



# Cross and Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church

11 School St., Lebanon, NH 03766

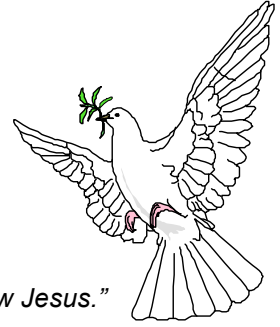
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*"Not a perfect church, not a perfect people, just a simple desire to follow Jesus."*



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## LOVING SUMMER

By Laurie Edwards

Summer. Doesn't the very word slip off your tongue like a delicious creamsicle? Warm sun, long sandy beaches, beautiful flowers, delectable berries, gentle breezes, awe-inspiring mountain hikes by babbling brooks and cascading waterfalls. The list could go on and on. In case you haven't noticed, I love summer. I just do. I can still feel the anticipation of the last day of school from my childhood, when ten weeks of summer seemed to stretch endlessly before me. Mud pies, fireworks, hide-and-seek at dusk, the sprinkler and croquet in the backyard, sleeping in the tent with my cousins, picnics, corn-on-the-cob, splashing in the surf or diving into a cool mountain lake, long hot days refreshed by late afternoon thunder showers, the jingling bell of the ice cream truck, stacks of library books to read at my leisure, drive-in movies, kool-aid stands, bike rides, family vacations – I loved it all. Oh to be a kid in summer once again!

I still love summer. The one thing summer didn't have when I was a kid that I can enjoy now is the waterpark. I didn't get to experience a waterpark until I had kids of my own. Now, **that** is a great invention! Even at 52, I find water slides to be a lot of fun, and the accompanying lazy river and hot tubs aren't so bad either! I realized I'd crossed into a new phase of life when kids in the youth group started warning me, "You shouldn't go on that one, Laurie – you'll hurt your back!" But it really **is** worth climbing eight flights of stairs for the Boomerang – a watery slide that sends you through a spiral tunnel to shoot you down one sharp incline and up another, to slide down backwards and up over another hill and splash down into a pool of water!

Yeah, waterslides are a pretty cool addition to summer.

Summers in New England have to be the best. I'm convinced that summer can't be nearly as enjoyable in other parts of the country. Summer is the long awaited reward for surviving another New England winter. And you know you've got to make the most of it, because crisp fall days are just around the corner. Of course, summer doesn't stretch endlessly ahead of me anymore. The weeks just seem to fly by, and I can't seem to squeeze nearly as much fun into them as when I was younger. Because life gets more serious as you grow older, and it seems there's always some kind of work that needs to be done. But it's still good!

We need times of rest and recreation, we need summers. They feel so good because God created them for us and He created us in such a way that we need them. In the opening chapters of Genesis, it says that God worked for six days creating the world and on the seventh day He rested. And He set that rhythm as a pattern for humanity. When you read a little further in the Old Testament, you see that God commanded the Israelites not only to set aside one day a week for worship and rest, but regular times for festivals and celebrations throughout the year. If it was good for them, it's good for us!

So be sure to take some time to enjoy the summer while it's here! Whether it's at the beach or the mountains or at home in your easy chair, stop to rest and refresh and enjoy this great gift God has given us!

### SUMMER BOARD MEETING DATES:

**Trustees: Tuesday, July 13 @ 6:30 PM**

**Deacons: Tues., July 13 & Aug. 10 @ 6:30 PM**

**Christian Ed: Tues., August 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30 PM**

**Missions: Tues., August 24 @ 6:30 PM**

## **FBC-20'S ARE HERE!!**

Are you between the ages of 18 and 30? Then this group is just for you! Come enjoy an evening with others around your age – for fun, food and great discussions! We meet at 6:30 PM on Sunday evenings. Most often we get together at Randy & Lehann Collins' home, 33 Hayward Rd, Plainfield, NH, though we sometimes meet at other locations. On June 20 we turned the church into a mini-golf course (thank you, Nate Bundy!) and had a great time. If you'd like more information, contact Randy & Lehann at 603-675-5233 or [randylehann@comcast.net](mailto:randylehann@comcast.net) or see your Sunday bulletin for upcoming events!

## **ADVENTURE ON THE HIGH SEAS!**

About 20 children enjoyed this summer's High Seas Expedition Vacation Bible School June 21-25! A huge thanks to the adult and teen volunteers who made VBS possible – many shared their time and talents with us over the course of the week. A big thanks to Susan Cole for organizing and directing this year!

## **THANK YOU ALL:**

I can't express my heartfelt thank you enough here, but I will try. To all of those who sent me cards, brought me food, made visits while I was in the hospital and after I came home and gave me other gifts, I say "Thank You" from the bottom of my heart. You are all so wonderful and the best family anyone could ask for. I know that your prayers, the wonderful care the nurses at APD gave me, the care that Dr. McDougall and Dr. Williams gave is what brought me through. I was closer to death's door than I realized until just recently. May God Bless each and everyone with special blessings for being there for me.

I love you all, Lorraine Bickford

## **NOTE OF THANKS:**

Hello Everyone! I wanted to say Thank You for helping me exceed my goal for my tuition and rooming deposit. I really appreciate the support. Thanks!

Sincerely, Allison Hiltunen

## **FOOD PANTRY VACATION HOURS**

During the pastor's vacation, the food pantry will be open as follows: Tuesday thru Friday, July 5-9, 9:30-11:30 AM. Questions, see Donna Perkins.

