

Summer 2014

The Messenger

A publication of The First Baptist Church of Westfield, NJ



Sports: A Metaphor for Christian Living

“The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat” was the introduction to the Wide World of Sports telecast of long ago. For those of us who are sport enthusiasts, we don’t often find the right words to express to non-sport enthusiasts what the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat really means – it doesn’t seem to make sense to those who just see ball and bat, or ball and hoop, or ball and racket, or ball and feet, or puck and skates, or ball and club, or water and splash, or snow and sleds, or people running around from one place to the next, or swimming around from one end of the pool to the next. Nope, for those who just see the stick figures and the round ball, it may seem nonsensical.

But for those who see the strategy, the skill, the focus intensity, the athleticism, the endless hours of committed practice, the physical prowess, the conditioning, the passion of healthy competition, and the possibility of exhilaration of achievement, sports can and is a metaphor for life and for disciplined living.

With World Cup fever all around us, the NBA finals just ending, the baseball season in full swing, the Wimbledon Tennis Grand Slam starting and many wanting to use the summer months to practice a

swing or two, it is just the right time to unite our enjoyment of exercise and sports with our daily Christian walk.

The Bible uses quite a few sports metaphors to help us put daily life in perspective and motivate us to live disciplined, passionate and focused living as followers of Jesus Christ and his teachings. For a great athlete training and pushing him/herself to do the very best are not optional exercises, they are mandatory and so should these be for those who want to experience life in abundance.

I invite you to consider the following words of Scripture:

“Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.” I Corinthians 9:24-27.

“Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise

for both the present life and the life to come.” I Timothy 4:7b-8

“You were running well; who prevented you from obeying the truth? Such persuasion does not come from the one who calls you.” Galatians 5:7-8.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness...” II Timothy 4:7-8a

So let us run the Christian race with fun, fitness, family, friends and good food. I encourage you this summer to think holistically about our Christian walk. Even if you don’t participate in competitive sports, there are many ways to get out and exercise and enjoy the outdoors: a walk or a jog in the park or around the block, a bicycle ride, a hike in the woods, and many others. Let’s take good care of our body (the temple of the Holy Spirit), good care of our mind, good care of our heart, and of our spirit (pray, worship the Lord and study the Word). Have a great summer!

Pastor Mayra





Breaking News: Youth group will be holding its mission trip July 31st – August 5th in Otego NY. During the day we'll be volunteering at Athelas Therapeutic Riding, an organization that offers various equine assisted activities to individuals with physical, mental and emotional challenges in a caring, relaxed atmosphere. After volunteering we'll be enjoying a variety of activities including swimming, paintball, bbqing, hiking and more.

We'll be meeting every Sunday in July @ 5:00 for devotion, fun, food, and fellowship. Anyone grades 6 – 12 are invited to attend. We're still looking for volunteers for a couple of the dinners and also for drivers for an amusement park trip.

Also we've added a Computer Science course for the summer. It started at the end of June and will generally meet Tues and Thurs from 2 – 4 PM. Ages 12 – 30 are invited to attend. We'll be covering high level languages such as MIT's Scratch and JavaScript, web development, and low level languages and constructs such as C and ASCII. The first week of July we won't be meeting, but may have a review session on Sunday the 6th if interest is expressed. Certificates will be awarded to participants who complete a significant portion of the problem sets. If you are interested in joining us please contact Glen Brown glen@wholestep.org.

Choir Notes

Congratulations... to Song Leader drummer, **Devin Araujo**, on his graduation from A.R. Johnson HS in June... and to **Michael Rosin**, one of our 2013 summer organists, who graduated from Montclair State University. Unfortunately, Michael will not be able to play for us this summer as he will be starting a Master's program in music composition at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music...

Prayer of Thanksgiving... for the arrival of **Avery Marie Mathews**, daughter of Greg and Stephanie Mathews, and the first grandchild for Cindy and Bill Mathews, our Minister of Music...

Thanks... to **Paul Koslowski** for playing piano while Bill Mathews was on vacation on May 25. Paul, along with **Glen Brown**, guitar, and organist, **George Lachenauer**, will be leading the music when Bill is away this summer... to **Johnny Klikushin** for playing clarinet on the Children's Choir anthem, Ken Medema's *Tree Song*, on June 1... to our Youth Choir alumni who returned on June 8 to lead the singing for Youth Sunday — **Marlee Araujo**, **Katie Engel**, **Elliott Johnson**, **Erin Klein**, **Jesse** and **Taylor Kline**, **Scott Lind**, and **Colleen** and **Maggie McGuire**, along with Youth Group member, **Melissa Winey**... and to our instrumentalists on Youth Sunday — **Devin Araujo**, drums; **Jake Brown**, guitar; **Joseph** and **Melanie Della Peruti**, trombone; **Johnny Klikushin**, clarinet; and **Owen Martin**, tenor sax.

Don't forget to...



“LIKE”
Us!



...**Ike Alvarado, Tom Ball, Paul Clark, Warren Hanscom, Nancy Lambros, Dudley Painter, Tyronne Singh, & Wendell Scott** for sprucing up our grounds last month.

...**David Taylor** for sharing his knowledge with our Social Media Team.

...**Caroline Siess, Lil Wheeler, and Dot Waugh** for helping to mail the June Messenger;

...**Matt Barton** for fixing our noisy sanctuary fan and welcome as our nightly custodian, checking on our church.

.....**Carleen Morris, Linda Johnson, and all those** who helped prepare and assist with our Church Picnic

...**Sirlene and Marcelo Roman** for hosting the Young Adult Get-Togethers.

