



Cross and Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church

P.O. Box 331, 13 School St., Lebanon, NH 03766

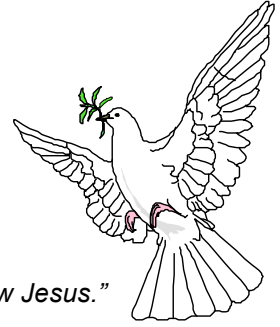
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January 2009 Volume 26, No. 1

"Not a perfect church, not a perfect people, just a simple desire to follow Jesus."



Prayers for the New Year

Laurie Edwards

I got my car stuck at the foot of my driveway this morning. If you've seen how short our driveway is you're probably laughing right about now. I was not a happy camper. I was not thinking pleasant thoughts. My attitude was not very Christlike. I needed some prayer! As a dyed in the wool Baptist, I'm not big on pre-written prayers. But I've found over the years that there are two prayers I keep coming back to, prayers that I need to pray. I hope you'll find them of use for the New Year too!

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

St. Francis of Assisi

*Lord, make me
an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred,
let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;*

*O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving
that we receive;
it is in pardoning
that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying
that we are born to eternal life.*

LEARNING CHRIST

St. Francis de Sales

*Teach me, my Lord,
To be sweet and gentle
in all the events of life –
in disappointments,
in the thoughtlessness of others,
in the insincerity of those I trusted,
in the unfaithfulness
of those on whom I relied.*

*Let me put myself aside
To think of the happiness of others,
To hide my little pains and heartaches,
So that I may be the only one
to suffer from them*

*Teach me to profit by the suffering
That comes across my path.
Let me so use it that may mellow me,
Not harden nor embitter me;
That it may make me patient,
not irritable,
That it may make me
broad in my forgiveness,
not narrow, haughty or overbearing.*

*May no one be less good for having come
within my influence,
No one less pure, less true, less kind,
Less noble for having been
a fellow-traveler in our journey
towards eternal life.*

*As I go my rounds
from one distraction to another,
let me often whisper
a word of love to Thee
May my life be lived in the supernatural,
Full of power for good,
And strong in its purpose of sanctity.*

**“A Saturday Morning Concert of Prayers”
January 24, 8:30-12:30**

Psalms 57:8 “Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.”

It’s winter! It’s cold outside! Come; let us gather together, and warm ourselves in our Lord’s presence!

Mark 1:35 “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”

You are cordially invited to a special prayer event we call “A Saturday Morning Concert of Prayers”, held here at First Baptist Church on Saturday January 24th between 8:30 A.M. and 12:30 P.M.

Part of our prayer time will include small group “lifting up” of all requests made on the lavender ‘Prayer Request’ handout enclosed in this newsletter and in your Sunday weekly bulletin. Please fill out these forms and hand them in with the collection basket; or give them directly to any deacon; or drop them off or mail them to the church office.

Anyone wishing to try their hand at leading a small prayer group; or participating as a scripture reader and prayer leader, please contact Bob Owens at 448-9717; or Laurie Edwards at 448-5618.

Refreshments will be available throughout the morning. We look forward with great anticipation to see how our Lord will bless our time together!

INTERESTED IN BAPTISM OR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP???

The pastor will be holding a baptism/church membership class at 4:00 PM on Sundays, January 11 & 18 at the church. A service of baptism is planned for Sunday morning, January 18th. If interested or for more information, please contact the pastor, 448-5618.

NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION BIBLE STUDY

It’s not too late to “read the Bible in one year” and join the email Bible study. Participants

are reading the Bible at home and communicating, supporting and encouraging one another each week via email. Each quarter we will all meet together to discuss what’s being learned, and what the challenges and successes have been. If interested, contact Doree Clifford, 448-4174 or Doree.Clifford@mascomabank.com.

