



THE *Good News* LETTER

Bart Kelso Accepts Interim Pastor Position

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL

[**Editor's note:** Bert Nogler continues his study of the Beatitudes, as begun in previous issues of *The Good News Letter*.]

One who has experienced God's mercy will be inclined to pity, help, or become actively involved in other people's needs. For it is only we who are aware of the amount of mercy that has been extended to us by our gracious Lord.

When we realize how little we deserve the Lord's mercy, it becomes easy and natural to extend mercy to others. A man may be truly merciful but doesn't have the means to help a situation, but God does accept a willing mind and will answer its gracious prayers.

We must not only bear our own afflictions patiently, but we must, by Christian sympathy, partake of the afflictions of our brothers: "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long suffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another event as Christ forgave you, so you also must do" (Col 3:12-13).

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We are so very thankful to our Lord for bringing the Rev. Bart Kelso to us as Interim Pastor. Many months of prayer and reviewing and reading candidate résumés have been a prerequisite to the place God has brought us. We believe Rev. Kelso is the man God chose to lead Fort Square for the next year. Rev. Kelso himself said that as early as last fall, the Lord put a burden on his heart for Fort Square and how he might be of help during this time of need. Then as Fort Square and Rev. Bart Kelso prayed, God orchestrated a plan.

A full-time position would not have worked for Rev. Kelso and his wife Priscilla, but the Session had considered a less than full-time position for several months. The congregation also played an important part in this plan. When Rev. Kelso ministered to us as a guest preacher, the Session heard many positive responses from you. A half-time position seemed to be the answer.

Rev. Kelso and the Session, boards, committees, Desiree Lawson (pastoral care), and Dick MacLeod (temporary office administrator) all agreed to con-

tinue supplementing the needs of the congregation as well as supporting Rev. Kelso. His first service as Interim Pastor was Sunday, July 5th. He has contracted to be off the last Sunday of each month; we will have guest speakers on those days. Sunday, July 12, will be a special worship service of praise and thanksgiving to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ for bringing Fort Square, Boston Presbytery, and Rev. Bart Kelso together.

Please continue to pray with us as we move forward in the process, as the Lord leads, in the search for a permanent Pastor.

*In His Service,
Cathy MacDougall,
Clerk of the Session*

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Administrative Assistant:
Ana Varela
Minister of Music: Charles Daniel
Contemporary Worship Leader:
Jeine Kamberidis
Youth Minister: Jon Wilson
Sexton: Bob Perch
Summer Schedule
9:30 am Combined service



EXHIBITION OF ART
BY JUNE CALEY

TUFTS LIBRARY

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Weymouth Landing, MA
(just off Route 53)

1-31 July 2009
Library Info: 781-337-1402



Fun on the Bayou—VBS 2009

Bayou Barb reporting from a croc-dock deep in the bayou. For one week at the end of June, critters roamed the halls and there was a lot of whooping and hollering. It was a week of foot-stomping fun at Vacation Bible School—Fort Square-style.

Tucker (a.k.a. Len Harding) led Tucker's Turtle Tours throughout the bayou along with many other tour guides. Stops included Crawfish Crafts and the Memory Marsh where kids practiced scripture verses. At the Snack Shack, mouths watered for gator nuggets, watermelon and other vittles. Swamp Songs always began with Swamp Slurpies (and a reminder to spit out the bugs).

Everyone had fun at Gator Games and the Bible Bayou where VBS-ers heard important Bible lessons.

Crocodile (Adam) Dundee kept everyone in the bayou on Fort Square time, by marching to the beat of a different kind of drum.

Some highlights include Tuesday night when Bible history was re-written. The children of Israel (the preschool

class) attacked and chased Pharaoh after several requests to be freed from bondage were denied.

Sid (Erik) and skeeter (Jon) opened each night with great life lessons. And together, the children and staff found God lights. More than \$420.00 was raised for a new roof for school of Miss Arsensia, our VBS missionary.

And in a quiet corner of the bayou, Kace Wilson found a bit of heaven on earth as a grand-ma-in-training. Everyone came away with many memories, important lessons, and fun crafts.

Our teens received high praise for their efforts. Meghan said she could see God working in the lives of the kids. Pat also realized God was working in lives of kids.

