

Baptist bulletin

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WEST ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH | MARCH 2019

PASTOR'S WORD

Dear Members and Friends of WABC,

What a joy it is to be back with you all after maternity leave! I am so deeply grateful for the time and space to recover from labor and delivery and get to know Thomas. He's excited to meet you all! As you meet Thomas you are likely to notice that his little eyebrows are often furrowed. He often looks worried or concerned, even skeptical. When we visited Chicago and looked at my baby photos we found this same furrowed brow! I've decided that it is not worry, nor concern, nor skepticism but instead it is thoughtfulness that produces such a furrowed brow on Tom's face. When he encounters a new face, or new surroundings, he adopts this thoughtful face. I imagine he has all sorts of questions: Who is this? What is that funny noise they're making? Where am I? What are these new things I see around me? He's thinking very hard and so his brow furrows.

We are entering the season of Lent, a season for reflection and thoughtfulness. I will be inviting us all during this season to take a cue from Thomas and enter into an engaged thoughtfulness. This Lenten season we will embark on "A Parable Journey," studying together in worship the stories Jesus told and digging in deeper, engaging an inquisitive mind about these familiar stories. Amy-Jill Levine, in her book: *Short Stories by Jesus*, reminds us that these stories told by Jesus are rich and deep with meaning. In fact, Jesus' parables don't just have one meaning but they are full with multiple meanings. So, I invite you to join us during March and April as we embark on "A Parable Journey."

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Laura

P.S. Please note that my office hours have shifted. I will be in the Acton office Tuesdays, Wednesday, and Fridays. I will work from home in Arlington on Thursdays. Mondays will remain my day off. I look forward to catching up with you all. Please let me know if you'd like a visit or an appointment to meet with me!

*Thomas thoughtfully considering his first plane ride
with signature furrowed brow.*



Inside This Issue

- 1 Pastor's Word
- 2 Preaching Schedule
- 2 Worship Team
- 3 Discipleship Team
- 4 Missions Team
- 4 WABC Women
- 5 Common Thursdays
- 5 Celebrations
- 5 Fundraising
- 6 Facilities Team
- 6 Valentine's Blankets
- 6 Easter Flowers

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PREACHING SCHEDULE

March 3rd

Transfiguration Sunday

Stay Awake!

Luke 9:28-36

March 10th

First Sunday of Lent

Starting In the Wilderness

Scripture: Luke 4:1-11; Luke 8:4-15

March 17th

Second Sunday of Lent

Stopping Along The Way

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

March 24th

Third Sunday of Lent

When We Think We've Gone Far Enough

Scripture: Luke 12:13-21

March 31st

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Straying From The Path

Scripture: Luke 15:1-32

WORSHIP TEAM

Communion Servers:

Bob Williams, Nancy Dodge,

Tori Taylor, Doug Taylor

Scripture Readers:

March 3rd Tori Taylor

March 10th Zelda Williams

March 17th Ira Smith

March 24th Nancy Emerson Lombardo

March 31st Linda O'Neil

Flowers:

March 3rd

Wendy Maxfield in memory of Marjory

Maxfield

March 10th

Nancy Emerson Lombardo

March 17th

Nancy Dodge in memory of her mother

Melissa White

March 24th

Linda O'Neil

March 31st

Tori Taylor

Lenten Series 2019

A Parable Journey: The Stories Jesus Told

Join us this Lent for a journey through the parables of Jesus. The Parables of Jesus are the stories he told, stories meant to illustrate for us God's Kingdom and Jesus' Way. Over the centuries these familiar stories have taken on familiar, accepted meanings. We tend to tell the "cliff notes" version, the easy-to-understand way, because when we go deeper, we find these stories challenge and convict. As C.S. Lewis writes in *The Last Battle*, we are called "further up and further in" to the depth of these stories. They appear so simple yet their meaning deepens the further in we go. In the end, though the journey is long and hard, it is worth it, and we understand more fully the story of God, what Jesus has taught us, and our own, true story as Christians.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your short-term acting pastor during Rev. Laura Harris-Adam's maternity leave. I have enjoyed leading worship, telling the Gospel stories by heart, and sharing my storytelling ministry in your midst. I have appreciated teaching Bible study and working alongside the lay leaders of West Acton Baptist Church. You are a blessing, dear church. May the love of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit continue to guide you as you journey together into the future.

