



Washington Street Baptist Church
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Lynn, MA 01902

Tower

Talk

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Rev. James R. Smith
Interim Minister

Marquis Lockhart
Youth Minister

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An Old Church with New Life

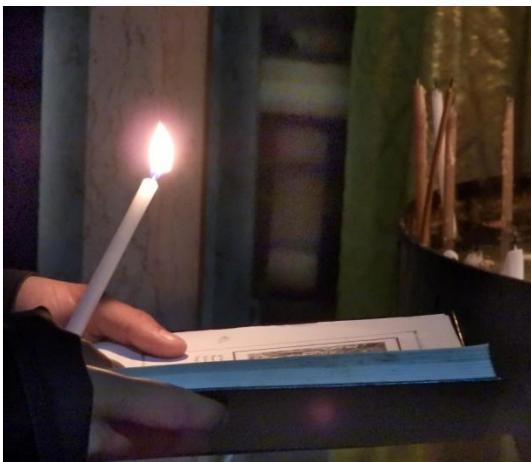
On Saturday Marquis and I attended “Kindle the Fire,” a seminar exploring renewal and revitalization of New England churches. Pastors and laity from MA, NH and VT gathered in Salem, NH for a day of reflection and inspiration.

The theme Scripture for the day was 2 Kings 22 and 23. “Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed completely the ways of his father David.”

Eighteen years later he called on the high priest, Hilkiah, to repair the Temple. He gathered workers, carpenters, builders and masons and equipped them for the task. When they finished repairing the temple in chapter 23 they got rid of everything that had prevented them from worshipping the Lord.

Build it and they will come no longer works as a method for church growth. Sure people will come to see a barn burn, but if the fire goes out they leave and move on to the next new thing. Revitalization is not about church growth and filling pews. Revitalization in a purely dictionary sense refers to giving new life; giving new vitality or vigor to a thing, a person or an organization. Revitalization in the church comes through new life in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Revitalization sometimes means getting rid of some stuff; things, attitudes and habits.



Vespers at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Jerusalem

We don’t have to change who we are – sinners saved by grace, we don’t have to change our message, Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life, but we do need to change how we share that message. Our challenge is to “translate the Gospel to make it accessible, not transform the Gospel to make it acceptable” (Lawson Stone Asbury Seminary). Culture and language change, but the Truth and God’s Word are eternal. Historian George Marsden has said, “It is difficult for the church to survive, if there is nothing that makes the church distinct from culture.”

What makes us distinct from the culture around us? What are our core values – how were they expressed in the past and how will they be expressed in the future?

2 Timothy 1:6–8 “For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 8 So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.”

Tom Bandy describes a vital church as, “A community where people are changed, gifted, called, equipped, and sent out in teams.”

Let this be our goal as we seek to be rekindled with the fire of the Holy Spirit at Washington Street Baptist Church.

James R. Smith, *Interim Pastor*
Washington Street Baptist Church, Lynn MA
Photos to accompany this text can be seen at jrsmithblog.wordpress.com

NEXT TWO WEEKS AT WSBC

Saturday, October 27

10:00-11:30 AM Food Pantry Distribution

Sunday, Oct. 28

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:45 AM Worship Service

12:15 PM CoffeeTime Fellowship

12:30 PM Cantata Choir Practice

1:00 PM Church Choir Practice

Tuesday, Oct. 30

6:00-7:00 PM Line Dancing

Wednesday, Oct. 31

7:00 PM *Live Out Loud* Youth Group

Sunday, Nov. 4

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:45 AM Special Baptismal Worship Service

12:15 PM CoffeeTime Fellowship

12:30 PM Cantata Choir Practice

1:00 PM Church Choir Practice

Tuesday, Nov. 6

6:00 PM Christian Education Meeting

6:00-7:00 PM Line Dancing

Wednesday, Nov. 7

7:00 PM *Live Out Loud* Youth Group

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Oct. 21, 2018 Worship: 57

CHURCH SERVERS

Oct. 28, 2018

Nursery: *Evelyn Panias*

BLAST: *Marilyn Geldart*

Worship Assistant: *Nick Nofi*

Coffee Time Hostess: *Carolanne Pevear*

UPCOMING BAPTISMS

Next Sunday, Nov. 4, two candidates will be baptized and brought into church membership, and four others will be brought into church membership, having previously been baptized. Come celebrate what God is doing among us!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Get ready to fall back one hour on Sunday, Nov. 4. If you forget, you'll be early for our special baptismal worship service, which wouldn't be too bad!

RESCHEDULED CONCERT FOR AFRICA

The fundraising concert for African missions work previously scheduled for Nov. 4 will be postponed until the spring.

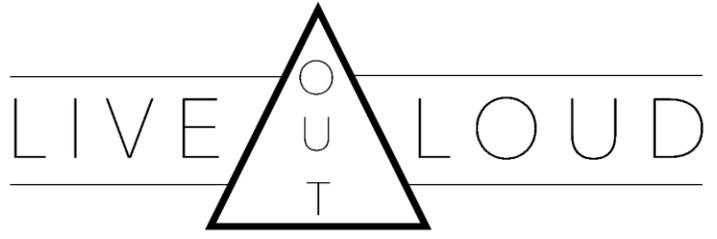


NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Gregory Wigfall
- 2 – Marilyn Geldart
- 15 – Rev. Eric C. B. Nelson
- 18 – Jeannie Boyle
- 20 – Carolanne Pevear, Eszsa Chalvire
- 29 – Donald Arons, Donna Arons

YOUTH GROUP

We will still be having youth group this coming Wednesday on Halloween! Come out at 7 PM for fun and a good word.



14th ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR

Sat, Nov. 10th from 9:00-3:00 PM. We're still looking for volunteers to help set up tables on Nov. 8th or 9th, to help during the fair, or to clean up afterwards from 3:00-6:00 PM. We are also looking for people to bake or bring cookies for the cookie walk. Please contact Marilyn Geldart or Evelyn Panias if you're available to help out.



KIDS CLUB

This week we welcomed new friends and talked about the power of our words to build and to destroy, to lift people up and tear them down. Please pray that our words may have a lasting impact on kids as we fight a culture of violence and vengeance with the gospel.

- *Laura Johnson*

Mission Statement

We are a family of faith, bound by God's love, following our Lord Jesus Christ as we worship and grow together. Called to join God in God's saving mission to the world and relying upon God's empowering Spirit, we go forth to serve and build the Beloved Community in Jesus' name.

Contact Information

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Office Administrator: Laura Johnson
Organist and Choir Director: Joseph Gurkan
Sexton: Rick Penn