**WE NEED YOU!!!
AT THE ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 25TH!
Don’t miss the church’s Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25th right after the worship service. All members of First Baptist are asked to attend to vote on the 2009 Budget and Officers and Board Members for the coming year, as well as any new business that may come before us.**



**ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE!!!
Each board/committee is asked to submit a report by Sunday, January 11 for inclusion in the 2008 Annual Report.**

NOTE OF THANKS

To all the Sponsors of Listen(Giving Tree), Thank you for the Holiday Basket, with all the things I needed. My vest is just great, along with the shirt – great quality. Thank you for my kettle and skillet. I can see a lot of work went into making the baskets complete. Thank you.

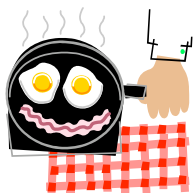
VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

The American Cancer Society’s Road to Recovery Program is seeking persons to drive cancer patients to their treatment. Volunteers must be at least 18, have a reliable vehicle, auto insurance, and a positive driving background check. Availability daytime(s) Monday thru Friday and for a brief training. Call Carol Ann Dyer at 603-471-4150, 1-800-640-7101 or carol.ann.dyer@cancer.org.

CARENET VALENTINE’S DANCE

CareNet Pregnancy Care Center will be holding a benefit Valentine’s Dance on Friday, Feb. 13 from 7:30-11:30 PM at the American

Legion in White River Jct., featuring Gerry Grimo & the East Bay Jazz Ensemble. Call 603-298-6123 for more information.



MEN'S BREAKFAST
 Saturday, January 10
 7:30 AM
 All Men Welcome!

THANK YOU FROM THE EDWARDS!
 Thank you to everyone for the wonderful outpouring of love and gifts we received over the holidays. We truly appreciate having such a loving and generous church

NXT REVOLUTION YOUTH EVENT!
 Our junior & senior high youth groups are planning on attending the Nxt Revolution Youth Event at Wellspring

Worship Center (formerly Grace Outreach) on Friday, January 9 from 6:30-9:30 PM. The evening's theme will be "The Search for Truth" and will feature music, speakers, videos, activities, & more. Parents are asked to drop off and pick up at Wellspring, our leaders will meet kids there.

PARSONAGE OPEN HOUSE COMING!
 Please join us for our second annual Cabin Fever Open House! Saturday, February 7th from 4:00-8:00 PM at the parsonage, 16 Kimball St., Lebanon. Whether you can stay for only a few minutes or a few hours, please plan on joining us! Directions: From School St./route 120 south, take your first left after the church onto Kimball St. (across from the cemetery). You'll come to a stop sign. After the stop sign, our house is the 2nd house on the right - a white house with full front porch.
 The Edwards Family

RETIRED MINISTERS OFFERING
 Dear Friends,
 It is that time of year when we collect the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering here at First Baptist Church. The RMMO provides emergency financial assistance as well as an annual Thank You check to retired American Baptist ministers and missionaries and their widowed spouses. Former pastors of

First Baptist benefit directly from this offering, along with their retired colleagues. The annual Thank You check is a way we can tell these faithful servants "We have not forgotten you, we are grateful for your ministry, we care about you." Please prayerfully consider your gift to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering. An offering envelope is enclosed with this newsletter for your convenience.



Women's Fellowship Dinner & Purpose-Driven Life Study
 Tuesday, Jan. 20
 6:00 PM
 At the Olson's
 30 Dorset Lane, Lebanon
 All Women Welcome,
 Sign-up & directions on

RESERVE THE DATES!
 For this year's spring retreat!!! It's really going to be in spring this year (honest!). May 1-2! We really should be safe from snow! So mark your calendar and plan on attending! Open to high school students and adults. More details coming soon!



Please Come to Our Cabin Fever Open House!
Saturday February 7
4:00-8:00 PM
 At the Parsonage
 16 Kimball St.
 The Edwards'



Concert of Prayers
 Saturday, January 24
 8:30am - 12:30pm
 Join Us for Prayer!