-Rev. Cindy Maybeck



DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

Nursery Care for children ages 0-2 is available in the lower level during worship, provider Olivia Bruneau.

Preschool Sunday School for children ages 3-5 meets during worship in the lower level, teacher Stephanie Dodge.

Elementary Sunday School for children in grades 1-6 meets following the sermon in the DEN, teacher Lori Bruneau.

PLEASE NOTE: We no longer have Sunday school on Communion Sundays. Childcare for ages 0-5 will still be available in the lower level.

Youth Group for children in grade 6-12 meets at 6pm on the 3rd Tuesday each month (unless specified) in the DEN, leader Nancy Dodge. For our March meeting we will be making the pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, please arrive about 5pm on March 5th, Dinner begins at 6pm.

NEXT **Discipleship Team meeting** is on Sunday, March 3rd following worship in the DEN.

Eye Glasses for Haiti

Thank you to all that donated eye glasses for the Haiti Mission Trip!



Summer Camp - It's not too early to think about your summer! Grotonwood has the programs already on their website & there are brochures in the church office. They are having an Open House on April 29th from 12-4pm to meet the staff & participate in some of the activities the camp has to offer.

Thank you to Rev Cindy for leading us with **Bible study** and prayer meetings while Pastor Laura was on Maternity leave.

Our next **meeting** is March 3rd after worship.

Thank you to all that took part in our **FUN Fundraiser**. We collected \$46.00 - Watch out for our next FUN Fundraiser April 7 to celebrate The Red Sox Home opener.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

The Discipleship Team is responsible for setting up a schedule for Coffee Fellowship on Sundays. It can be very difficult to get volunteers in a timely manner so we have decided to have each Team take a Sunday. If you/your team members feel they cannot take this on, please contact the office; a monetary donation in lieu of providing refreshments would be greatly appreciated.

This Months Schedule is:

- March 3 Worship Team
- March 10 Finance Team
- March 17 Pastoral/Personnel Relations Team
- March 24 Mission Team
- March 31 Nominating Team

SHROVE TUESDAY

All are invited to join us on Tuesday, March 5th at 6pm for a Pancake Supper.



History: Shrove Tuesday is a day of celebration as well as penitence, because it's the last day before Lent. Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. Giving up foods: but not wasting them. In the old days there were many foods that observant Christians would not eat during Lent: foods such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the shroving Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without going off. The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name Mardi Gras; meaning Fat Tuesday. Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

MISSION TEAM

- We welcome back Pastor Laura from her maternity leave. The Mission Team will schedule a meeting with her shortly to discuss the disbursement of Spaulding and ABF interest income available to help with the work of I-M and AB Home Mission Society.
- Thank you to Ruth Thatcher, Linda O'Neil, Dolores Frommer, Jim Richards and Zelda & Bob Williams who volunteered to help serve at the **Community Supper** on February 6th. We will be hosting another one soon.
- Please bring a can of baked beans and/or a jar of spaghetti sauce every Sunday in March for the **Acton Food Pantry**.
- We are encouraging gifts for **Loving Hearts fund**. Please think about a gift if you feel so moved to do so.



- We are collecting donation for **the America For Christ offering** during the month of March. The America for Christ Offering is the American Baptist response to the needs of home missions within and beyond the local congregation in witness and service for Christ as mandated by the Great Commission. Gifts are channeled through National Ministries and Regional Ministries to fund home mission, education and local community ministries.