## **COMMUNITY DINNER – HELP WANTED!**

People are needed to cover Community Dinner meals! People are needed to prepare meals and to serve. There have been several couples who have been very faithful in hosting and serving. If anyone would like to help, please call Sharon Weightman, 298-6554.

## **CHRISTIAN WRITERS CONFERENCE!!**

***Finding Words: Faith and Form***, Gove Hill's second annual Christian Writer's Conference will be held July 16-18 at Gove Hill Retreat in Thetford, VT. Workshop leaders will be writers Matthew Dickerson (director of New England Young Writers Conference); Diane Glancy (teacher of creative writing); and John "Jack" Leax (poet and writing teacher at Houghton College). Informational pamphlets/registration forms are available in the church literature racks, Gove Hill's website ([www.govehillretreat.org](http://www.govehillretreat.org)) or contact Bill & Bernice Clark for more information.

## **WHITE CROSS UPDATE**

I recently went to the American Baptist Convention at KUA. I spoke with Mary Hamblett, President of the American Baptist Women's Ministries including White Cross and so much more as I found out. There are several programs that we can do at our church I wasn't aware of, but will be bringing to us. Those are the Love Gift, Scholarship, Adopt-A-Student and Break The Chains.

I'm very excited about the **Adopt-A-Student Program** - this is very beneficial to the student, supporting the student spiritually and emotionally. It is an opportunity to encourage a student in college by letting him or her know that someone is keeping them in prayers each day. A person signs up for a student, I have already signed up the church. Pertinent info to help the "ADOPTER" become acquainted with the student will be sent, and in this manner the adopter becomes a prayer warrior for the student. The adopter can email, write notes, send goodies for spiritual and emotional support. College students need all the emotional and spiritual support they can get, as the devil is very busy in this world. Sometime's you get to meet the student, but you may not, it's up to the student.

### **ABW Ministries Scholarship Program:**

If you have been a member of this church for at least a year and are going to college, graduate school or seminary full time next year, get your application for an ABW ministries scholarship. Deadline is April 1st. Contact Marsha Omand at

[mhomand@juno.com](mailto:mhomand@juno.com). If a student attends an American Baptist University or college the amount does increase. For '09/10 they gave out 15 scholarships ranging up to \$1000.

**Love Gifts: Share Your Blessings** is the current theme. I will be getting the Love Gift boxes and some envelopes in the coming months. The Love Gift boxes are reminders of our being thankful for the blessings we have received and the offering goes from January to December. This is used as part of basic budget of American Baptist Churches, USA. More information will be coming about this.

**Mission Faire** is Oct.2, 2010 at First Baptist Church in New London. I pray that several of us will be able to attend this. As I learn more I will update you.

We will be doing **White Cross Gifts of the Heart** kits this year. As you put a kit together bring it back to the church - don't send it anywhere. If you can only do a part of the kit, that is ok, just give me what you have and I will put the kits together.

We now have a White Cross table set up in the entry way with Baby gowns and Prayer Shawl Kits which can be taken to do. There are pattern directions there also. Please sign them out so we can keep track of who is doing them. There will be other information of things that can be done also.

I look forward to your feedback on any and all of these programs. God Bless!

Lorraine Bickford

### **FREDA BUSH AT PREGNANCY CENTER FUNDRAISING BANQUET AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>**

The Pregnancy Center of the Upper Valley will hold their annual fundraising banquet on Thursday, August 19 from 6:00-9:00 PM at the Fireside Inn in West Lebanon. Their theme is **Same Message – Different Culture**. This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Freda M. Bush, co-author of **Hooked: New Science on How Casual Sex Is Affecting Our Children**. For reservations and complimentary tickets, call 298-6123. Adults only please.

### **PASTOR'S VACATION**

The pastor will be on vacation July 4-12. Jolyon Pruszinski will be bringing the message on July 11. Should you have a pastoral emergency during that time, please contact Lorraine Bickford, 603-632-5651.

### **YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

The Senior & Junior High Youth Groups were finally able to enjoy an end-of-year trip to the Whale's Tale Waterpark on June 26<sup>th</sup> after it was postponed due to rain. Eleven young people and three leaders had a great day of water slides, hot tubs, & pizza! Be on the lookout for news of our fall kick-off event! Youth Group is open to grades 6-12.

### **THANKS FOR YOUR SURVEYS--STILL TIME!**

We're happy to report that as of print time, 56% of our congregation has participated in the Church Health Assessment Tool! If you haven't had a chance to do the survey, we have extended the deadline to July 9. Here's how to participate:

- 1) Go to [www.healthychurch.net](http://www.healthychurch.net)
- 2) Click on CHAT Survey "Log In"
- 3) Log on as follows:  
Login: firstbaptist\_6  
Password: spire

Or: Paper copies are available on the secretary's desk in the church office. Thanks!

### **CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION**

More than 160 people took part in our Children's Day festivities on June 13<sup>th</sup>. It was an exciting morning as we witnessed the baptism of Sitinna Blankenship. The Sunday School shared in song, and a huge crowd joined us for a pizza party and bouncy house after the service. We are already looking Rally Day on September 12<sup>th</sup>!

### **CONCERNING BAPTISM**

We were happy to share in the baptism of Sitinna Blankenship on Children's Day! Another service of baptism is being planned for later this summer. If anyone is interested in baptism or church membership, or has questions, please see the pastor.

### **SOULFEST 2010**

It's not too late to get tickets! Soulfest is August 4-7 at Gunstock. Go the [www.thesoulfest.com](http://www.thesoulfest.com).