

FCCB Youth News

DON'T MISS THIS

◆ Sunday Evening Worship Services

June 20th at 6:00 PM will mark our first evening services for the summer season, and afterward we will head to the youth room until 9:00 PM

◆ VBS – Hero Headquarters

August 16th – 20th will be a week filled with games, crafts, music, drama, and fun! If you are a teen interested in helping out with the activities, please contact Amanda Cable or Cynthia Bird

◆ Beach Games: July 7th

◆ Maine Wilderness Retreat: July 12th – 17th

Join us as we embark on a crazy adventure through the rugged coast of Maine as we hike, kayak, and swim through a week of physical and spiritual challenges.

◆ Mini Golf: July 21st

◆ Water Wars!: Aug 4th

◆ Six Flags: Aug. 11th

For more information on any of these events just take a look inside!



VERSE of the MONTH

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Matthew 13:45-46

Deep Thoughts... from Kevin Lance

I went through a few other verses until I finally realized that I kept coming back to this one because it is one of the best portrayals of how difficult it really is for us to actually live in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus says “the kingdom of heaven is like...” and gives us this beautiful story of someone finding the greatest treasure of his career. So great is it that he essentially gives up his entire fortune just to get this one prized possession.

Apparently pearls are not worth as much as they used to be, because when we talked about this parable in youth group everyone thought that the merchant was the dumbest guy on earth. The parable came up in our discussion on the Discipline of Simplicity, where we were talking about how we need to have the freedom to give up what we have for the kingdom of God. Some people did not see the point of the parable, but let me try to explain it a few different ways to shed some light on the power of this story.

So Jesus, in the midst of a series of statements about what the kingdom is like, spends a few sentences explaining this story. The parable often seems like folly to the conventional American mindset. It is impossible for us to conceive of giving up everything we have for something that seems so small. It seems that the value we place in things can only be found in whatever the price tag says. We have those Mastercard commercials that assure us that some things in life are priceless, but all they are really concerned about is helping us with those things that you can put a price on. Before we know it our culture has boiled everything down to dollars and cents, where the only things of value are those which have a price tag, and saying something is “priceless” actually means that it is “worthless.”

This may seem a harsh assessment of our culture, but I believe this consumer oriented, business-like attitude has great implications for

PARENTS CORNER

First of all, we want to thank you for the integral part that you play in the spiritual lives of your children, and for the amount of support and encouragement you have shown for the youth of our church in general. That having been said, there are a number of ways to further serve the youth that would be a great benefit both to our ministry and to those of you who desire to be more involved:

- **Youth Ministry Council** – This council meets on the second Monday of every month to discuss the needs and direction of the ministry to all the youth in the church, and offering assistance to the youth minister in planning, coordinating, and carrying out events. If interested in being a part of this ministry please contact Kevin or Doug

- **Drivers** – often we take the youth on wild and crazy adventures, but sometimes it is hard to work out how to get there if we have more youth than can fit with me and Stevo. If you are a parent of a student in the youth group that could be available to drive with advanced notice please contact Kevin to let him know so he can put you on the list.

- **Food** – Another thing we like to do very often in youth group is eat. In fact it is a part of just about every night we meet, and even though family night is over for the summer we would like to continue to share meals together.

the way we live in relation to God's kingdom and to each other. When we get caught up in the whirlwind of dollars and cents we begin to see everything through this cultural lens. Suddenly our friendships begin to be based on what assets the friend can bring to the table, rather than the merits of who that person is. Our parents and family members become of no more use to us than the gifts they buy us or the money they can give us to go out on Friday night. Life becomes a series of contractual moments where commerce is done: compensation exchanged for services rendered.

This even begins to apply to our spiritual life and our relationship with God. We begin to base our relationship with God on making and breaking deals with him. "Okay Lord, if you would only help me with my test tomorrow, I promise to pray every night this week." Or "Lord if you would just heal my friend, I promise to bring her to church with me." The craziest thing is that we often do not even follow through with these promises. Sometimes we even go so far as to apply numerical values to our devotions, where I score 20 points with God if I pray, and 30 points if I read the Bible today.

But God does not play the numbers game. His assessment of your value does not come from what you do for him, because let's face it, when it comes to our relationship with him, we don't bring a whole lot to the table. Instead God assesses you based on the value he instilled in you when he created you, and even goes so far as to show the way in which he values you by sending Jesus to die on the cross and be raised again so that our value might be made whole again.

So what does he ask for in return? Just one thing: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all of these things will be given to you as well" (Matt 6:33) Christ asks us to seek his kingdom first before anything else, which means before we search for the perfect car or house or phone or significant other or friend or school or music we must seek him. If we do it any other way then our priorities have been messed up and we are back where we started. The best part about this passage is that it demonstrates so well that when we seek the kingdom of heaven, which like the pearl is "priceless," (which, by the way, really means that it is so incredibly great that nothing you can have would compare to it,) then everything else will fade into the background in comparison with how truly awesome it is.

Have you found the kingdom of heaven yet? Are you seeking that above all things? Where is your value being placed? In numbers, dollars, and cents? Or in the Lord, who in making all things pronounced them to be "good" and us to be "very good"? All of that stuff that we worry about is like dust in the wind, but if we seek God's kingdom first, then we find the freedom to let God take care of those things.