- Joan Richards coordinated with **Habitat for Humanity** Acton volunteer rep. to supply of luncheon and snacks for Tess Tessier's team of painting volunteers on January 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thanks to Nancy Emerson Lombardo and Jim Richards who were part of the work team, and Zelda Williams and Elise Erikson who made desserts, to Roche Brothers who provided a gift card which covered most of the cost, to Dolores Fromer for the case of drinking water, and to helpers who served, Ruth Thatcher, Rev. Cindy Maybeck, Zelda Williams, and Joan Richards. It was a great day and so appreciated.



WABC WOMEN

- **Birthday** cards will be made for our Sunshine committee on Friday, March 15th at 10am.
- Thank you to all who contributed to the **Love Gift** during the month of February. Boxes and envelopes are still available.
- **WABC Women's Calendar of Events** is available on the WABC Women's page on the church website.
- **ABWMOFMA Spiritual Retreat** titled "Hitting the Reset Button" is on March 1&2 at Grotonwood. Workshops include journaling, meditation, prayer, worship, walking, reflection & knitting. More information & registration forms are available on the bulletin board in fellowship hall or on the WABC Women's page of our website. All girls & women are encouraged to attend, if you have a financial hardship please speak to Zelda Williams.
- **FUNDRAISER for WABC Women's Mission Work** - Beginning March 4th thru March 25th the WABC Women is running a Pampered Chef Fundraising campaign. The link: <https://www.pamperedchef.com/party/WABCWomenFundraiser>
If you are on Facebook, From March 18th thru 22nd there will be various engaging posts along with highlighted products & recipes and prizes. If you are not on Facebook, don't worry, we also have catalogs for you to peruse and place an order by March 25th! This is an excellent opportunity to purchase items for Easter, Mother's Day, Bridal Showers or other gift giving event you have coming this spring.



COMMON THURSDAYS, SPRING 2019

Soup and bread at 5:45 pm, discussion or activity at 6:15 p.m.-7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, First Baptist Church of Littleton, 461 King St. If you want to join their pastor in making soup or bread, and for conversation, kitchen office hours are 12-2 on the following Thursdays:

March: Other Perspectives

3/7/19, 5:45 p.m.: *Spiritual Practices: Christian Meditation Practices for Lent, part 1:* Why should anyone—especially Christians—meditate? Does meditation have spiritual and theological value? Is it prescribed in scripture? How does it differ from prayer? We will try a couple practices and set up a 40-day practice for Lent. Recommended reading: *One Breath at a Time: A Skeptic's Guide to Christian Meditation* by J. Dana Trent, chapters 1-4.

3/21/19, 5:45 p.m.: *Asking the Hard Questions: Normal, Remembering or Not?* Based on his award-winning book, *Seven Steps to Managing Your Memory: What's Normal, What's Not, and What to Do About It*, Dr. Andrew Budson will explain how individuals can distinguish changes in memory due to Alzheimer's versus normal aging, what medications, vitamins, diets, and exercise regimes can help, and the best habits, strategies, and memory aids to use, in seven simple steps. Dr. Budson is Director of Education at the Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Center, among other roles. Co-sponsored by West Acton Baptist Church.

St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale

You are invited to NOT bake a cake, pie, cookies, or brownies. You do NOT have to find the recipe. You do NOT have to shop for the ingredients. You do NOT have to mix. You do NOT have to cook. You do NOT have to cut. You do NOT have to wrap. You do NOT have to wash dishes. You do NOT have to clean up your kitchen. You do NOT have to deliver the baked product. You do NOT have to stand in the heat/cold/rain to sell the baked product. You can write a check to The West Acton Baptist Church - Memo: **Bakeless Bake Sale** and stay home and enjoy doing something yourself or with your family! This Fundraiser is sponsored by the Fundraising Team with proceeds going toward the church budget. A Cake Box located in fellowship hall will be available for your donation on **March 17th**!



