



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

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What Pastors Do behind Closed Doors

Matthew 6:6 “But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”

I attend the monthly Southeast Association Clergy Breakfast in Exeter, NH. The format of our gathering this year begins at 8:00 with a 45 minute Bible Study followed by a 30 minute break for breakfast prepared by our hosts at the First Baptist Church. We conclude with 30 to 45 minutes of conversational prayer based on a passage of Scripture.

This model lends itself to an idea that was presented to a dozen leaders at Washington Street on Sunday. Marquis, our Youth Pastor, challenged us to renew a weekly prayer meeting. We have scheduled Friday, November 30, at 7:00pm as our first prayer meeting. What will it look like? What should we do? How should we pray? Let's look at what Pastors do behind closed doors and see if they present a reproducible model.

Our Bible Study focused on II Timothy 1: 8-12 (v7-8 “For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God.”)

After our breakfast break we centered our prayer around three passages from the book of Acts.

Acts 1:1-14, speaking of Jesus' ascension and the promise of being empowered by the Holy Spirit to be witnesses for Jesus to the world.

Pastors prayed for our denomination, for one another and for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. They praised God for the assurance of Jesus' return and thanked Him for Jesus' sacrificial death and life giving resurrection. They sought God's vision and leading for the churches they serve.

After 10-12 minutes we read Acts 4: 13-31, where the religious leaders chastised Peter and John for stirring up the people after healing a lame man at the temple gate. Unable to find a legitimate way to punish them they told them to go away and quit preaching about Jesus. The passage ends with verse 31: “And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.”

Pastors prayed for courage and holy boldness to lift up the cross in a society that largely rejects Jesus, for wisdom to equip believers to share the Gospel and genuine worship in church gatherings.

We read Acts 20:17-38 where Paul said his final farewell to the saints in Ephesus, vs. 36-38: “When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And they began to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him, grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they were accompanying him to the ship.”

Pastors thanked God that goodbye for the Christian is not truly goodbye, for we will be reunited at the resurrection. They prayed for discerning hearts and wisdom for the church to recognize and resist wolves who come in to lead the saints astray.

We concluded with the prayer, “May we have same spirit as Paul” (c.f. II Timothy 1: 8-12).

What do you do behind closed doors when you gather with friends for prayer or when you are alone in your prayer closet (Matt 6:6)?

Join us Nov 30 at 7:00 as we pray together and seek God's direction for our lives and our church.

James R. Smith, Interim Pastor

Washington Street Baptist Church, Lynn MA

Photos to accompany this text can be seen at jrsmithblog.wordpress.com



The Lord's Prayer in Hebrew, Pater Noster Church, Jerusalem

NEXT TWO WEEKS AT WSBC

Saturday, November 17

2:30-4:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution

Sunday, Nov. 18

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Worship Service
12:15 PM Special Business Meeting
12:30 PM CoffeeTime Fellowship
12:30 PM Cantata Choir Practice
1:00 PM Church Choir Practice

Wednesday, Nov. 21

7:00 PM *Live Out Loud* Youth Group

Sunday, Nov. 25 Stewardship Sunday

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Worship Service
12:15 PM CoffeeTime Fellowship
12:30 PM Music Committee Meeting
12:30 PM Cantata Choir Practice
1:00 PM Church Choir Practice

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Nov. 11, 2018 Worship: 50

CHURCH SERVERS

Nov. 18, 2018

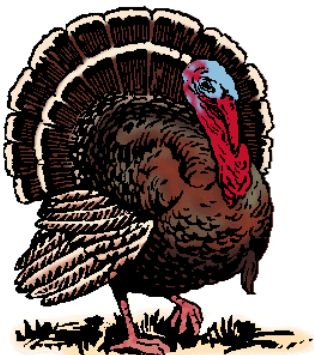
Nursery: *Evelyn Panias*
BLAST: *Marquis Lockhart*
Worship Assistant: *Jeannie Boyle*
Coffee Time Hostess:

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

This Sunday, Nov. 18th, after the worship service, we will have a special business meeting. The Search Committee and Trustees have proposed a compensation package for the new minister and are awaiting approval from church membership to share this with potential candidates. Current members should have received an email with the proposed pastoral salary. Please review this budget and pray for wisdom as we move forward in the search for a permanent pastor. *We ask that all eligible voting members of our congregation please be present at this meeting so that we can have a quorum.*

FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION

This Saturday, 2:30-4:00 PM. November’s food pantry distribution will be early so that everyone can have what they need for Thanksgiving. As has become a tradition, the Lynn police department will be donating turkeys for those who have already signed up.



FILM CREW CATERING

The Netflix film *Wonderland*, starring Mark Wahlberg, is being shot in downtown Lynn this week. Our church is being used to host catering for the crew Tuesday through Friday (11/13-11/16), including overnight Wednesday into Thursday. If you’ve come by the church this week and seen new people coming and going, that’s what the buzz has been all about!

PRAYER MEETING

We would like to start a weekly prayer meeting Friday evenings. Our first meeting will be on Friday, Nov. 30th. All are welcome to come out and pray for the direction of our church as well as the needs of one another. Wherever two or more are gathered in Jesus’ name, there He is also!



KIDS CLUB

There was no Kids Club this week because of the film crew’s catering.

TABLE PRAYER

Here is a simple song you can sing at the table this Thanksgiving and anytime, sung to the tune of the Doxology:
*Be present at our table, Lord.
Be here and everywhere adored.
Thy creatures bless and grant that we
May feast in paradise with Thee.*
- John Cennick

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