Kevin

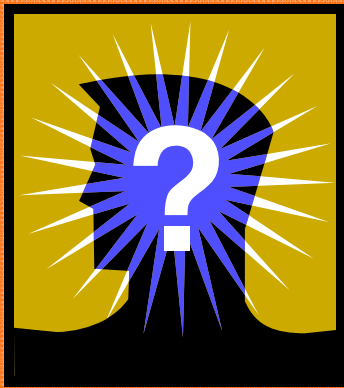
AREA SUMMER CONCERTS

- 07/09/2010 Lincoln Brewster
Alton Bay Christian Conference Center, Alton Bay, NH
603.875.6161
- 06/19/2010 Sevenglory at 6 pm
St Barnabas Episcopal Church, Falmouth, MA
508.548.3863
- 07/20/2010 As I Lay Dying
House of Blues, Boston, MA 732.462.4262
- 07/20/2010 Underoath
House of Blues, Boston, MA 732.462.4262
- 06/19/2010 ApologetiX in Bangor Maine info@apologetiX.com
- 08/4 to
8/7/2010 Soulfest—check out <http://www.thesoulfest.com>



SUMMER RIDDLE COMPETITION

**Solve this riddle and win a
free mini-golf trip with
Kevin and your choice of
two friends!**



**Email your answer to:
youth@First
Church
Boxford.org**

**I am the cousin
of the rose.**

**I'll show you the direction
in which you should go.**

**Look to the clouds,
you might find
me there.**

**Think of me often when
the wind blows through
your hair.**

What am I?



FCCB YOUTH GROUP MAJOR EVENTS INFO

Here are the details you need to know in order to **MAXIMIZE** your fun this summer!

Summer Starts Now! —June 19 from 3-10 PM

Summer officially begins with FCCB, and the youth head up to Steve King's dad's for a proper celebration! Food, fun, and maybe even some fireworks will be the name of the game as we enjoy a barbeque and some games to kick the Summer off right. We'll spend some time hanging out by the lake and cooking some food, then maybe go out on the boat or go for a swim so bring a swim suit (ladies please bring a one-piece or we will have shirts for you to wear over whatever you have.)

Beach Games—July 7

We are going to head to the beach to play some games, have some fun, and take some moonlit walks. Come join us as we play volleyball and Frisbee while playing in the surf, or come to relax in the twilight and listen to the ocean waves. It's your choice when you do the beach FCCB style.

Maine Wilderness Retreat—July 12 to 17

We'll leave at 8:00 AM Monday morning, set up our base camp and spend some time exploring the area and have our first session over a roaring camp fire. Tuesday be prepared to hike a few miles and have a discussion overlooking the ocean. Wednesday will see us kayaking in some of Maine's great waterways, exploring islands and seeking out the hidden treasures Maine has to offer. Thursday we will stretch ourselves yet further and take a hike to a secluded beach where we'll grill up some food and have a good time. Friday we will strike camp and head back south, but first we will stop in Portland to do some work with the Root Cellar and then take the evening to explore downtown Portland a bit. Saturday will see us heading home but wishing for more adventure as we will arrive back before noon. More information and a sign up packet further detailing the schedule and what to bring will be available soon, but in the meantime if you have any interest in this awesome event please let Kevin know ASAP, or look below for a brief list of things to think about. We want to accommodate as many people as possible, but we need to know who is going so we can plan appropriately. Overall cost for this trip will be no more than \$200 with a deposit of \$50 due by June 30th to secure your spot. Scholarships and work opportunities will be available to those in need if you come and discuss it with Kevin in advance. We will also soon be making fundraising opportunities available to the students in group activities, so look for those opportunities that are currently TBD but will be determined soon.

Things to bring:

Sleeping bag ♦ Bible ♦ Notebook ♦ Water Shoes (don't buy them if you don't have) ♦ Swimsuit (one-piece for girls please) ♦ Hiking boots or good comfortable walking shoes ♦ Toiletries ♦ Flashlight ♦ Pocket knife ♦ Teachable spirit ♦ Willingness to stretch ♦ Hunger for God

Water Wars – August 4

Come prepared to get wet as we play shoot water balloons at each other through slingshots, chase each other with water guns, and soak ourselves to the bone. If you have some water guns bring them, and be prepared to fight to the death against other teams in this battle of water and victory.

Six Flags – August 11

We are meeting at the church at 8:00 AM to head down to Springfield, MA to enjoy one of the greatest theme parks in the country. Come with us to ride some roller coasters and get soaked at Hurricane Harbor. We'll head home just before the park closes and be back in Boxford by Midnight. \$30 includes tickets and transportation. Season ticket holders just plan on \$5 for transportation. Bring a bagged lunch that we'll eat together and some money along with you for dinner inside the park. Final date to sign up and hand money in: July 28th

SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

- ♦ **Emily Clay** 8/9
- ♦ **Devin Cudmore** 7/5
- ♦ **Beth Davis** 8/2
- ♦ **Colby Farmer** 8/5
- ♦ **Ryan Gibeley** 8/18
- ♦ **Kelsey Giovannacci** 7/19
- ♦ **Miko Kajen** 5/26
- ♦ **Anna Martin** 5/27
- ♦ **Jordan Silk** 6/12





WEDNESDAY'S SUMMER SCHEDULE

REGULAR YG MEETINGS

Sunday Nights After the Service— After the Evening Worship Service we head to the youth room to hang out and discuss the deeper parts of the Christian life, then we spend some time in Fellowship.

Wednesday's Summer Nights at FCCB —Fun is the main focus of this night as we get together to hang out, play games, and have some snacks in a variety of settings and locations. At the end of the night we sit down for a short devotional and discussion time. Check out the list to see what the weekly events are.

- June:**
- 19 Summer Starts Now!
 - 23 You Lead, I'll Follow
 - 30 Pool Party Celebration
- July:**
- 7 Beach Games
 - 11-17 Maine Wilderness Retreat
 - 21 Mini Golf
 - 28 Pool Party
- Aug:**
- 4 Water Wars!
 - 11 Six Flags
 - 18 Summer Coffee House
 - 25 End of Summer—Back to School Party

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