

Cross and Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church

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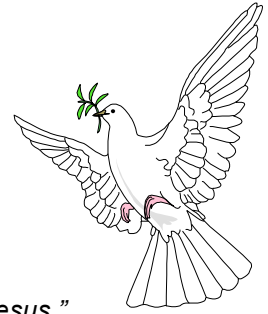
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“Not a perfect church, not a perfect people, just a simple desire to follow Jesus.”



GO TO CHURCH OR BE THE CHURCH?

By Laurie Edwards

As some of you may not realize, there are certain perks to being the pastor's wife. I get to attend lots of weddings, which is kind of cool – there's something special about witnessing such a special day in someone's life. Last month Dale and I got to enjoy a long, leisurely breakfast with missionaries John & Debbie Coats the morning after their presentation at First Baptist. Last Sunday evening I got to go with Dale and the 20-Something's group to an event on Dartmouth's campus. If I wasn't "the pastor's wife" I most likely wouldn't have gone – my 20-Something years are pretty far behind me now!

So, on October 24th a young man by the name of Jaeson Ma came to Dartmouth. Jaeson is a Chinese American Christian hip-hop artist and minister (a combination I didn't even know existed!). He came to sing, to preach, and to present the "1040 Movie" – a documentary exploring the exciting growth of Christianity and work of the Holy Spirit going on in Asia right now – in a geographic area known as the "10/40 window". Jaeson has a vision and a heart for revival on America's college campuses – which is why he came to visit Dartmouth. I sat in the back row as both participant and observer. I participated for a while trying to jump with the hip-hop music (which must have looked pretty comical!), until I decided I was probably better off observing. But after the music and the movie, Jaeson got down to serious business. As he asked students to not only commit their lives to Christ but to ask the Holy Spirit to empower them to be His witnesses on Dartmouth's campus and beyond, I found

myself praying with and for Jaeson and these young adults who are his primary audience.

Something Jaeson said really resonated with me. He said, "Don't just go to church, BE the Church." It's important to join with other Christians for worship, teaching and fellowship on a regular basis, but we can't just stop there. We are the Body of Christ, and our purpose here on earth is to know Christ and **to make Him known to others**. We picked up Jaeson's book *The Blueprint: A Revolutionary Plan to Plant Missional Communities on Campus*. I started to read it the other day with what I have to admit was a bit of an attitude. I've seen too many Christian easy answer/self-help books over the years – I figured anyone with the nerve to call his own book "The Blueprint" for *anything* probably had too much ego for my tastes. But I was wrong. Because Jaeson hits it dead on – he wastes no time laying it out to the reader that the starting point has to be PRAYER.

As Jaeson shared that his life mission statement is "to know His presence and to make His presence known in my generation," it struck me that this should be every Christian's mission statement. He goes on to say that this "can't happen without prayer and this can only happen through prayer." (p. 41-42). "It is only through prayer that heaven can touch earth. . . Prayer is what the devil hates and what he is most afraid of." (p. 42). He stresses that "we cannot fulfill the Great Commission unless we first fulfill the Great Commandment" - Love One Another!

As Christians our lives are intended to be lived filled with the Holy Spirit. I'm sad to admit that sometimes I have settled for less. It's time I stopped merely "going to church" and focused on "Being the Church" - to deny myself, take up my cross and follow Jesus!

NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION

Anyone who has become a member in 2009 or 2010 is invited to a New Member Orientation on Sunday, November 7 from 4:00-5:30PM. Hosted by the Board of Deacons, dinner will be provided, followed by Pastor Dale speaking on various topics related to church membership (church history, structure, and opportunities for service). Please join us in the Pellerin Room at 4:00 on the 7th for a great time of fellowship, a delicious meal, and an informative session on being a member of our church! RSVP to the church office by Nov. 3rd.

JOINING TOGETHER TO GIVE THANKS! FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON NOV. 14TH!

On Sunday, Nov. 14th following church, there will be a light lunch of homemade soups and bread, and pie for dessert will be served. There is a sign up sheet for food items on the bulletin board at back of the church. For questions, call Doree Clifford 603-448-4174.

GIVING TREE IS COMING!

The First Baptist Giving Tree will be up the first week in November. Please take a tag, sign the book, and purchase a new gift to help give a needy child or senior citizen a Merry Christmas! Gifts need to be returned to the church **unwrapped** not later than Sunday, November 21. (Our deadline is early this year!). **Thanks for your support!**

FAMILY FUN NIGHT ON NOVEMBER 19TH!



