



New Colony Baptist Church
30 River Street
Billerica MA, 01821
978-663-4773

Highlights for March 2010

- ✓ March 5: Africa Fundraiser (see inside) 7-8:30 pm
- ✓ March 10: Quarterly Business Meeting, 6:30 pm
- ✓ March 13, 27: Prayer Walking, 10 am
- ✓ March 21: Parent Cross Culture Meeting, 5-6:30 pm
- ✓ March 24: Lenten Luncheon, hosted by NCBC at Noon
- ✓ March 28: Passover Seder from 5:00-6:30 pm
- ✓ March 31: No prayer meeting or Middle School Choir

See Inside For More Details!

March 2010

NEW COLONY NEWS

Love God Love Others
Serve the World Through Jesus Christ

Getting Ready for Easter Walking the Walk of Faith Saturdays, March 13 and March 27

On **Saturday, March 13 starting at 10 am** we take our faith to the streets of Billerica in a special prayer walking adventure. As a community, we will walk through the streets of nearby Billerica neighborhoods praying for God to change the hearts and lives of the people in each home that we pass.

We will then go back to these same neighborhoods on **Saturday, March 27** to place door hangers on homes that will include an invitation to our Maundy Thursday and Easter services as well as a card directing those interested to a website that explains how to become a Christian.

Show up at **10 AM on March 13th or March 27** or both if you would like to be involved with this ministry. Prayer walking can be transformational to those for whom we pray.

“This is our unique opportunity for us to saturate our community with prayer and invite our neighbors, who are weary and worn out, to come find hope in Jesus Christ.” - Pastor Phil Wilkes

Quest 11 Reflections

(For more, see the Quest blog <http://questne.blogspot.com>)

Katie Waters—New Colony Youth on Quest South Africa Team

Hi! I am Katie Waters, one of the Quest 11 students who went to South Africa February 11-19! I wanted to thank you all for your support of me and I wanted to share with you one of the important things I took away with me from this



trip. Even though many people in SA live in poverty and have very little, they have so much love and joy! For example, the orphans at Noorsberg (a rural village) who had nothing. They were lucky if they ate one meal a day, and we couldn't understand what they were saying. They didn't understand us very much either. Yet they loved us so much! Without knowing anything about us, they loved us unconditionally.

Also just talking to people hit me. At the homeless shelter in downtown Durban that we went to, Elaina (another girl on the trip) and I were talking to this woman who fully opened herself up to us and talked about her struggles. It was hard not to love her, she needed love so badly. We prayed for her and cried with her and held her. Again Elaina and I were talking to someone in the mall who opened herself up to us. It's hard not to love someone when they need it so badly.

I want to love unconditionally. It's harder at home when people are complaining not to judge them or join them. I want to have joy in my trials, and be content in my discontentment. There are people here in Billerica who are in desperate need of love and I want to be able to give love to them freely without any strings attached. I want to show the love of Christ fully and have His joy in my heart.

Calendar for March 2010

Youth and Church Wide Events

- March 5:** Africa Fundraiser from 7-8:30 pm
- March 6:** WMU Mission's Celebration from 9-3 pm
- March 10:** Quarterly Business Meeting, 6:30 pm
- March 13:** Prayer Walking starting at 10 am
- March 14:** Church Council Meeting, after church.
- March 21:** Mandatory Cross Culture Parent meeting: 5-6:30 pm
- March 24:** Lenten Luncheon at First Congregational at noon.
- March 27:** Prayer Walking, starting at 10 am.
- March 28:** Passover Seder from 5:00-6:30 pm
- March 31:** No Prayer meeting or Middle School Choir

Self-Defense Class

Friday March 5th
from 7-8:30pm*

Come help raise money for our **medical mission trip** to East Africa this summer! Learn some **excellent defense skills** to help you protect yourself, and **give to a worthy cause at the same time!**

New Colony Baptist Church is sending a group of 10 to **Tenwek Hospital and Mfangano Island in Kenya** this July to serve in many ways!!

Asking for donations at the door...
Anything from \$5 - \$50 welcome!

Callahan's Karate Studio
20 North Rd, Bedford, MA
For more info: Call New Colony

@ 978-663-4773





Birthdays for March



Jamie Wangia	1	Angie Harrington	17
Mike LaPlante	5	Ruth Hart	17
Jared Fleming	7	Janet Gilliam	17
Jack Roach	10	Mark Oxner	20
Frank Lane	10	Harold Stinehelfer	23
Tracy Pelrine	11	Jean McLeod	26
Richard Sheehan	12	Stacy Crawford	27
Briana Froemming	14	Shayla Swoyer	29
Devin Alley	16	Noah Belfiore	31

Place of Promise Ministry

New Colony Baptist church has been pleased to minister to the men and women at the Place of Promise in Lowell. This year we provided a Christmas lunch and presents for them in December, as well as an ongoing weekly Bible study.

