

Sen. Brown says he prays every day

Republican discusses his evangelical faith for first time since his election

By Lane Lambert
THE PATRIOT LEDGER

Sen. Scott Brown has gotten a lot of national attention for published revelations that he was sexually abused as a child. Now he tells The Patriot Ledger that he took his first step toward his

religious faith at the same time – at the same camp where he was abused.

The Wrentham Republican has been quiet about his evangelical faith since he was elected, in a January 2010 upset, to the seat previously held by the late Sen. Edward Kennedy. Nor does he mention it in his new Harper Collins autobiography “Against All Odds.” But in a telephone interview Monday he said prayer and worship are a steady part of his life.

Brown didn’t speak in detail about how he came to his beliefs, or how his faith helps shape his Senate votes. But he did say he prays “whenever I can, at least



Sen. Scott Brown

three or four times a day, for strength and guidance.”

“Our family goes to church as often as we can,” he said. “We try to make it a priority.”

Brown and his wife, former WCVB-TV reporter Gail Huff, and their two daughters are members of New England Chapel in Franklin, a conservative-leaning church of about 400 members.

The church opened in 1997 and is affiliated with the Christian Reformed Church, a small denomination with about 270,000 members nationwide.

New England Chapel declined to comment on Brown’s activity with the church. Brown said his family most recently wor-

shipped there in February. In Washington they usually go to the National Cathedral, an Episcopal church that’s typically attended by members of a variety of denominations.

Before the Browns joined New England Chapel they attended one of the Congregational churches in Wrentham.

Brown said he didn’t go to church as a young child. He was a fourth-grader at the nondenominational Camp Good News on Cape Cod when he said his religious interest was first stirred.

“Everyone else was talking about their faith, so I thought I’d give it a try,” he

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GOOD CAUSES

SOUTH SHORE GOES ALL OUT FOR CHARITY



AMELIA KUNHARDT PHOTOS/THE PATRIOT LEDGER

■ Haley Martin, 14, of Hanover carries a dog from the Scituate Animal Shelter during a charity graduation show put on by students enrolled in Maria Wood’s Fashion Focus Modeling and Finishing Program.

Models of goodwill



■ Organizers of the charity event are, from left, Nancy Testa, a Scituate Animal Shelter board member; Don Grilli, president of the shelter’s board of directors; Diane St. Ours, board member; and Maria Wood, owner of the Fashion Focus Modeling & Finishing Program.



■ Lindsay Bilezikian, 15, of Norwell carries a dog from the Scituate Animal Shelter during the fashion show charity event held in January at the Knights of Columbus in Pembroke.

Students from Maria Wood’s Fashion Focus Modeling and Finishing Program held a charity graduation show in Pembroke in January. The theme, “Tuned Into Fashion,” examined television shows and their influence on fashion. The event raised more than \$1,500 for the Scituate Animal Shelter.

Party time

■ To see your party or charitable event pictured here, e-mail Peggy Mullen at pmullen@ledger.com or call her at 617-786-7066



ON RELIGION

TERRY MATTINGLY

‘Adjustment Bureau’ probes idea of free will

When searching for big ideas, a Hollywood screenwriter can’t dig much deeper than “The Epic of Gilgamesh.”

This collection of Sumerian legends is at least 4,000 years old and is among the world’s earliest known stories. Yet this Urak king wrestles with questions that haunt heroes today: Am I free? Am I doomed? Can I fight my fate?

At a key moment, the “woman of the vine” tells the king: “You will never find that life for which you are looking. When the gods created man they allotted to him death, but life they retained in their own keeping. As for you, Gilgamesh ... cherish the little child that holds your hand, and make your wife happy in your embrace; for this too is the lot of man.”

These big questions transcend specific religions and have inspired artists through the ages, noted George Nolfi, writer and director of “The Adjustment Bureau,” a science-fiction/romance hybrid starring Matt Damon that opens this weekend. However, these are also the kinds of complicated questions that make Hollywood executives roll their eyes as they search for date-night hits.

Can filmmakers do both? Nolfi and Damon said their goal was to make a romantic action film that also made people think, a popcorn flick for couples open to pondering predestination afterward in a coffee shop.

“My influences? Everything that I have studied,” said Nolfi, during New York press events for the movie. “The Greeks were dealing with, ‘How much are you fated?’ The Sumerians and Gilgamesh – that first written story – were dealing with that. ... There are the bigger questions. ... What makes life meaningful? And how much can you choose your own course? They have been an interest of mine as long as I can remember.”

The challenge is obvious, said Damon. The religious questions and the romantic chemistry have to mix into one commercial product.

“George Nolfi was a philosophy major and went to Princeton and he went on to Oxford. He’ll talk your ear off about that stuff – which you

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ARTICLES OF FAITH

How does faith affect your daily life? We invite you to share short personal stories of faith and its meaning in your life – whatever your tradition or belief system might be.

Please limit responses to 200 words or less. Include your name, town, daytime phone number and a photo of yourself, if you wish.

■ E-mail to newsroom@ledger.com with FAITH in the subject line, or mail to Patriot Ledger, Attn. Faith, 400 Crown Colony Drive, Quincy 02169.