On a serious note, the Bible lessons were deep and moving with the message that God is powerful and has a plan for our lives. Many thanks to Catherine Milsom, Laura McDonagh, Jon Wilson, and all our volunteers for a top-notch VBS!

Y'all come back again for VBS 2010!

—Barbara Stickney

*“And God said, ‘Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind.’
And it was so.”*

Genesis 1:24

Interested in Missions?

We covered a number of subjects at the June meeting of the Missions Committee. One of the items that was stressed was new members—we need to pray about new members for our committee. Just a simple statement, but so much meaning behind it. Three important words: “pray” and “new members.”

I can just imagine the thoughts that just went through your minds as you read this opening paragraph. “That sounds great, but what do they do?” “How much of my time will it take if I volunteer?” “What responsibilities would I be taking on?”

To help you answer these questions, I re-read the minutes of our meetings for the last six months. Here are some of the more remarkable things that happened during those meetings.

Elder Madelyn MacDonald, our committee chairperson, opened one meeting by reading a devotional based on II Corinthians 9:6 called “Importance of Small Things” along with “The U in Jesus.” We had great news from Elder Dick MacLeod who informed us that we not only had met our budget for 2008, but also we had a balance of more than \$8,000.00 to begin the new year.

This sounded like a real surplus at the time, but it is rapidly being used to meet this year’s budget as we are experiencing a reduction in monthly giving.

Following Madelyn’s devo-

tion, the meeting turned to correspondence received from many of our missionaries. The possibility of a visitation from many of them this year as well as a discussion of a 2010 Missions Weekend completed committee business in February.

In March, we were delighted to learn that Dean and Penny Stocker, former members of Fort Square, were going to Malawi as missionaries, and

MISSIONS REPORT

that they would like to come and speak to our congregation. We were also thrilled by the news that Bill Teate from Glad Tidings in India would be here in March, and that Mike and Donna Brown would be coming to our church in August.

In spite of enticing offers, no church members were breaking down our doors eager to join the Missions Committee and, by April, we were planning for the Moyers to be here in May to speak about their mission in France. The Stockers also joined us in May to tell us about their needs for their departure to Malawi.

Are you getting interested yet?

May’s meeting opened with Madelyn’s excellent devotions, “Letters from Ruth Bell

Graham: God hears our sighs, longings, cries, and murmurings,” and “The Lord is near to all who call on Him,” (Psalm 145:18). We were also informed that the Session had approved a mission trip to Guatemala in 2010.

Meeting notes for May reiterated “We need to pray and ask God’s guidance as to whom we should ask to be on our committee. We need new members!”

Are you getting excited yet? Are you wishing that you had been there? Think and pray about it.

At the beginning of June, we had a report from Paige and Mario about their Mother’s Day celebration in Guatemala during which they honored the mothers of the children in their feeding program. It was so successful that they are planning to also have a Father’s Day celebration next year.

Also at our May meeting, Madelyn’s devotion was “Letters from Ruth’s Attic” on “when we are just plain tired.” From Mark 6:31: “Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, [Jesus] said to them, ‘Come with me to a quiet place and get some rest.’”

As we look forward to our September meeting, we trust that a few of you will hear God’s call and make plans to join us.

—Len Harding

Mission Study Report in Progress

In July 2008 the Session voted to conduct a Mission Study for the church to look at our history, our current practices of ministry, and what changes we might make as we move into the future. Elder Walter Baker Jr. was appointed the chair of the Mission Study committee and was asked, with the assistance of Elders Cliff Wilson and Dick MacLeod, to select a committee from a list of members recommended by the Session. The committee consisted of Michelle Wilbur, Debbie Simpson, Danielle Baker, Randy Nielsen, Donna Donovan, Peggy MacLeod and Walter Baker, Jr.

The committee began their work by reviewing the Presbytery of Boston's Committee on Ministry format for a mission study and also read the Mission Study report produced in 1984 after the resignation of Rev. Robert Duncan. The committee then planned the congregational meetings necessary for collecting data about areas in which the church is strong and those in which it needs improvement. As had been done in 1984, the Mission Study

committee recommended to the Session that these meetings take place on five consecutive Sundays following a combined worship service. The congregational meetings would begin with Bible study and time of prayer as had been done in the 1984.



