



Cross and Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church

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

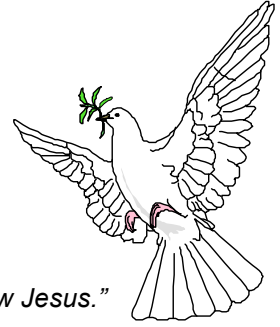
Pastor: Rev. Dale Edwards

Phone: 603-448-5618 Email: soulman@lebfirstbaptist.com

www.lebfirstbaptist.com

June 2009 Volume 26, No. 6

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



God Has Other Plans

Laurie Edwards

Retreat 2009. Up until the Sunday right before, it looked like it wasn't even going to happen. For the first time in the 15 or so years that First Baptist has been having spring retreats, we had exactly zero registrations one week before the event. I remember looking at Dale and wondering if we should go ahead and call Gove Hill to cancel. Thankfully, God had other plans. About eight registrations came in on Sunday morning. Others trickled in during the week, and by Friday morning we actually had 14 registrations. By the time we drove up to Gove Hill Friday afternoon, we'd had 2 cancellations. Leaving us with exactly 12. Looking back, I can't help but think that God's hand was there, even in the numbers. Twelve is a Biblical number – twelve tribes of Israel, twelve disciples . . . The retreat that almost didn't happen, the smallest retreat in our church's history, proved to be a wonderful time of blessing for the twelve of us who were gathered there.

We were a small group. Ironically (or providentially), Friday evening's meditation focused on the prophet Elijah's experience with God on Mount Horeb. Elijah knew what it was like to be a part of a small group, a group of one to be exact. Pursued by Jezebel, fleeing for his life, he spends the night hiding and sleeping in a cave. When God asks him "What are you doing here Elijah?" Elijah cries out in desperation "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away!"

Then God promises to show himself to Elijah. God is not in the wind, he is not in the earthquake, he is not in the fire. But then there is a silence, a "still, small voice" as the King James Version translates it, and God poses his question again, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah's answer remains the same, "I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." But this time, he hears God's answer. God tells Elijah to go back the way he came. He tells him to anoint Jehu as king, Elisha as prophet, both of whom will fight for God's justice. And then he assures Elijah that there are 7000 left in Israel who have not bowed the knee to Baal.

God is assuring Elijah that Jezebel will not have the last say, he is preparing a new king who will do good. He is assuring Elijah that his battle will not last forever, he is preparing a new prophet, Elisha, as his successor. He is telling him that he is not alone, he has more company in this than he realizes. He is saying "Be faithful, Elijah, and don't give up."

Have you ever gotten to the place where Elijah had gotten? Alone, desperate, not a friend in the world? Helpless, hopeless? Wanting to just hide out in a cave where the worries of the world can't reach you? I think during those times we can take a lesson from Elijah. Maybe we need to stop, take a time out and listen to the voice of God. God knows our situation, he knows our limitations. He has not left us as orphans. He is with us. He has a plan for us, and beyond us. He says "Don't give up. Take courage. You are not alone. You have more company in this than you realize." The results are not up to us. It is only up to us to be faithful, and to trust that God is faithful.

NOTE OF THANKS

I want to this time to thank Dale and Laurie and the rest of the church family for all the food and visits and all the other kind deeds that were done for me and my family at the time of Donald's passing and afterwards. The flowers, visits, and cards have been appreciated.

Special thanks to the Raymond family and all who helped with the reception afterwards.

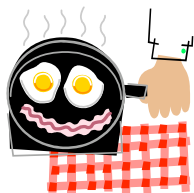
Irma Muzzy & Family

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

First Baptist will pay ½ the cost for any children who wish to attend Christian camp for a week this summer. Summer camp brochures from Camp Sentinel in Tuftonboro, NH are available on the literature racks near the church entryways. If you register a child for camp, please be sure to notify the church office (448-5618 or office@lebfirstbaptist.com) to ensure that scholarship money is sent.

MEN'S
BREAKFAST
Sat., June 13
7:30 AM

ALL MEN WELCOME



CHRISTIAN WRITERS CONFERENCE

A Christian Writers Conference is coming to Gove Hill Retreat July 17-19. Come improve your writing skills with other Christians in the Green Mountains this summer. Workshops in poetry, creative writing and non-fiction writing are available along with general sessions on writing. Workshop leaders are Harold Fickett (www.godspy.com), Diane Glancy (www.macalester.edu/~glancy/books.html) and Matt Dickerson

(<https://sequcommunity.middlebury.edu/view/html/site/dickerso/node/1087990>). Cost is \$180 which includes all materials, workshops, food and lodging. \$50 discount for American Baptist church members. Call Gove Hill at 802-785-4000 or visit their website www.ghsm.org for more information and registration.

