



May you be blessed with the joy of Christ's resurrection this Easter! We have a rich morning for you this Sunday. Make sure you invite friends and family to join us as we praise God and hear of His richest gift.

March Madness...

This term is usually reserved for college basketball, but we had a packed month of to help us get out of the winter doldrums.



The Haddad Baby Shower got our month started. Christina Clark and Doffy did a marvelous job of organizing the big event. Our youth provided the decorating expertise, and a number of you contributed the refreshments, including a beautiful cake. Isabelle Catherine Haddad, weighing in at 6.5 pounds bookmarked the month with her arrival at 1:30 am on April first (Doffy

Falk's birthday as well!) Our love goes to the Haddad family!

Pastor Andrew's passionate sermon to kick off **World Outreach Week** set the tone for a week of worship and missions, both local and worldwide. **WOW Family Night International Dinner** was "muy bueno", as only Elisabeth Meyer and her crew can create. After dinner I shared some of my experiences during the latest short term mission to Romania where the Gospel was presented over 650 times, resulting in 224 professions of faith, while our medical clinic served over 400 in various needs and distributed over 300 pairs of new eye glasses. Thank you again for prayer and financial support, as well as your personal comments and words of encouragement. Involvement in short term missions is life changing...both in going and for those receiving. Talk to me anytime about how you can serve.

The Sound of Angels from Bethel Christian Center in Portland, Maine, were the focal point at a wonderful concert on Saturday, March 7. The unique style of worship and harmony based on native African praise songs was a delight, their testimony powerful. Their pastor gave us a better understanding of the fellowship they have developed, and his personal call from the Lord to Maine. Mama Meyer's brownie sundaes were a great way to top off the evening and the conga dance line



was pretty amazing as well!



World Outreach Week ended on Sunday the 8th with more emotion, worship, praise and moving testimonies.

Elisha Cho was our guest preacher that

morning, a Korean by birth, raised in the UK, and now a pastor at Danvers Church of the Nazarene. Using John 3:16 as his theme, he gave us a greater understanding of the introduction and growth of the Gospel in Korea. We were all inspired. Pastor Elisha and his wife, Sarah, will soon be expecting their first child so please keep them in prayer.

There was one more piece to the exciting week as Abraham Liu addressed us at coffee hour after the morning service. His story was another experience of God's love and protection. Abraham established a house church in China that resulted in his receiving "house arrest" for his efforts. He gave us an idea of what the church is like today in his homeland, and described challenges in his ministry there. His faith, courage and sense of humor all have played significant roles in his walk with the Lord.



The youth ventured to Boston after hearing Abraham Liu. Mike Haddad and the teens had a great time...*"It was an amazing day in Boston. With the beautiful sunshine, the Frog Pond Outing became less about a slushy skating event and more about exploration and spontaneity. It was a day of eating at Faneuil Hall, enjoying the brisk air of the ocean, meeting new city folk, and enjoying fellowship with God's people at Park Street Church. What a wonderful day God orchestrated for our youth!"*

A **Seder** was held on March 14, as the Outreach team, under Elder Paul Sidmore, continued to provide us with enrichment beyond WOW. Karol Joseph gave a complete guide to all of the traditions associated with Passover and the Hebrew

faith. It was particularly moving to see so many of our youth there to come to an understanding of the ritual. After the Seder, Pastor Andrew led us in Communion. A time of fellowship and snacks completed the evening, thanks to loving preparation by Marcia Sidmore, Doffy Falk and Carolyn Wittlinger.



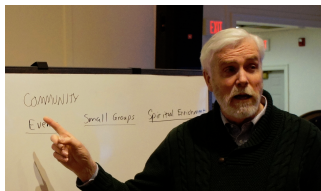
We were blessed to have Karol Joseph join us at coffee hour on Sunday to tell us more about Jews for Jesus and her particular ministry on the streets of NYC. Karol is one of our sponsored missionaries, and it is always a delight to hear her reports of serving the Lord.

After all this, we were rewarded with a wonderful Outreach Prayer Letter from our new editor, Norma Haddad. We are always looking for new talent, and we praise God for the gifts He has given Norma.

More March Madness...