Each of the five meetings had a theme that will lead to the final Mission Study report. This report will be written by the Mission Study Committee taking into consideration all of the information and opinions received during the five meetings. This report will be presented to the Session for approval and then sent to the Presbytery of Boston Committee on Ministry

for review. Once this process is completed the contents of the report will be used to complete the "Church Information Form" which will be used to recruit an installed pastor for the church. It is expected that the Mission Report will portray an accurate and thoughtful image of what Fort Square Church has been, is, and what God wants it to be!

The Mission Committee is thankful and pleased with the enthusiasm of the church members in this significant work! The attendance and participation of the congregation is what has made the input for this report truly representative of the whole church. We look forward to completing our report, and we covet the continued prayers of the congregation as this important phase of the work to call a pastor comes to completion.

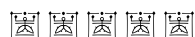
Each member of the Mission Study Committee worked countless hours in this very important endeavor—and for that we are sincerely grateful.

—Peggy MacLeod



"Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them."

Hebrews 11:16



🏰 NOTES OF THANKS 🏰

The family of Jack MacDonald would like to thank everyone who called, sent cards, visited, baked and prayed for Jack and the family.

This meant so much to us as a family. We are coping pretty well, but wanted you all to know that having a wonderful church family was an unbelievable blessing. We were so blessed by all of you.

*Thank you,
Elinor MacDonald
and family*

Dear Fort Square Church Friends:

There really are no adequate words to express our thanks to all of you for the many and faithful prayers on behalf of Bob (and me) during extended time of illness and hospitalization which my husband has experienced since May 7. The healing process has hit many bumps in the road, but we are assured of God's loving and

watchful care! You have prayed and the Lord has answered... always knowing what is best for Bob. We don't know exactly what the future holds, but know we do know with certainty who holds the future.

Thank you for the many, many cards, calls, offers of help, meals, and rides to and from the hospital. This thoughtfulness is truly appreciated. We treasure your loving friendship in Christ!

Additionally, thanks to all who have express sympathy in the loss of my brother, Richard, on June 6. Thankfully, we know he is now with Jesus and reunited with many loved ones—praise God!

*Lovingly in Christ,
Polly Duncan*

I want to thank each of you for your prayers, call, and cards. They all helped in bringing me comfort, joy, and peace during my recent recovery from

surgery. Fort Square is truly a church family where people love and care for each other. I know this pleases the Lord.

June Newman

Dear friends:

I would like to let the congregation of Fort Square know of my deep gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for all your love and support following my surgery.

*Yours in Christ,
Pam Wallace*

Dear Friends at Fort Square:

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, phone calls, etc., during my recovery from knee surgery. I am doing very well.

Thank you for being so caring.

*Love in Him,
Muriel L. Wood*

Young at Heart Needs You

WANTED 2-3 men or women to prepare and cook one evening a month from 7pm-9pm, third Monday of the month.

WANTED 1 person to coordinate Young at Heart programs. Programs run from September to June, one day per month, 9am-3pm, third Tuesday of the month.

Responsibilities include entertainment and monthly letter to all senior members and all Young at Heart committee members.

Help us keep these programs from disappearing!

Thanks for your willingness to serve—Maurice Bienvenue

Sortings: Notes From the Clothing Ministry

“Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your work is not in vain.”

1 Cor. 15:58

People come into our Clothing Ministry for different reasons. Some think that “free” means that they can take much more than they really need. Some see it as an income to stay on drugs or alcohol. In these cases, we have to show tough love and help them to seek other programs to work their problems out.

Our Clothing Room was a mess on Sunday mornings for several months. We have tried to work it out, but haven’t been successful. A few weeks ago, after talking to the Deacons, I went to the Friday

night AA meeting and talked to them about our problem. They said that most of the people that come aren’t connected to AA. We agreed that after we straighten out the room on Friday night that it would be closed on Saturday mornings to all. Now our room looks much better for our Church Family on Sunday mornings, as they seek our help. Another solution would be for two people to stay in our room on Saturday mornings to ensure that things stay neat and orderly.

I’d like to thank those who recently gave us new underwear for our Ministry.

Please keep us in your prayers, and help us to serve our Lord.

—Bob Knowlton

FROM THE DEACONS

Next Deacons’ Offering, Sunday, September 13

We are thankful for your gifts to the Deacons’ Fund. The money we receive provides for the many needs within our church family. Please keep this in mind during our quarterly offerings.

You may also contribute to this fund at any time during the year!

Thank you again for your generosity, especially during these difficult economic times.

