ponder that phrase and determination to love. Some people don’t want to love. However she is going to learn *how* to love a certain person. That desire to love someone, when love doesn’t come easy, is herculean. No, not herculean, it is Christlike. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we all wanted to “learn how to love” one another, and were determined “to show you how” in the same manner as Jesus did?

Will our children learn how to love? And forget how to hate? By taking time to talk and listen with care, those memorable teaching moments will happen, and we will open the door to love, forget how to hate, and grow closer to the God of love.

Let’s talk. What teaching moments stand out for you with your children? How did they come about? What tools did you use? What did you learn? How do you think we can help one another learn how to love and forget how to hate? Can we forget how to hate?
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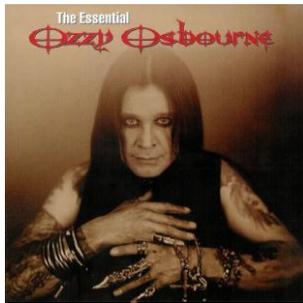
Rev. Deborah J. Blanchard is the minister at First Baptist Church on Littleton Common, and is the manager for blues guitarist Ronnie Earl and his band, the Broadcasters. She is the author of *The Christmas Church*, a story of Christmas meeting-place-moments.

Boy to the World!

Crazy Train

By Caroline Poser

*Crazy, but that's how it goes
Millions of people living as foes
Maybe it's not too late
To learn how to love
And forget how to hate.*



I printed out the lyrics to Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train." I figured if my kids are going to shout this song in the car at the tops of their lungs, they should at least know the words. They initially heard the song from the TV commercial for a Honda Pilot, which is what we drive, thus considerable shouting occurs when we're in transit.

Actually having lyrics in hand, my middle son decided to download the song on his iPod, during which he obtained a picture of Ozzy to go with it.

"Wow, Mom, is that really Ozzy Osbourne? He looks kinda scary. Is it really him singing the song?"

"Let me see. Yep. You know that song's like, from the '80s, right?"

"Uh huh, so? He actually has a really good voice..."

"Yeah, he sure does. You can't judge an album by its cover."

"What's an album?"

I caught myself humming the song a few times and it got me thinking about a couple of things. First, what's up with all the haters who have emerged as we approach our next presidential election? I don't even

watch the news and only get two weekly newspapers, but with the omnipresence of social media, I've been assaulted with terms like "liar," "idiot," "loser," "fool," "bully," "out of touch," "moron," "stupid," "deception," "omission," "narcissism," "sucks," "hates," "fears," and "distorts." The same words are used by every group against each other – *millions of people, living as foes*. Can't people disagree respectfully: stay calm, not take things personally, criticize ideas, but not each other?

Come to think of it, this language is prevalent in religious conflicts, sporting events, or anytime people have a difference of opinion – even with things like dog breeds. Personally, I would be much more receptive to someone's ideas if they were presented on their own merit and not simply as the assumed opposite of anything used to tear down the opposing view. *Crazy, but that's how it goes.*

Second, the song reminds me of a question my youngest asked on the way home from camp during a break from "all aboard," "ha ha ha ha" and "ay ay ay": "What if Adam and Eve never ate the fruit from the tree?" Though the boys go to a Christian camp right here in town, the story about the tree in the Garden of Eden is common to many religions, including Judaism and Islam.

"I guess we'd all be walking around naked, for one thing..."

"What!" His older brothers perked up, one of them pulling his earbuds out.

"Well, we'd be naked, but we wouldn't realize it. Naked would be the norm."

"Mom!"

"Seriously, boys. The fruit was from the tree of knowledge, right? So once they ate it, they became aware of things."

"Oh, yeah...we heard about that part during message time."

"And also, I guess everyone would get along with each other...there would be no conflict...uhm, competition. Hmmm," I continued, thinking aloud, "I'm not sure

how that would work. If there were no competition, how could there be any businesses...never mind that, what about sports?"

"Whaddaya mean?"

"Well, how could there be a football game without competition? Someone has to win and someone has to lose. "

"Duh."

"And no one's gonna say, 'be my guest, go right ahead and score that touchdown'..."

"Duh! That would be so stupid!"

"I know, right? But it can be friendly competition: no trash talk."

"Sometimes there is, mom."

"Well, I know there is, but I also know your coaches don't encourage it. I know they teach you to compete respectfully. Stay calm. Don't take things personally, and don't criticize the other team."

"Duh, mom."

"Don't 'duh' me, honey. Not everyone in this world gets it. Sometimes it's hard to remember in the heat of the moment. That's why we have terms like 'poor sport' and 'sore loser.' "

Maybe it's not too late to learn how to love and forget how to hate.

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Caroline Poser lives with her family in Groton.

www.CarolinePoser.com.

2012-2013 Sunday School Moms and Babies at 9AM

Come join us for bonding time for **Moms and babies on Sunday mornings at 9AM** in the FBC nursery:

It's too often that moms are running around, managing home life, work, school and other activities and are unable to truly connect with others. This leaves moms feeling alone and unsupported. At FBC Littleton, we are committed to nurturing a supportive, loving environment where moms and their infants and toddlers' relationships can thrive and have fun.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicky at nickylamson@gmail.com.

Sunday School class groups

We are using a new SS curriculum this year and are excited about it. If you would like to know more about it, Grow, Proclaim, Serve, you may read about it here:

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/curriculum.aspx?lv=Children&Inb=Series&sid=834>



very

The 9AM hour groupings are:

Babies and Woddlers
Middle Elementary 5 years to 4th grade
Tweens 5-6-7th graders
Youth 8th-12th grade
Adults

We hope you will join us!