...**Rintu Mathew** for help moving items to new CE office and for inventory work in our library.

...**All our new and continuing** church officers and committee members!

Correction: Barron Cashdollar's cell # is incorrect in the Church Directory. It should be 908-202-0054

Singles Fellowship

The following topics were discussed at Sunday Morning Singles Discussion Group meetings in June.

* *Elements of wellness.*

* *Practical aspects of falling in love.*

* *How do we use the gift of time?*

* *What issues are we ignoring?*

All are invited to come downstairs for a second cup of coffee and lively discussion.

Maryann Friscia

July & August, for the children

Congratulations to our
2014 Children's Bible
recipients:

Olivia Morris, Jeffrey Morris,
and Michael Singh

and to

The Grace Lee Thompson
Scholarship Award

recipients:

Devin Araujo, Molly Engel,
Trent Gabriel, Tyler Martin,

Brianna Virzi, and

Denise Virzi.



Music **Memory Verse** **Juice boxes**

M A N I A

Crafts

Ice cream "Sunday" party! Sept 7.

{PRAISE}	{PROMISES}	{CHARACTER}
Psalm 118:24	Jeremiah 29:11	Luke 6:31
Psalm 136:1	Philippians 4:13	Colossians 3:20
Psalm 139:14	1 Peter 5:7	Colossians 3:23

*Also, Save the date: **Sunday, July 13.....***
An afternoon mission trip for the children and parents to work in a HomeFirst community garden! Bring a picnic lunch for your family and come along!



Vacation Bible School Jungle Safari!
For FBC Children and Friends, ages 3 thru 5th gr,
July 22-24, 10am-Noon,
Register online or through the office
Songs, Games, Bible stories, Crafts, Mission
Project, Campfire, Snacks

We still need you! Save your empty paper towel

rolls and drop them off in the office. Sign up for other supplies to be donated or loaned after worship on Sundays. Volunteers are still needed in order for us to have a successful outreach program on July 22-24 from 10am-noon here at the church. No planning necessary, please consider helping us by:

- Leading and supervising children through activities – Thurs 10am-noon
- Assist in supervising children through activities – Thurs 10am-noon
- Directing groups of children through games – Tues – Thurs 10am-noon
- Assisting in pre-K / K classroom – Tues – Thurs 10am-noon
- Serving children snacks – Weds – Thurs – 10am-noon

This is the time of year when there is a transition on the committee and this was a major one. After four years on missions – one as a member and three as Chairperson – Janet Winey completed her service. Although no longer an “official” member of the committee, Janet intends to be an active participant in mission projects. She will continue as Family Promise coordinator. Janet will be recruiting volunteers to cook, serve and be an overnight host. She reminds us that the success of mission service projects depends on the participation of many people in the congregation, not just those on the committee.

Len Gabriel is the new Chairperson and will be using his teaching experience and creativity to lead the committee. Marlee Araujo and Cheryl Rosario are new members who bring experience as well as enthusiasm to the committee. They will be joining Nova Spinner who has led the craft activities for the HomeFirst Children's Christmas party.

The committee is exploring new avenues of service with a possible focus on beauty and blessings. Combining God's real presence (**blessings**) with the **beauty** that is inherent in God's creation, the Mission Committee is discerning ways to blend the two in our mission endeavors. There are many possibilities to add beauty and blessings to someone's life and in turn to help them incorporate it into their own life.





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**WISHING YOU A
HAPPY & SAFE SUMMER!**



- July 2** Wesley Thomas
- July 6** Dario Diaz
Beth Hanscom
- July 7** Michael Klikushin
- July 9** Marilyn Gulotta
- July 13** Beth Frantz
- July 14** Allen Chin
Taylor Kline
- July 15** Alan Greenlaw
- July 17** Paul Koslowski
- July 18** Olivia & Jeffrey Morris
- July 20** Caroline Siess
- July 22** Dean Pratt
- July 23** Bill Mathews
Katie Virzi
- July 24** Colleen McGuire
- July 27** Mike Dobos
- July 29** Greg Scott
- July 31** Ken Wooster

- August 1** Devin Araujo
- August 2** Daniel Singh
- August 12** Mary Chin
Marge Miller
- August 13** Nancy Lambros
- August 14** Elaine Pratt
Bill Hopkins
- August 14** Cal Martin
- August 15** Katie Engel
- August 16** Melissa Winey
- August 17** Matt Barton
- August 21** Nova Spinner

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- July 7** Ken & Terry Wooster
- July 21** Cal & Nancy Martin
- July 27** Marcelo & Sirlene Roman
- Aug 22** Barron & Mary Cashdollar
- Aug 22** Dario Diaz & Suleima Rosario-Diaz
- Aug 24** Alan & Pam Greenlaw
- Aug 31** Leonard & Janet Gabriel

CHURCH STAFF

- Rev. Mayra Castañeda, *Senior Pastor*
- William R. Mathews, *Minister of Music*
- Katie McGuire, *Children's Ministry Coordinator*
- Glen Brown, *Youth Ministry Coordinator*
- Ricardo Ribeiro, *Assistant Youth Ministry Coordinator*
- Nancy Lambros, *Church Administrator*
- Adriana Rodriguez, *Custodian*

OUR PURPOSE

Coming together in joyful worship,
we're here...

- *To share the reality of God's love,*
- *To connect our lifestyles to Christian truth,*
- *And to put our faith into action through responding to needs in our community, nation, and world.*