*Serving our Lord together,
Debby Richie*

The Beatitudes *continued from page 1*

For they shall obtain mercy.

As Jesus said in Acts 20:30 “It is more blessed to give than to receive”—we know not how soon we may stand in need of kindness. I only know that with the merciful God will show himself merciful and judgment without mercy can be nothing short of hell-fire, so imitate the Lord in all His ways for He is the way, the truth, and the life.

—Bert Nogler

SAVE THE DATE

Walk for Myositis Awareness

Saturday, September 19
(Rain Date September 20)

Pond Meadow, Braintree

Our sister in Christ, Dagmar Slaven, has struggled with myositis for 20 years. Join us for a walk to raise funds and awareness for this debilitating muscle disease.

Read Dagmar’s story at www.myomusings.com

Learn more about myositis at www.myositis.org

Organizer: Bob Knowlton

f² youth

by Jon Wilson

*Celebrate
With Us!*

Celebrate our graduates:

Bryan Donovan, Erik Nielsen, Samuel Chege, and Peter Richie all graduated from our Sunday School and Youth Group programs this past spring.

Alex Moffett and Greg Abbott also were long time, consistent members of the youth program who graduated this year. What a joy it has been to see them grow up over the years, and we look forward to seeing how God continues to bless them in the future.

Our Fundraisers have been wonderfully successful because of the participation of so many of you. Rock for Restoration 2, the car wash/bake sale, and the pancake breakfast exceeded all our expectations, and we are so thankful for all the blessings the Lord has provided for us.

In addition, we held our annual 30-Hour Famine this spring and raised \$900 to support World Vision's effort to end hunger among children throughout the world.

Mark Your Calendars!

TNT (3rd–5th grade) resumes **Sept 20th** and meets the third Sunday of every month from 2–4pm

Oasis (6th–8th grade) meets every Friday from 7–9pm

Odyssey (9–12th grade) meets every Sunday night from 6–8pm

Come Join Us!

Pray For Us!

PawSox game, July 24

Oasis is planning a trip down to Pawtucket to watch the Red Sox minor league team and you all are invited! We are especially looking for adults who would volunteer to drive a car full on teens. Tickets are only \$8 if you preorder, so sign up with Jon ASAP.

Church Picnic, August 22

Our annual picnic is always a fun time for the whole family. There is a swimming pool, basketball court, and big field to play other games in. Contact the church office if you are willing to help organize some activities, but make sure to mark the date on your calendar because you don't want to miss this!

High School Mission trip to New Orleans, July 11–18

The mission team includes 13 high school students and four leaders traveling to New Orleans for mission work and rebuilding.

Middle School Summer Retreat to Camp Monadnock, August 2–8

This year 10 people are attending our annual trip to "Ascend" in Jaffrey, New Hampshire.

Camping at Inside/Out Soulfest, July 29–August 1

A four-day music festival of some of the best Christian artists around. It's always a fantastic mix of fun, fellowship, and deepening our faith.

Rewarding returns to September programs (see above)

Can You Imagine?

Can you imagine your pastor, youth leader, or Sunday School teacher telling you, “Do not read the Bible”? Of course not! But there was a time many, many years ago when church leaders told their people not to read the Bible. In fact, if you were found reading the Bible, it could have resulted in a severe punishment. People were afraid to disobey.

The Bible was first written in Hebrew and Greek. Later, it was translated into Latin,

the language of the church for centuries. Latin was fine for educated church leaders, but in countries like England, Italy, or Germany, few people could read Latin.

More than a hundred years before Christopher Columbus discovered America, there was a man named John Wycliffe who lived in England. He was a professor at Oxford University. He believed that people should be allowed to read the Bible in their own language.

Next time, we will learn more about John Wycliffe, who risked punishment to put God’s Word into language that ordinary people could understand. It is an exciting story of a brave man of God. In the future, there will be more stories about William Tyndale, Martin Luther, and others who faced great danger in order to give people the Bible in a language they could read and understand.

—June Caley

An Attempt at a Modern Parable

A man was in the habit of browsing through the Baseball Encyclopedia, strategically located in the house so that it would be available whenever a spare moment might arise.

