



Cross and Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church

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

Prayer, The Next Step

For those who attended the church service on Father's Day, you may recall the children's story which featured a large GPS device. So large that some thought it to be a plasma TV at first. As well, a photo of several compasses was shown. With each of these the question was asked, "Can you find God with this?" The children, though few in number, were well aware that while these help you find your way; it does not help you find God. Instead you can only find God through his son Jesus Christ. In John 14:6 Jesus says, *"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* Because of Jesus' presence on earth and the following sacrifice at the cross, we can now have an avenue directly to God and build a personal relationship.

Each of us has found (or will find) God through many various events as they unfold in our lives. Like any trip, the journey there is only half the adventure. In doing so, you will experience another GPS; God's Presence and Salvation. Now that you have arrived; now that you have a personal access to God; how do you stay in his presence? Acting righteously is a large part of it, but having a regimen of prayer is the yeast that makes your relationship grow.

In Matthew 26:36 we read, *"Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.'" Jesus is praying?! If he is God or is of God, then why is he praying? Jesus, the son of God in the form of man, understood the need to pray. He understood that to keep in close contact with the Father, to maintain that relationship with the supplier of all our needs, we must maintain prayer.*

During the same Father's Day service, Steve Girdwood's message pointed out that "Love is a Verb"; it is an action. Prayer is also very much an action. In Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, he states in Chapter 1

verses 16-18 *"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything gives thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"*. He wants us to be ever vigilant in prayer.

However, some of us may not know how to pray. Prayer is a simple task. It is merely a matter of talking with God. Prayers do not have to be melodious. Prayers do not have to be a grand statement. Prayers can simply be a quiet conversation where you praise God by acknowledging his love and power and then presenting him with your needs or praise.

Pray with me now as you read this message:

"Dear God, thank you for loving us. Thank you for your might and power to conquer all. I pray now that you will be with each one of us as we build a prayerful relationship with you and help us to learn to be near you through praying. Amen."

If anyone ever wishes to hear and/or learn a variety of prayer styles, there is a good opportunity through the church's monthly Prayer and Praise time. This is when those attending join the Deacons to pray over each of the prayer requests presented by church members through the form in the bulletin. There is absolutely no pressure or obligation for anyone attending to have to pray out loud. You may simply join us through silent prayer. This is not an advertisement, but an invitation to hear many ways to pray. You will soon find that there is no one exact way to pray. It is whatever is on your heart to talk to God about.

Take time to talk with God today and every day. May God bless you in your personal journey.

Keith Davio
Deacon Board Chair



Not pictured: Shelby Hawks, Karl Meagher, Jaime & Natalie Guzman

FIRST FPU CLASS AT FBC

For 13 straight weeks this Spring, 17 of us met on Thursday evenings for the first Financial Peace University course held at First Baptist. It was AWESOME!!! A video-based money management course from a biblical perspective, authored by Dave Ramsey, FPU covered a wide range of topics—from reducing debt, to budgeting, to saving for college and retirement, and a whole lot more!

I think we all felt the class was inspiring, challenging but practical, and even life changing, and certainly relevant to all, no matter what age or point we are at in our lives! It was also fun, and quite a bond had developed among us by the end of 13 weeks together.

We are already talking about hosting it again, maybe as early as this fall! We'll keep you posted...if anyone has any questions about the course, an interest in signing up for the next one, or a desire to help facilitate a class, please let me know (or talk to people in the picture)!

Jim Newcomb
603-448-2782, jfnewcomb@myfairpoint.net

MONTHLY PRAYER, PRAISE & FELLOWSHIP

Our next Prayer, Praise & Fellowship time will be **Saturday, July 23 from 8:30-10:30 AM and Thursday, August 18, from 6:30-8:30 PM.**

This is a wonderful time to come together to praise God, fellowship with one another, and pray! Please join us!

DURING THE PASTOR'S SABBATICAL

Church Office Hours

Tuesday: By Appointment Only

If you would like to schedule an appointment with Pastor Roger Wotton, who is filling in for Pastor Dale, please do so by leaving a message via the church answering machine (603-448-5618) or email office@lebfirstbaptist.com.

BEGINNER'S GREEK CLASS

Thursday evenings, 7 PM. Ed Griffin is teaching rudimentary Greek, for those who would like to read the NT in its original tongue. Beginning with an introduction to the alphabet, we will continue into vocabulary and basic grammar. Questions? Email Ed @ edwardgriffin@gmail.com or call 802-377-9175. Class started June 30, but still time to join.

CHRISTIAN WRITERS CONFERENCE

Don't miss Gove Hill's third annual Summer Christian Writers Conference July 15-17. Workshop leaders will be novelist & non-fiction writer Matthew Dickerson, and poet/essayist David Wright. Cost - \$225 fulltime, \$125 day participant, \$75 Sat. only. For more information or to register, go to www.govehillretreat.org or contact Bill or Bernice Clark, 802-785-4000. Discount available for attendees of First Baptist.

SUMMER SONGWRITING CONFERENCE

July 22-24 @ Gove Hill. Workshop leaders include award-winning singer/songwriter Bill Pere who is known internationally as one of the top songwriting instructors of today. Also featured is Kay Pere, a vocal and creativity coach. Costs are the same as for the Writers Conference. Discounts available for attendees of First Baptist.