JUNE CONCERT OF PRAYERS

A note from your Board of Deacons: Please mark your calendars with next Saturday's date - June 6th from 8:30A.M.-12:30P.M. We will meet in the church sanctuary for our next

Morning Concert of Prayers. During this time we will pray together in small groups for the Prayer Requests that have been turned in; we will take a short walk through town and pray for various groups (i.e. schools, firemen, neighbors, etc.); and we will pray for numerous concerns of our Lord's church and of our world. If you plan to attend and want to be more involved, as a scripture reader and prayer leader, please contact Bob Owens at rbtowens@comcast.net or 448-9717, or contact Laurie Edwards at 448-5618 or office@lebfirstbaptist.com. We look forward to praying together with you.

PASTOR'S VACATION

The pastor will be on vacation June 19-29. If you have a pastoral emergency during that time, please contact Bob Owens, 448-9717 or Dan Nash 448-6023.

FOOD PANTRY VACATION HOURS

The church office will be closed during the pastor's vacation, June 19-29. During that time the Food Pantry will be open between 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Tuesday-Saturday.

NEW ADDRESS/PHONE DIRECTORIES

Copies of our updated church address/phone directory are now available near the church entryways. Please take one per family. If you or someone you know has accidentally been left off the list please contact the church office ASAP so corrections may be posted in the church newsletter. As our congregation is constantly changing with people moving here and moving away, the directory is no doubt out-of-date even before printing. We apologize for any errors or omissions! Thank you!

CLOTHING GIVEAWAY SUCCESS!

Thank you to everyone who donated clothing to the spring clothing giveaway! About 50 people came through and received clothing. A special thanks to Cheril Maynard and members of the youth group for all their hard work in making it possible!

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Both the junior & senior high youth groups have had a busy spring! In addition to the clothing giveaway, the senior highs put on the community dinner on May 20th. We enjoyed having Dan Heroy, leader of Nxt Generation

youth group at Wellspring Worship Center as guest speaker in April. Both groups will be meeting at Fore-U Mini-Golf at 6:00 on Sunday, May 31 for golf and ice cream. The senior highs will have an end-of-year retreat June 5-7. The junior highs' end-of-year event will be a trip to Party Time Family Fun Zone in Charlestown on June 14. Please keep our 2009 high school graduates in your prayers as they prepare to enter college or the workforce and seek God's will for their lives!



BABY BOTTLE BENEFIT UNDERWAY

CareNet Pregnancy Center's Baby Bottle Benefit began on Mother's Day, May 10 and continues until Father's Day, June 21. Baby bottles are still available in baskets near the sanctuary doorways if you would like to participate. Funds raised will be used for such practical needs as ultrasounds, pregnancy tests, educational tools, Bibles, etc. for the clients CareNet serves. Thank you!

WOMEN'S DINNER TAKES A BREAK

The Women's Fellowship Dinner is taking a break for the summer months. Be on the lookout for news of our fall start-up date!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Plans are well underway for this summer's Vacation Bible School! Our theme this year is "Crocodile Dock - Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light." This year's VBS will run Monday thru Friday, June 22-26. Times will be Monday 5:30-8:00 PM, Tuesday to Friday 6:00-8:00 PM. We will be in need of volunteers in many areas such as crafts, games, snacks, etc. If you'd like to volunteer to help out with this fun event, please contact Tammi Dubuque (448-8868 or crdtld@yahoo.com) or Susan Cole (448-2255).

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

If you have a child registered for Christian camp this summer, please contact the church office (448-5618) so scholarships can be sent!

Vacation bible school
Crocodile dock!
 "Where fearless kids shine
 God's light"
June 22-26
 Monday, 5:30-8:00 PM
 Tues-Fri., 6:00-8:00 PM
 Crafts, stories, games,
 Snacks, music & More
 Fun for ages 3-12
Join us!



Children's Day
 Sunday, June 14
 Celebrate With Us!
 Lunch After Church!



Concert of
 Prayers
 Saturday, June 6
 8:30-12:30
Join Us!