He wondered as he browsed at the details that unfolded under the names of every man who had ever played in the Baseball Major Leagues. The statistics included every hit, base on balls, strikeouts, runs batted in, home runs, also errors (to be endured not only in front of fans but also put in print forever). The same thing applied to the pitchers. Then, the statistics were manipulated in such a manner as to compare their lifetime performance with other players, to the end that the very best of the best would be selected for the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Out of the thousands who played only a small percentage

had the talent and ability to make it to the Hall of Fame.

The man wondered if there was a Book of Life being kept on each one of us? Who could stand the scrutiny of a lifetime of errant thoughts, words, and deeds? Who could stand before a Holy God and face His wrath. Woe is me, I am a man of unclean lips, I have sinned against God, and I am not worthy to be called His child. There can be no eternal Hall of Fame or Celestial City for me, I am undone!

Then the man remembered that scripture tells us that God’s grace overcame His justified wrath and made a way for mankind where there seemed to be no way. While all of God’s rebellious image bearers were practicing idolatry and injustice, there were none worthy. God so loved the world He became flesh and dwelt among us.

One cannot in a sentence

describe the awful sacrifice and suffering that Jesus Christ endured as He died on the cross for our sins, rose from the dead and redeemed us; that all those who believe and have faith in Jesus Christ shall not perish but have everlasting life.

When we come before the judgment seat of God and our Book of Life is opened and all our stats appear before us, it will be noted that all our worldly thoughts, words, and deeds are covered by the righteousness of Christ. We are pardoned and redeemed by the grace of God through the blood of the lamb, our Savior Jesus Christ. We are now accepted and invited by a Holy God to enter through the portals into the Eternal Hall of Fame, the Celestial City. What a wonderful thing—what a wonderful Savior.

—Lloyd C. Allen

Understanding Your Budget and Stewardship Committee

While many people had an opportunity to interact with the Budget and Stewardship Committee members one-on-one during the Mission Study, we want to give everyone a chance to learn about the mission and purposes of the committee.

The Book of Order challenges each of us: "Giving has always been a mark of Christian Commitment and discipleship. The ways in which a believe uses God's gifts of material goods, personal abilities and time should reflect a faithful response to God's self-giving in Jesus Christ and Christ's call to minister to and share with others in the world. Tithing is a primary expression of the Christian discipline of stewardship" (W-5.5004).

The role of the Budget and Stewardship Committee is to:

1. organize budget input we receive from various committees/chairs;
2. meet formally with the chairs in January to develop the Annual Budget;
3. act in an advisory capacity and to meet with Session and the Trustees presenting our recommendations for the Annual Budget. The budget is voted by the Session at the Annual Meeting and affirmed by the congregation;
4. monitor the budget throughout the year through meetings and updates to the congregations to assure that our church has sufficient money to carry out the Annual Budget.

We report on a weekly basis in the bulletin monies received and monies needed to meet

the Annual Budget. There are weekly quotes in the bulletin to encourage giving. Each Sunday, the Elder of the Day addresses the need of continual support for the Annual Budget from the pulpit.

While we received some excellent suggestions through the Mission Study for informing people on how to give and what they need to give to keep us solvent, we look forward to receiving your suggestions. Please email any suggestions or questions to the committee chair, Cliff Wilson at BaseballCW@aol.com.

Committee members include Richard MacLeod, Arthur Reed, Bill Slaven, and Marilyn Scrizzi.

—Submitted by Marilyn Scrizzi
for the Budget and
Stewardship Committee

Our Ministry of Showers

It has been our custom to hold bridal showers for couples about to be married. Usually, these individuals have grown up in the church and/or attend Fort Square presently.

This custom began as part of the ministry of the Golden Circle (now known as Friendship Circle) at least 60 years ago. This group would organize the event, decorate the room, and provide the refreshments. Most all the women of the church would attend, even if they did not know the couple well. This

was done as a show of Christian love and support for the couple as they started out life together.

Showers have continued along these lines to the present day. These showers need not place a financial burden on any one person as many people typically agree to contribute donations as they are able toward one gift.

Next time you hear of a young couple planning to marry, we hope you will consider this ministry of showers.

*"Husbands,
love your wives,
just as Christ loved
the church and
gave himself up
for her."*

Ephesians 5:25

CHURCH PICNIC

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

FOOD ☿ FUN ☿ SWIMMING ☿ SOFTBALL

Fort Square Presbyterian Church
16 Pleasant Street
Quincy, Massachusetts 02169
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