CELEBRATIONS

March Birthdays

Bob Williams	March 9	Owen O'Neil	March 18
Nancy Hoover	March 23	Alicia Mainville	March 29

March Anniversaries NONE

FUNDRAISING

Coffee - We place an order for coffee the first Monday of every month. You may fill out an order form from the back of the sanctuary or fill out the form on our [website](#). The cost is \$11/lb for Regular – Whole/Ground/Medium/Dark and \$12/lb for Decaf Whole/Ground/Medium/Dark. The coffee is Fair Trade & Organic and is roasted & shipped within 24 hours. Our church gets \$3/lb for every pound we sell. Once you taste this coffee you'll never want anything else. NEXT orders going in at 9am on **Monday, March 4th**.

Amazon - Don't forget to click on the Amazon.com link on our [website](#) so that we earn 4-6% of everything you purchase during that visit. **Please spread the word to your friends and family** by telling your them to click on the Amazon.com clipart on our website! If you forget, Amazon may prompt you for AmazonSmile, here is our direct link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-6067819> Your click does make a difference!! Last year, we took in almost \$350, keep clicking!

RADA Cutlery - We have a continuous internet Fundraiser through RADA Cutlery. Please use this link to purchase items directly from RADA. Share the link with your friends, family & Facebook!! Rada Cutlery is 100% American Made – raw materials and construction and has made & sold over 150,000,000 knives since 1948, earning the reputation for remarkable cutlery, service, and value.

https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=837262.422f8&utm_source=refersion&utm_medium=influencers&utm_campaign=837262.422f8

FACILITIES TEAM

- The elevator door has been replaced and works fine. A couple of punch list items have to be done.
- A step in the central street hall way had chip out of it. Phil duct taped it back together and Jim will do a more permanent fix.
- We had a frozen drain in the kitchen, Nancy and Ruth took care of it.
- Jim had to replace the Thermostat on the third floor in the educational wing.
- We have bubbling paint in the lower stairwell by the kitchen again; Jim and Dick have looked at some alternatives on fixing the problem. It looks like we will have to repaint the wall at this time.
- We are scheduled for an inspection of the kitchen by the town of Acton.
- Jim arranged for DDM to come in and fix the radiator in the sanctuary that was not working. The radiator fix did make a big difference in bringing the heat up much better in the sanctuary

BLANKETS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

The following donations have been made to date for a blanket or kit to Church World Service in honor or memory of their loved ones:

Elise Erikson

In honor of Wesley and Jake Erikson

Kathy Kristoff

In honor of Helen Book

Wendy Maxfield

In honor of Polly Miller
In honor of Alice Howes
In memory of Marjory Maxfield
In memory of Nancy Girvan

Elizabeth Babbitt

In honor of my mother Virginia Babbitt

In memory of Terry Quasirazi

Precious Isibor

In honor of my sons Wale Ashafa and Andre Tongo

Bev Thatcher

In honor of my church family

Ruth Thatcher

In honor of Rev. Cindy

Jim and Joan Richards

In honor of our children and grandchildren

In honor of our friends
In honor of Rev. Cindy Maybeck

Michael and Nancy Henry

In honor of all refugees in all parts of the world

Carol Peabody

In honor of all the WABC Women with love, Carol

EASTER FLOWERS

The Flower Committee will be taking orders for tulips to decorate the church this year. They are taking orders for Lilies for those who wish them for home, but they will not be placed around the church due to allergies so please pick them up in the coatroom on Easter.

I wish to honor: _____

I wish to remember: _____

# of Yellow Tulips _____ X \$ 7.00 =	\$ _____
# of Lavender Tulips _____ X \$ 7.00 =	\$ _____
# of Red Tulips _____ X \$ 7.00 =	\$ _____
Donation to Decorate	\$ _____
# of Lilies _____ X \$ 8.00 =	\$ _____
Total Amount enclosed	\$ _____

Please enclose Cash or Check (made out to WABC, memo: Easter Flowers) & return **no later than March 24th!**

Name: _____

Envelope #: _____

Thank You!