March Madness continued with a **Men's Kickoff Breakfast** on March 21 beginning a new men's ministry at FCCB with a full house. What a better way to begin than to have Bill Meyer share his life testimony with us. Admired by all, Bill is a vital cog in all that happens at First Church. I am honored to call him my friend, and like all of us, witness his tireless efforts in every aspect of our body. Chief Giovannacci and I gave our own tributes to Bill, and Dan Frasier led an inspiring devotional. Plus the kitchen crew drew rave reviews for their manly fare.



Family Night on Wednesday, the 18th, included discussion about **community life at First Church**, led by Elder John Noyes (our new elder of church life). We had a chance to suggest better ways to show fellowship and gather with our church body. Keep your eye out for more details soon!



By the way **Rick Haywood** is the new elder of facilities. You can see Rick is taking his responsibilities seriously as he attacks an ice dam at the FLC that was causing water to leak into the main room. Attaway, Rick! Other changes with elder leadership included Ron Giovannacci moving from facility responsibilities over to finance.

We gathered for an amazing **church wide prayer night**, Friday, March 27. As we approached the throne of grace, we gave thanks and petitioned on behalf of First Church.

Stop Hunger Now



The next morning we hosted our second **Stop Hunger Now** food packaging event. Your financial contributions made this a reality, as well as your time and effort. Many from our community joined us (the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Masco students and Pastor Gronberg and others from Second Church) and even brought supplies for our Food Pantry. For some town folk it was an opportunity to meet Pastor Andrew and Youth Minister Mike. You all are so amazing! We packaged 11,000 meals. Yeah, get outta town - eleven thousand!

God blessed our **Palm Sunday** service with a full church, palms and warm spirits as Pastor Andrew again presented a Gospel message with flair and enthusiasm. The music was special, particularly Abby's rendition of "The Holy City". Our new projector was in place and helped us follow words to the music. Thanks to our kids who handed out palms during the final hymn. How grateful we were that Gail Warren was there to add her experience.

And into April...

A heads up - another way you can contribute to FCCB is by saving tubes from paper towels, cans, cheese and yogurt containers and plastic eggs for **VBS** and placing them in the hallway by the office. Other ways to help? Be in prayer for VBS, ask Christina how you can serve, and invite your neighbors and friends to save the dates (July 27-31) and plan to bring their kiddies.



"Turning Point" will be our service on the Sunday morning after Easter, April 12. Kelsey Giovannacci (first row, second from the right) is among the talented young people from Eastern University, St David's, PA, who perform with grace and harmony in a very special worship setting.



We'll welcome **Mark Whitacre, "The Informant,"** as our special guest on Saturday, April 25 at 7:00 pm. A full length feature motion picture was created about his life (starring Matt Damon) so you will want to hear the story first hand. Despite helping the FBI to bring down corporate corruption, Mark did a little embezzling on the side and landed in prison for 8 years. But God had a plan. While in prison he met Christ via the ministry of Chuck Colson. How great is that? Note the date and plan to bring your friends!

May 2 is the **CCCC Regional Meeting** at Hamilton Congregational Church. Last year's meeting was right here at FCCB and was outstanding. We'd love to see you there. Put May 2 on your calendar and drive down the road a piece for a great day of fellowship and sharing with other local CCCC ers.

Pray for our elder board as we plan to get away for our **annual retreat** at Oceanwood in Maine. We want His guidance as we plan for the future and look for ways to serve Him more effectively.

And keep praying...

Our prayer list is still a lengthy one...

Keep **Joe Saloom** in prayer as he recovers at home from treatments.

Reid Smith has undergone radiation treatments, and we are looking for his strength to be renewed.

Deb McGill has been able to join us a number of times lately at First Church but still needs our prayers.

Sallyann King had a recent fall at home.

Doffy Falk continues to serve in many areas but still is bothered by her leg that caused her fall not long ago.

Leslie Olson had a reoccurrence of back issues.

Dave Allen was recently hospitalized, and now re-cooping at home.

Pray to the Great Physician for recovery for all of them.

May God bring deep blessings to your heart this Easter,

Rick

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. II Cor. 13:14

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First Church Congregational Boxford | P. O. Box 326 | Boxford | MA | 01921