The Christian Ed. Board is sponsoring a Family Fun Night on Friday, November 19 from 6:00-8:00PM at the church! There will be a pancake dinner with various toppings supplied: whipped cream, maple syrup, chocolate syrup,

fruit and various pie fillings. There will be Fall Fun Activities and even some prizes! So mark your calendar and bring the whole family! Everyone welcome!

FIRST BAPTIST HAS A NEW SIGN!!!

We'd like to extend a huge THANK YOU!!! to Alan Charbono for creating and installing the beautiful new sign in front of the church. We have long been in need of a new sign and truly appreciate this wonderful gift!

IT'S SHOEBOX TIME!!!

Our Sunday School will be participating in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox program again this November. People are asked to bring in new small toys, gifts, etc. by November 14th to fill shoeboxes for children on the mission field. This is really a church-wide effort, and all donations of NEW items would be greatly appreciated. Here are some ideas: School supplies (pens, pencils, crayons, markers, pads, picture books, etc.). Toys (small cars, balls, dolls, stuffies, yo-yos, jump ropes, slinkys, etc.). Other (hard candy, lollipops, mints, gum, t-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, etc.). Thanks for your help!

WEDNESDAY NOON BIBLE STUDY

A new study using *Life Lessons: The Book of Acts* by Max Lucado has started meeting on Wednesdays from 12:00-1:00PM at the church. We are really enjoying the book and would love to have others join us. The study starts with lessons on how to study the Bible. Max Lucado makes the subject easy to understand and enjoyable. If you have any questions, please speak to Lorraine Bickford (603-632-5651 or lorbic@comcast.net).

WHITE CROSS UPDATE

Thank you to all who have put together Health Kits, School Kits, and Baby Kits! At present we have two large boxes of Health Kits ready to ship. There's time to put more together, so please keep them coming! A pattern is available for School Kit Bags for anyone who would like to sew. We've also joined the Adopt-a-Student program, and plan to support University of New Haven student Chris Cilley from Ashland, NH with encouragement and an occasional care package. If you would like to help with any of these projects or learn more about White Cross, contact Lorraine Bickford at 632-5651. Our group will be meeting monthly to work on projects and any necessary business. Our next meeting is Saturday, Nov. 13 from 9:30AM to noon at the church!

AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION FAIRE

We were delighted to have a group attend the American Baptist Mission Faire in New London on Oct. 2nd. It's great to hear what other churches are doing about missions over

and beyond White Cross. Highlights of the event included presentation of the Rhon Peterson Awards for Mission Outreach, a presentation of the Extreme Team mission trip for 19-30 year olds, and a Skype conversation with Ann Clemmer who along with her husband Bill does mission work in the Congo. We hope to see more go next year!

FRESH PIES AVAILABLE!

Gove Hill Retreat is providing Thanksgiving pies again this year! This year, pie proceeds are going to support a new furnace and better insulation in the building. Pies available for \$10 each are apple, peach, pumpkin, lemon chiffon and blueberry. For \$12 each you may have pecan or maple cream pie or Carrot cake. For special flavors not listed, call Bernice to check on pricing and availability. To order, call Gove Hill at 802-785-4000. Pies may be picked up at Gove Hill on Tuesday November 23 or Wednesday November 24.

CAN U HELP? BAZAAR IS COMING!

Our annual Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 6 from 8:30AM-1:00PM. As of press time we are short on workers for the Bazaar. Volunteers are needed for set-up Thursday evening (Nov. 4) and during the day on Friday (Nov. 5), and to work the day of the Bazaar for part or all of the day. If you can help out, please contact Terry Bolduc, 603-632-5168. We're also looking for items to sell at the Bazaar: Baked goods, craft items, & jewelry may be brought to the church at any time; White elephant/yard sale type items should be brought in no later than Nov. 4th.

GIVING THANKS – SATURDAY, NOV. 20!

Join us Saturday morning, November 20th from 8:30-10:30AM for Prayer, Praise & Fellowship. We will join together to give thanks and to bring prayer requests before God together. Light refreshments provided. Sponsored by the Board of Deacons.

COATS' MISSION NEWS

We were excited to receive news that John & Debbie Coats have been approved to return to Cambodia in early December to resume their mission work there. If you would like to help support the Coats financially, we have made new envelopes available in the church pew racks. Checks may be made payable to First

Baptist Church with a note "for Coats" in the memo line of your check.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD NOVEMBER 13TH!