STEVE GREEN CONCERT AT LOH

Steve Green will be in concert live at the Lebanon Opera House on Saturday, August 27th at 7:00 PM. Profits benefit Upper Valley Compassionate Care Center. To purchase tickets (\$30, \$25, \$20), go to www.lebanonoperahouse.org or email uppervccc@gmail.com.

ABC/VNH ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

The annual ABC VNH Conference was held June 17 and 18 at Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, NH. Four representatives from First Baptist attended: Lorraine Bickford, Wendy Dubuque, Marilyn Peterson, and Helen Pembricks. The conference theme was: KEEP THE FIRE BURNING – Acts 2:42. There was a good selection of workshops. The guest speakers were: Glynis LaBarre, Rev. Alan Shumway, and Rev. Lou George. A big THANK YOU to Rev. Lou George for the beautiful Communion and dinner Friday night. See Lorraine Bickford for additional details!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, July 9 and August 13
7:30 AM - All Men Welcome!!

WOMEN'S DINNER

The Women's Fellowship Dinner is taking a break for the summer months and will resume in the fall.

AB WOMEN'S MINISTRIES / WHITE CROSS

At the ABW annual conference held at Gove Hill in May, I was elected to the regional board as the Coordinator of Church and Community Ministries. I also serve as one of the Contact People for the Central Association. I'll be setting a date soon for our group to meet and elect officers to help when I need to be somewhere else, as well as to get our projects going!

Some areas of need:

Emergency Clean Up Buckets for Springfield, MA. On the White Cross table inside our church's front door are sheets with descriptions about what is needed for the buckets. I'm hoping by this newsletter mailing to have a sign up poster on the back wall as it costs too much for one person to put a bucket together.

New project for NH Women's Prison Ministry in Goffstown, NH: That sheet is also on our table. I'm currently gathering more information on this, so stay tuned.

Bandages: Correct size of the Roller Bandages are 2 inches by 10 yards. Those already done will be used and welcomed by Bill Clemmer. Make sure after you tear the strips that you de-thread them before rolling them. I need people to do just the strips, as I have someone who wants to sew the strips together and others that just want to roll them. I have lots of clean sheets waiting to be stripped at my home - let me know if you want any.

Baby Kits: If you yard sale, please look for good baby undershirts, t-shirts, jackets, blankets and sleepers with NO stains on them - must be in very good condition.

Bags are in for the School Kits: We have lots of pencils and large rubber bands left over from last year that we need to use up - I have all this at home. If you need something for any of the projects let me know ASAP. July 10th will be my last Sunday in church for a while, but do call me and leave a message of what you need and I will see that you get it.

Prayer Shawl ministry: Jeanne Lang is in charge of that. There are patterns for knitting and crocheting on our table as well as kits ready to go. There is also one Prayer Shawl book there too.

ABW also has a Scholarship Fund for those going on to college. I'll have those applications in January for those who want to apply. If you go to a Baptist college we have a \$1000 scholarship for you. Other colleges the amount is decided by the board depending on how much we have to give out. Every little bit helps. This is for both girls and guys.

We need ideas on how we can raise money for shipping cost of these projects. We do this all on our own and it is getting very costly. Pray on it as I know God will show us the way! Have a Great Summer!!

Lorraine Bickford

SUMMER BREAK: Sunday School, Children's Fellowship, and Youth Group will be on break until Sept. 11. Have a great summer!

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Another successful year of Youth Group was wrapped up last month with an overnight stay at Gove Hill Conference Center in Thetford, VT. The kids enjoyed games, songs and smores around the campfire, and even braved the rain to swim and boat on the pond. As leaders, it was our last chance to work with the Jr. and Sr. High Students before our summer break. We spent the trip contemplating Psalm 23. The youth also completed a successful 30 Hour Famine fundraising event this Spring, raising over \$3,000 toward hunger relief . . . and yes, for meeting their fundraising goal I did dress like a clown and receive three pies to the face, one each from the three top fundraisers.

With as many as 30 youth in attendance over this past year, we are so thankful for the volunteer leadership of the group and support of the church. Another successful year is under our belt and we wish the youth an enjoyable and safe summer. Looking forward to Rally Day and making the church a noisy place to visit again on Sunday evenings!

Steve Girdwood

COMMUNITY DINNER NEWS

Help is needed with the Wednesday Community Dinners. Held every Wednesday at 5:30 PM, we are currently serving up to 40 people each time. New sign-up sheets are now located on a bulletin board downstairs near Kilburn Hall. Please sign up to provide food or to help with set up, serving, and clean-up. Questions? Please contact Chris Clark (603-667-1892).

FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

Raven Box Food Pantry still needs donations - canned foods, pasta, rice, side dishes, peanut butter & jelly, cereals, hygiene items, & toilet paper! Cash donations are also useful! Place food in the blue buckets near the church door, and money in the offering plate with a notation "for food pantry." Thanks!

HOME DELIVERED MEALS AVAILABLE

Grafton County Senior Citizens Council provides home delivered meals to eligible individuals! If you feel you may meet the eligibility criteria and want to receive meals, contact Victoria Weeks 448-4213, ext. 116.

BULLETIN NEWS

During the Pastor's sabbatical, any information for the Sunday bulletin needs to be in the office by the Wednesday prior. Leave a message via the phone (448-5618) or email @ office@lebfirstbaptist.com.