

# Cross and Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church

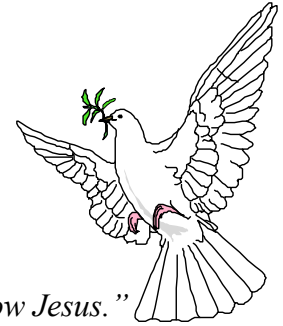
P.O. Box 331, 11 School St., Lebanon, NH 03766

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

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## Thoughts on My Upcoming Sabbatical

Pastor Dale Edwards

As I write, Laurie's and my upcoming sabbatical from June 12 to September 11 is just a little over two weeks away. It doesn't seem possible. I would like to share with you some random thoughts as my leaving for a 100 days approaches.

- First, THANK YOU, to everyone on the sabbatical committee for making this possible. THANK YOU for your gifts, and THANK YOU Roger Wotton, and everyone who will fill the pulpit while I am gone. I think this sabbatical has produced the broadest team effort I have seen in my time at First Baptist. THANK YOU for your grace to Laurie and me.
- The closer I get to sabbatical, the more I realize I just want to be with God. I can't wait to arrive at the Anglican monastery and walk the grounds and sit in the chapel, enter silence and pray. I feel a little like Jesus breaking away and going up to the mountain.
- I am looking forward to some physical exercise. I enjoy sitting and munching, and visiting too much!
- I want to return a better and a little different pastor than when I left.
- I already have some new ideas for First Baptist when I return.
- I am going to watch the waves on the Bay of Fundy when we travel to Nova Scotia.

- Coffee, birds, splitting wood, and prayer, is an incredible gift first thing in the morning.
- I purchased a great new devotional book for sabbatical. It is by the Mennonite author, Arthur Boers.
- Speaking of books: I have included my sabbatical bibliography in this C&S if any of you would like to read along with me this summer. The first two books I would recommend are Ruth Haley Barton's *Invitation to Solitude and Silence*, and the old classic I am re-reading, Andrew Murray's *Abide in Christ*.
- I would then recommend either of the two books by N.T. Wright, and then if you want something to grapple with, read *The Cat and the Toaster*.
- I will re-read the journals I have kept from 1988 until today. I think I might write a reflection piece. How does this title sound: "A small part in a quiet revival"?
- I will miss seeing you. I ask the Holy Spirit will wash over First Baptist in the years ahead. I pray we will learn and understand how much more to be available and vulnerable to the Holy Spirit and each other.

God Bless,  
Dale

**Important Note: After June 5<sup>th</sup> the pastor will not be making any more appointments or visits because of the administrative work that needs to be finished before his sabbatical begins on June 12<sup>th</sup>.**

## IMPORTANT SABBATICAL INFO

Pastor Dale's and Laurie's sabbatical is just around the corner. Here are some important dates and details you may want to make note of:

**SEND-OFF SUNDAY:** Sunday, June 12 is Pastor Dale & Laurie's departure day and also Children's Day. In addition to the Children's Day program, we'll commemorate their departure in a special way with an all-church luncheon to follow the service. Don't miss this time to send them off with all our best wishes!

**WELCOME WOTTON SUNDAY:** On Sunday, June 26 we'll welcome Pastor Roger Wotton to our pulpit. He will be filling in for Pastor Dale, providing office hours and pastoral care/visitation, counseling one day per week during the sabbatical. There will be a special luncheon after the service to give us all the opportunity to meet and welcome Pastor Roger & his wife Betsy to our church.

**EVERY SUNDAY THIS SUMMER:** We'll have a variety of speakers filling the pulpit while Pastor Dale is away. We encourage everyone to faithfully attend the Sunday morning services throughout the summer, and give our full support to all those who will be preaching. The bulletin each week will list the next week's speaker.

**RALLY & RETURN SUNDAY:** Sunday, Sept. 11 we'll rejoice in the return of Pastor Dale & Laurie when Sunday School, youth groups, etc. resume. We'll have a special celebration to welcome them back!

### WHO TO CALL IN AN EMERGENCY:

**Regarding church family** (illness, death, accident, counseling, etc.):

Keith Davio, Deacon, Chair: 603-252-6058 (cell), 603-727-9533 (home)

Jim Newcomb, Deacon: 603-448-2782 (home)

Gretchen Cole, Deacon: 603-448-2370 (home)

### Regarding church building/grounds:

Dan Nash, Deacon: 802-356-4928 (cell), 603-448-6023 (home)

Steve Girdwood, Mission Board Chair

603-252-9511 (cell), 603-448-3318 (home)

**IMPORTANT: From June 12-Sept. 11, Pastor Dale & Laurie will be totally unavailable and out of contact with our congregation. Please do not try to reach them for any reason!**