Boy Scouts will be doing their annual "Scouting For Food" drive on Saturday, Nov. 13th this year. Notices will be left on doors on Nov. 6 and Scouts will return to pick up non-perishable food items on the 13th. Our First Baptist Food Pantry receives a large donation of food from the Scouts food drive each year. Thank you for supporting this effort!

SPECIAL MEETING - SABBATICAL VOTE!

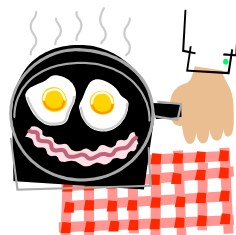
There will be a special meeting, Sunday, November 21st, 2010, immediately following the worship service. The reason for the special meeting is to vote on the sabbatical proposal for Pastor Dale and Laurie Edwards. The sabbatical is to honor our Pastor's 25 years of service. Please mark your calendar!

ADVENT IS COMING!!!

The Advent season begins Sunday, November 28 – right after Thanksgiving! Advent devotional booklets for all ages will be made available to everyone free of charge. Be sure to pick one up near the church entryways.

CLOTHING GIVEAWAY NEWS

Thanks to Cheri Maynard and all who helped out with the Clothing Giveaway on Oct. 16th! Over 60 people received free clothing!



**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**
Sat., June 13
7:30 AM
All Men Welcome

*Women's Fellowship
Potluck Dinner &
Purpose-Driven Life
Study*
Tuesday, 6 April 21@
6:00 PM
At Marge Olson's
30 Dorset Lane, Lebanon



REFLECTIONS ON SPIRITUAL FORMATION: THOUGHTS ON SOLITUDE

In the beginning of Mark's Gospel we read that Jesus got up early in the morning, before dawn, and went by Himself to a place to pray. When the disciples woke up, they panicked, because they couldn't find Him. And when Peter does find Jesus praying, he offers a not-so-subtle reprimand. Solitude seems nonsensical. Why, when there is so much to do, so much to know, so much to say, would one disconnect and be alone? Solitude in the age of cell phones and e-mail, Facebook and Direct TV, still sounds like a challenging, odd idea - unless we embrace the reason for solitude. I remember an old deacon I knew growing up who said the reason he liked deer season was because it gave him a reason to be by himself in the woods where there were quiet places to sit and be with God. Over the centuries Christians have spoken of solitude as a "container discipline". In other words, it is in solitude that we leave the distractions of our worlds to better be with God.

Now the distractions may follow us into solitude, having taken up residence in our own heads and hearts. But solitude is a place where our will becomes more attuned at saying "no" to the distractions, and "yes" to Christ. Being with Jesus in what I sometimes think of as a "rolling conversation" needs solitude. If my intent is to talk with Jesus on and off for a few hours, I need quiet, disconnected space. I find that "rolling conversation" means I talk, then listen, and think, and talk some more, and then listen some more, then think, hold a verse in my head, jot down a few thoughts in my journal, and then keep talking with Christ who knows my heart. For me, I relate to that old deacon, walking in a quiet place, sitting on a bench, or stone wall, or just sitting in the leaves with a tree trunk as a backstop, and taking the time, because it takes time, to leave behind the distractions and be with God. The obsession of our time is to be constantly connected, in touch; but that drive for connectedness can be more an addiction than a blessing.

Solitude is the place, a physical place, to go and meet with Christ, friend to friend, servant and master, beloved and lover, repentant and confessor; solitude is often the needed "context" to just be with God. Solitude is also a "soul place." Solitude is not loneliness, though one might travel through loneliness to find solitude. It is kind of like finding the words to put to already existing music. When sometimes I am missing God, I find my need for solitude to grow. Sometimes I tell Christ I have missed Him deeply, and it is my fault, and ask to just be with Him. I JUST NEED TO BE WITH CHRIST, ASKING FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT, OR ELSE THE WORLD WILL SUFFOCATE ME. Solitude is a lot like coming up for air, to breathe again the Holy Spirit. There is a lot of Sabbath in solitude with God. I pray my desire for solitude would grow, because all my "natural", fallen inclinations, are to love distractions more than God.

Pastor Dale



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR!

Saturday, Nov. 6
8:30am - 1:00pm
Baked Goods, White
Elephant, Crafts, Jewelry
Shop, Work, and/or
Donate!



THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Right After Church
Sunday, Nov. 14
Soups, Breads & Dessert

THANKSGIVING PRAYER, PRAISE & FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, Nov. 20
8:30-10:30 AM
All Welcome - Join Us!