Upcoming Events

Monday October 8 Grotonwood Day



Saturday, October 13
Ham & Bean Supper at 5:30

Prepared by the Trustees & all others who would like to help!
Beans and Salads needed
Please speak to JoAnne Dates for info or to help.

Women's Ministry
Sunday, October 14:

Son-flower Luncheon
Where: Fellowship Hall
When: Right after coffee hour
Why: To fellowship with other women in our church family.
Bring a friend!



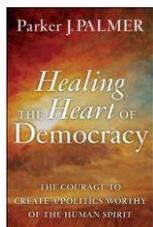
Sunday, October 21
Special Guest Mission speaker at 10AM

Rev. Hector Newman from Mission Honduras.
Mission Honduras was established in 2001 and its purpose is to share the Gospel of Christ in Honduras through its partnership with the American Baptist Churches and other Non-denominational Churches.



Healing the Heart of the Democracy
Parker Palmer

Three sessions Sundays after church at Noon



1. October 21
2. October 28
3. November 4

Please sign up on the kiosk. You may order your own book on Amazon.com, or I would be glad to order one for you.
The cost is \$15.

Neighborhood Supper
Tuesday, October 30

Our next opportunity to serve at Neighborhood Supper is October 30 at 3:00 at the Congregational

Church. We need help in setting up the tables and chairs and preparing the meal at 3:00 and serving the meal and clean up at 5:15. *If you can only come for a little while that's OK.* We'll always have something for you to do. Teens - you can get credit for your Community Service if you can come at 3:00 and help set up and prepare the meal. Because of confidentiality reasons students aren't allowed during the meal time.

Church Family Concert & Pot Luck Supper
Saturday, November 10, 2012

Concert: 4:30 PM
with pot luck to follow. A-M bring main dish or salad, O-Z bring dessert.



All are invited to a church family concert and pot luck supper. This is a time when we can step out of the box and do some fun and silly songs. Whether you are a regular church musician or you have been hiding your God given gift we want you to take part in the concert. Do you play the spoons? accordion? kazoo? harmonica? or it might be something a little more traditional like the piano, guitar, wind instrument. We welcome all. How about your family doing something together? Let's have fun.

Please speak to Anne Lee if you have an idea or would like to take part.

Fall Holiday Fair
Saturday November 17

It is time to think about the fair again. We are full with our vendors. We now need help with the kitchen, both for breakfast and for lunch. We need help setting up and cleaning up after. We need someone to take charge of our bake sale table and of course we need lots of food for our bake sale table. Debbie is looking for Vintage Jewelry. We're looking for folks to help with advertising and putting out signs and taking down signs. We would love to have a wheel or half a wheel of cheese to sell at the bake sale table. Would you be willing to look into this? We need items for our auction. Could you donate a gift certificate from one of your favorite businesses, a

week at your vacation home, a basket of some sort, a meal, baked goods, a service, for example: babysitting, plowing, lawn mowing? *Be creative!*

Please speak to Anne Lee if you can help with the fair and a member of the Finance Board (Gretchen Webster, Dick Huebner, Donna Horvath, Tom Alsup, Dave Mackersie, Constance Smithwood) if you have an item or would like to help with the auction.
charlieandannelee@gmail.com

Women's Ministry

Sunday, January 6:

Epiphany Party and Lunch

Where: Fellowship Hall

When: Right after coffee hour

What to bring: yourself, a friend, Yankee Swap gift for you and your friend, we will pick new and reveal old Secret Pals.

Sunday, April 28:

Concord Players present *The Sound of Music*.

Where: Concord Playhouse

When: Matinee

Look for more information to come but put it on your calendar now.

Hopefully we will also get in a trip to Tower Hill Botanical Gardens or a River cruise on the Concord River. More information to come

Communion Offerings

A reminder from the Diaconate Board that the Deacon's offering will continue to be received on Communion Sundays. Please use one of the envelopes marked *Communion Offering* and place your gift in with the regular offering. Thank you!

AND

We are looking for an Editor-in-Chief of this *newsletter* as well as someone to take over the *website*. If you are interested in either of these important ministries of communication please speak to Pastor Debbie. New ideas and formats for both are welcome!

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

From time to time bags of used clothing appear in the Goldsmith Street entrance and they really need to be disposed of properly. If someone can spare a few hours' time occasionally, these clothes need to be taken to Loaves and Fishes on Monday mornings.

Larry Fisher spends a few mornings a week collecting food from various drop-off sites and delivering it to Loaves and Fishes, along with donated food from the church. He'd be happy to take the clothes, too, but the receiving days for clothes are different from the receiving days for food, so that would mean another special trip to L&F just for the clothes. Also, L&F cannot accept most donated clothing items because they don't have the manpower to mend rips, lost buttons, etc. As they say, all clothes need to be "clean, rack ready, in season." Because of these limitations, only about 30 percent of donated clothing can be used. All others have to be taken to a Goodwill box, or otherwise disposed of, by L&F.

Larry has been dropping the bags of clothing into the local Salvation Army drop-off boxes, just to get them out of the church building, but would love to see them delivered to L&F, if someone would be willing to do that task.

If you have clothes and can't spare the time to get them to Loaves & Fishes, you could drop them off yourself at either the Goodwill collection box in the Donelan's parking lot or at the Middle School parking lot for the benefit of the Littleton Boosters Club.

Please contact Larry at 978-486-4932, or LarryF77@verizon.net to learn of more particulars of this task.

Loaves & Fishes exists as a mission of love and faith by providing food and temporary support services to residents of Ayer, Devens, Groton, Harvard, Littleton and Shirley and advocates for changes by its clients that will promote independence and self-reliance

First Baptist Church of Littleton

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ADDRESS RETURN REQUESTED