**The pastor's email (soulman@...) will not be functioning during the sabbatical.**

## OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday: By Appointment Only.

Phone: 603-448-5618 (leave message)

E-mail: [office@lebfirstbaptist.com](mailto:office@lebfirstbaptist.com)

## MISSIONS & LOCAL OUTREACH

Questions regarding Missions & Food Pantry

Steve Girdwood, Mission Board Chair

603-252-9511 (cell); 603-448-3318 (home)

### Food Pantry Hours:

Wednesday, 12:30PM-2:30 PM

Friday, 11:00AM-1:00PM

Sunday, After Church Service

### Questions regarding Community Dinner:

Chris Clark, 603-667-1892 (cell)

Every Wednesday at 5:30 PM.

Please keep Pastor Dale and Laurie in our prayers, and pray for our church body to grow and be strengthened as well during this time. We should continue to regularly attend services, maintain normal levels of financial giving, and look for opportunities to grow in our unity as a church family and our service to the Lord. Remember, the sabbatical benefits the whole church body!

*\*For further information regarding the sabbatical, please see the "Sabbatical 2011" brochure.*

- Sabbatical Bibliography, 2011 – Dale Edwards**  
Barton, Ruth Haley & Willard, Dallas, *Invitation to Solitude and Silence: Experiencing God's Transforming Presence*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. 2010.
- Boers, P. Arthur, *Take Our Moments and Our Days*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press. 2010.
- Hall, Christopher, *Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. 1998.
- Hall, Douglas; Hall, Judy, Dana, Steven. *The Cat and the Toaster*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock. 2010.
- Murray, Andrew, *Abiding in Christ*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House. 2003.
- Rah, Soong Chan, *The Next Evangelicalism*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. 2009.
- Wright, N.T. *After You Believe: Why Christian Character Matters*. New York, NY: HarperOne. 2010.
- . *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*. NY, NY: HarperOne. 2010.

### **MISSION TRIP/TORNADO RELIEF**

Ed & Kristen Griffin are planning a trip to Alabama June 3-13 to help with relief efforts in the aftermath of the devastating tornados the area experienced last month. Ed & Kristen would love to have others join them if they have the time available. Financial gifts to help with trip expenses would be greatly appreciated. We are also collecting bottled water, clothing, and food items for the Griffins to bring with them. Donations may be left in the Pellerin Room. Please keep Ed & Kristen in your prayers as they plan the trip.

### **ANOTHER MISSION NOTE:**

Janet Hall has returned from a mission trip to Haiti and left again already for Memphis to help with disaster relief. Please keep Janet in your prayers!

### **EMILY & JO HEAD TO PRINCETON!**

Jolyon & Emily Pruszinski, formerly staff members of Navigators ministry at Dartmouth, are leaving soon for Princeton Theological Seminary. Further gifts to support them can be sent directly to First Baptist, and these will be forwarded on their behalf. Jolyon has officially become an American Baptist seminarian and received his ministerial license this spring. Please keep Emily & Jo and their family in your prayers during this exciting transition.

### **30-HOUR FAMINE**

We had 15 kids and 5 adults participate in the 30-Hour Famine on Friday, May 13 to Saturday, May 14 and are happy to report that we raised over \$3000 for World Vision. During the famine we learned about world hunger, and worked together to help stock our church's food pantry with food donated from our own congregation as well as from the Letter Carriers Food Drive. We broke our fast with a breakfast prepared for us by Karl Meagher representing the Men's Fellowship group and some of the leaders. Thank you to everyone who helped support our youth during the famine with their prayers and sponsorships.

### **GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER**

Pregnancy Center of the Upper Valley invites you to support the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament at the Lake Morey Country Club on Tues., June 28 at 1:00PM. Participant entries are \$80 for individual player, \$320 for foursome, includes greens fees, golf cart, tee prizes, buffet dinner, awards & golfer gifts. See downstairs bulletin board for more info.

### **BABY BOTTLE REMINDER**

Don't forget to return your Baby Bottles filled with cash/coin to support the Pregnancy Center. Deadline is Father's Day, June 19<sup>th</sup>!

### **CHRISTIAN WRITERS CONFERENCE**

Gove Hill will host its 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 is \$225 fulltime, \$125 day participant, \$75 Saturday only. For more information or to register, go to [www.govehillretreat.org](http://www.govehillretreat.org) or contact Bill or Bernice Clark, 802-785-4000. Discount available for attendees of First Baptist.

### **SUMMER SONGWRITING CONFERENCE**

Coming July 22-24 to Gove Hill in Thetford, VT. 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 listed for the Writers Conference, and discounts are available for attendees of First Baptist.