The Place of Promise is a special Christian Community in Lowell that helps people get back on their feet again after dealing with a life crisis. Many of the inhabitants have been homeless, jobless, friendless and hopeless. Beth Kidd the director of Place of Promise and a devoted Christian writes in her 2010 newsletter: “Most who come to Place of Promise have spent their very young lives in darkness, separated completely from God and His redeeming love. “

A young man who was homeless and trying to die last Christmas wrote in his journal: “So it’s Christmas Eve. I really can’t think of another place I would want to be right now. I feel safe here and it just feels right like I’m at home. I always think about last year and where I could be and I am so grateful. I always thought of Christmas growing up as a day to get presents and Santa and all that stuff. It’s different when you look at it as a day of the most important man ever’s birthday. It’s really unbelievable when you think of how you are saved because He suffered and sacrificed for me. My real father died, but not for me; it was cause of his own problems. So God is the only Father I have. In a way I want to make Him proud. I woke up early this morning and I’m just blown away at what He is doing and how He is helping me change my life. I’m just blessed. I have love for God today and that is my best gift.” Thank you for making this day special in a new way!”

LENT_HOLY WEEK_EASTER

What is Lent? We've all heard the phrase “I'm giving (fill in the blank) up for Lent.” **Lent** is the 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday until Easter observed by Christians as a season of fasting and penitence in preparation for Easter (Ash Wednesday is the seventh Wednesday before Easter and the first day of Lent, on which many Christians receive a mark of ashes on the forehead as a token of penitence and mortality. This year, Ash Wednesday was February 17th.) Whew! Did you get all of that?!

In the Baptist tradition, Lent is all but ignored. Why observe Lent? Why do we need to “prepare” for Easter?

When Paul and I were expecting our children, we knew that their births would be a time of great celebration. But there were certain things we had to do to prepare for that celebration, making sure that “our house was in order” to receive the children God was blessing us with.

As believers and followers of Christ, ideally we want to spend every day fully aware of the sacrifice God made for us, coming before Him in repentance and adoration, receiving His forgiveness and the embrace of His love. If you're like me, we fail to meet that ideal. **Lent** gives us an opportunity to examine ourselves before God and to realize anew the wonder of Christ's sacrifice and saving grace. Then, when **Resurrection Sunday (Easter)** arrives, we can truly appreciate what we are celebrating – not the Easter Bunny, not the coming of spring, not tulips and lilies – but Jesus Christ, risen Savior, King of kings and Lord of lords.

How you observe Lent is up to you, but we encourage you to find ways to prepare your heart for the Celebration to come. Then, during Holy Week, we have special worship times scheduled to help us walk with Christ through the last days of His earthly life – to remind us “that He became sin, who knew no sin,” that we might have Life.

For a complete list of all Holy Week Services turn to page 6.

Passover Seder

March 28th from 5:00-6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

The **Passover Seder** is the oldest and one of the most important of Jewish religious festivals. It is based on the rituals of ancient Israel preserved primarily in *Exodus 12-14* in which the Israelites celebrated their deliverance by God from slavery in Egypt.

This celebration encompasses much more than just a sequence of events; it truly becomes a way to celebrate the very nature of God, His gracious work in the world and involves everyone in the telling of the story of God.

It is in this larger dimension that Jesus adopted the Passover service as a sacramental remembrance of God's new work of deliverance in Christ, and allows Christians to celebrate this ancient festival!
(Dennis Bratcher)



There are the basic elements needed for a symbolic Seder: from left clockwise, Matzah, a bowl of salt water, wine or red grape juice, hard boiled egg (optional), grated horseradish, parsley, charoset.

Please come and experience this amazing time of worship as a community, understanding in the deepest way the sacrifice, death and resurrection of Jesus!!

Attention: All Cross Culture Parents!

On **March 21st, from 5:00-6:30pm** (during Cross Culture) we will be having a **mandatory** parent meeting/fellowship in the Fellowship Hall in the church. Our desire is to have a time to discuss parenting issues and to talk about how the youth ministry here longs to partner better with you in this major aspect of your lives.

We have been praying about how to assist you in the amazingly huge responsibility and privilege of raising your children, and strongly desire your attendance at this very important meeting. (Refreshments will be provided)

There will be no Cross Culture on March 28th due to the Seder

LENT...HOLY WEEK...EASTER from page 3

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP - Sunday, March 28, 10:45 a.m.

PASSOVER SEDER – Sunday, March 28, 5:00 p.m.

Seder is the feast commemorating the exodus of the Jews from Egypt, celebrated on the first night of Passover. This is the meal that Jesus and His disciples took as their last meal together, the night on which He was betrayed. We will be led in this ceremonial meal by the Lish family, Messianic Jews (Jews who believe in and follow Jesus as Lord).

MAUNDAY THURSDAY – April 1, 7:00 p.m.

The Choir Ministry Team will present “Come, Touch the Robe”. This work uses the simple garment Jesus wore as a thematic device to remind us of Jesus during His last days on earth, and to highlight different aspects of His identity. To a suffering woman, His robe conveyed divine healing. On the mountaintop, His robe shone and filled the disciples' eyes with his glory and authority. When Jesus laid His robe aside in the upper room, it displayed His humility as a servant as He washed His disciples' feet. At the tomb, the grave clothes He left behind help us remember His resurrection and victory over death. We encourage you to invite friends, family, co-workers to this service.



GOOD FRIDAY – April 2, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

The sanctuary will be open during this time for prayer and reflection. There will not be a planned service, but there will be music, slides, and other guides to help you as you reflect on the crucifixion and sacrifice of Jesus. You are welcome to stop by for a few minutes, or to stay the whole hour and a half.

EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION!- April 4, 10:45 a.m.