



Washington Street Baptist Church
256 Washington St.
Lynn, MA 01902

Tower Talk

Tel. or FAX 781-595-2550

Website: www.lynnwsbc.org

E-Mail: lynnwsbc@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/LynnWSBC>

Rev. James R. Smith
Interim Minister

Marquis Lockhart
Youth Minister

Laura Johnson
Office Administrator

Jan. 24, 2019
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Our cat is a long haired Himalayan who often sleeps in a large bowl we have placed in a south facing window. People love to take pictures of him curled up in his bowl or on the couch because you can't always tell what he is or which end is which. He looks like a big pile of fur.

To some he is a novelty and they don't want to touch him for fear of being scratched. Our grandchildren love him, but when they were little we had to caution them to pat his head first and not just grab him anywhere. He wants to recognize who is patting him before he can relax.

God remains a mystery to many people. They look for Him, but don't recognize Him when they see Him. Others approach God as a novelty not wanting to get too close, but still wanting to say they know Him. God is not hiding, He wants us to come to Him, talk to Him, worship Him and Love Him. **1 John 4:19** We love because he first loved us.

Various authors claim there are between 5,000 and 7,000 promises in the Bible. The Dictionary of Bible Themes counts 5,467. We can't claim the promises we don't know about for a promise unclaimed is usually a promise unfulfilled. This Sunday we will explore the promise of the Holy Spirit in the life of each believer (1 Corinthians 12:1-13).

Paul asked some disciples in Ephesus, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." (Acts 19:2) How about you? Have you heard that God's Holy Spirit dwells in every believer and desires to give gifts to those who seek Him?

Our grandchildren desperately want a cat or dog of their own, but, unfortunately their mother is allergic. They teased and teased leading up to Christmas, but to no avail. They have to make do with visiting our cat and their other grandparents' dog. How desperate are we for the promises and gifts of God? Do we earnestly seek spiritual gifts of service?

We don't have to beg or tease God to receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit. God's gifts are not for personal gain or prestige within the church. While we are blessed and strengthened in our Christian walk by the Holy Spirit, God's gifts of ministry are for the growth and blessing of all his people. They come with responsibility. Are you anxious to see God working in your life, your church and in the lives of people you know and pray for? Then eagerly desire the gifts God has for you, set your heart on being filled with the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:31).

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

Friday, January 25, 2019

7:00 PM Prayer Meeting

Saturday, Jan. 26

10:00-11:30 AM Food Pantry Distribution

Sunday, Jan. 27

10:45 AM Worship Service

12:15 PM CoffeeTime Fellowship

12:30 PM Music Committee Meeting with
Diaconate

1:00 PM Choir Practice

Wednesday, Jan. 30

7:00 PM *Live Out Loud* Youth Group

Friday, Feb. 1

7:00 PM Prayer Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 3

10:45 AM Worship Service

12:15 PM CoffeeTime Fellowship

12:30 PM Choir Practice

Wednesday, Feb. 6

7:00 PM *Live Out Loud* Youth Group

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Jan. 20, 2018 Worship: Service canceled
due to snow

CHURCH SERVERS

Jan. 27, 2019

Nursery: *Tai Nofi*

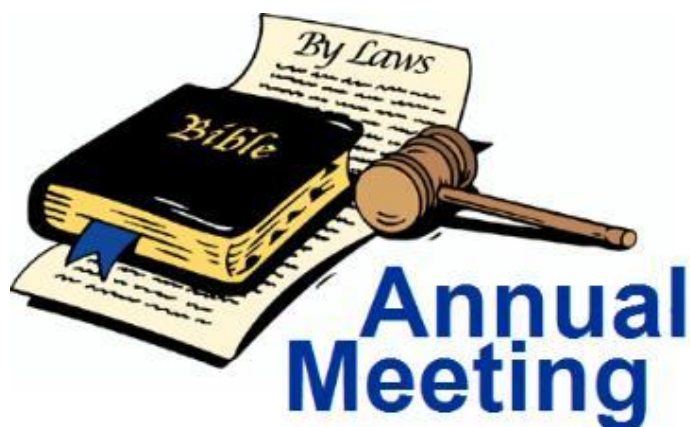
BLAST: *Elise Panias*

Worship Assistant: *Nick Nofi*

CoffeeTime Hostess: *Carolanne Pevear*

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

With the coming of the new year comes the time to reflect upon 2018. One way to do that is to write the annual report for your department at church. As the annual church meeting approaches in February, annual reports are due from the heads of each department and committee by the end of January. Since this is my first time compiling all the reports, it would help me out to have all the reports in on time. Thank you kindly!



PRAYER MEETING UPDATE

Please join us this week in praying for our neighbors on **Andrew Street.**

Note: if you can't make it in person Friday evenings, you can call in at (605) 475-4070 with the access code 138890#.

****You can use your landline if you don't have a cell phone. Last week, we had three people call in and pray over the phone. We encourage you to join us for an hour together. You will be enriched and your presence will greatly enrich us!****

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING

This Sunday, you will find America for Christ Offering envelopes in your bulletin. This collection funds missions work within the United States with the American Baptist Home Mission Societies. This year's theme verse is Galatians 6:9-10: *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."*

Last year, the offering supported rebuilding efforts in Puerto Rico, student scholarships, refugee resettlement, and relief to children living in poverty.

The offering also supported the group Cameron Community Ministries, an urban outreach center in Rochester, NY, which recently began a project to turn a foreclosed building in one of the city's poorer districts into a teen center. This ministry is working to bring healing to a community torn apart by violence.

If you are unable to come to church on Sunday, you can send a check to the church and state in the memo that the donation is for the America for Christ Offering. We will send you a record of your donation.

God longs to bring healing to our world and for us to partner with Him in this work of reconciliation.



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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Email: WSBCrev@gmail.com

Youth Minister: Marquis Lockhart
Office Administrator: Laura Johnson
Organist and Choir Director: Joseph Gurkan
Sexton: Rick Penn