### **WHITE CROSS UPDATE**

I have received word that our missionary Bill Clemmer in the Congo has a major need for roller bandages, so this year our number one project is roller bandages. We have a goal of 500, and have until April of 2012 to complete this. The size has changed from last year – it is now 2 inches by 10 feet. Cotton sheets work the best – they can be solids, prints, stripes, and any color. I have several sheets that I picked up at yard sales, so if anyone wants to start tearing them, just let me know. If anyone has old sheets at home, we would appreciate the donation. If you do yard sales, just tell the person doing the sale that you're looking for old sheets for a church project to make bandages for the mission field – I've had people go back into the house and bring some out even though they weren't put out for the sale. Spread the word that we need sheets!

For those of you who don't want to do bandages, we will be doing the kits again this year and you can start anytime on those. For school kits, we already have the bags, all you need to get are the supplies that go in them. At some point we will be doing a fundraiser to raise \$750 which is our share

of the \$82,000 for the India White Cross project. I'm looking for ideas on what we can do. I know that God is with us all the way on this one, but keep the project in prayer that we can meet all our goals.

Blessings, Lorraine Bickford

### STEVE GREEN CONCERT AT LOH!!

We're excited to report that Steve Green will be in concert live at the Lebanon Opera House on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Profits benefit Upper Valley Compassionate Care Center. . To purchase tickets (\$30, \$25, \$20), go to [www.lebanonoperahouse.org](http://www.lebanonoperahouse.org) or email [uppervccc@gmail.com](mailto:uppervccc@gmail.com) . Free Prayer Brunches in preparation for the concert at the Compassionate Care Center as follows: Wed., June 1 at 8:30 & 10:00 AM, and Tues., June 7 at 8:30 & 10:00 AM. If you are interested, please contact the Care Center so they can plan accordingly (603-219-6835).

### ABC/VNH ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 17-18!

The American Baptist Churches of VT/NH Annual Meeting is at Kimball Union Academy in Meriden June 17-18. The theme is "Keep the Fire Burning". Registration forms are available in the church office. You do not have to be a delegate to attend.

**SUMMER BREAK: Sunday School, Children's Fellowship, and Youth Group will be on break June 19-Sept. 11. Have a great summer!**

### FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED!

Our Raven Box Food Pantry is in desperate need of donations. Like all food pantries, we have seen a 35-40% increase in pantry use this year. Canned foods – spaghetti, ravioli, hash, tuna, luncheon meat (Spam), stew, fruit, soups, sauce, etc. – pasta, rice, side dishes, peanut butter & jelly, cereals, hygiene items, toilet paper – are all in constant need. Cash donations are also useful! Food may be placed in the blue buckets near the church door, money may be put in the offering plate with a notation "for food pantry". Thanks for your help!

### WOMEN'S DINNER NEWS

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

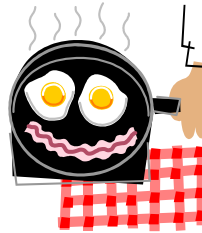
**YOUTH GROUP END OF YEAR EVENT is a sleepover at Gove Hill June 10-11! Campfire, good food, swimming, games & more! Join us!**

### COMMUNITY DINNER NEWS

Help is needed with the Wednesday Community Dinner program. The dinners are held every Wednesday at 5:30 PM. We are currently serving up to 40 people each night. New sign-up sheets are now located on a bulletin board downstairs near Kilburn Hall. You may sign up to provide food (main dishes, side dishes, desserts, beverages), or to help with set up, serving, and clean-up. Questions, please contact Chris Clark (603-667-1892).

### HOME DELIVERED MEALS AVAILABLE

The Grafton County Senior Citizens Council provides home delivered meals to eligible individuals in the area. If you feel you may meet the eligibility criteria and are interested in receiving meals, contact Victoria Weeks 448-4213, ext. 116.



**MEN'S BREAKFAST**  
**Saturday, June 11**  
**7:30 AM**  
**All Men Welcome!**

### PRAYER, PRAISE & FELLOWSHIP!

Our next Prayer, Praise & Fellowship time will be **Thursday, June 16 from 6:30-8:30 PM**. This is a wonderful time to come together to praise God, to fellowship with one another, and to lift up our requests to God in prayer. Please join us!



**Children's Day & Send-Off Sunday!**  
**June 12 – 10:00**  
Celebrate Our Children's Ministries & Send the Edwards Off on Their Sabbatical!

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** During the pastor & Laurie's sabbatical, any information for the Sunday bulletin needs to be in the office by Wednesday noon the week prior. Messages may be left via phone (448-5618, leave a message with details or a callback number) or via email [office@lebfirstbaptist.com](mailto:office@lebfirstbaptist.com).