



# Cross and Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church

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

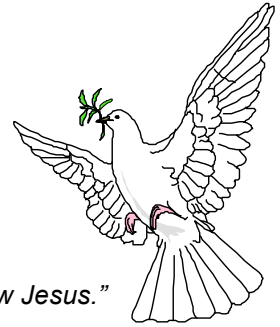
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*"Not a perfect church, not a perfect people, just a simple desire to follow Jesus."*



## True Confessions

Laurie Edwards

I am very happy to report a recent answer to prayer. As some readers may be aware, the Edwards' family mini-van was in need of replacement. When anticipated repairs will cost about \$1200 more than the actual Blue Book value of your car – well, you can do the math! We hated to admit it, but the time had come to send our beloved Plymouth Voyager to the great used car lot in the sky. It was time for it to be junked. And, as we did not keep our need a secret, I am told there was even a Concert of Prayers' request slip listing "new car for the pastor" put in the offering plate. I won't lie, I was a little embarrassed that it was listed. Oh, me of little faith!

Well, thank you to the person who stepped out boldly in faith to request a new car for the Edwards family! And thanks also "to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21, NIV).

Certainly none of the thanks belongs to me. Because I am sorry to admit in writing, for the whole church body to see, that I never asked God to help us find a new car. I just didn't. Dale and I were searching the Internet. We told some friends we were looking. But, while I don't know about Dale (please feel free to ask him!), yours truly never even thought to bring the need before God. Sad, but true.

So, for the curious-minded, here is how some faithful person's prayer was answered: A church member who knew of our need shares office space with a person in town who happened to share with that church member

that they had a 2002 Pontiac Grand Prix for sale with less than 45,000 miles on it. And it gets better than that. For several years it was a Florida car – if you've lived in New England for any length of time, you can appreciate the way our eyes lit up at that news! No rust, therefore no Bondo needed – hurray! And the asking price was well below that of any suitable vehicles we'd managed to find on the internet or in local car lots.

God wants us to bring all our needs before Him – whether great or small. I guess sometimes I forget that. And sometimes I just feel as though it would be selfish to bring insignificant or even self-serving needs to Him. Sometimes I feel I should be able to handle these kinds of things on my own. And what do I end up doing instead? Worrying about it, fretting about it, lying awake at night wondering how we're ever going to manage.

*"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matt 6:25-34.*

## **\*\*72 IN SEPTEMBER\*\* REPORT**

About 24 people participated in our **72-in-September** seventy-two hour prayer event. Folks signed up for 2-hour prayer slots and someone was praying continuously throughout the three day period at the church. What an incredible blessing it was to be part of this event and to have that opportunity for uninterrupted time with God! Be on the lookout for details for our next **96 Hour** Prayer Event coming soon!

## **YOUTH GROUP OFF AND RUNNING!**

Twenty-two young people showed up for our first youth group meeting of the year! We are looking forward to an exciting time in the coming months. Our first special event will be a hike up Mt. Cardigan on Sunday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. Youth should bring a bag lunch to eat after the Sunday worship service (11:30 AM), and a water bottle and appropriate clothing for the hike. We will leave the church at about 12:00 noon, hike Cardigan and then have a hot dog roast at the foot of the mountain. We plan to return to the church at about 5:00 PM. (Please note there will be no regular youth group meeting on that day). Permission forms/waivers must be turned in in order to participate in the hike. Contact Jim Newcomb (448-2782) or Laurie Edwards (448-4061) for more details. (Note: there will be no junior high youth meeting on Oct. 11 and senior highs will be meeting at the Newcomb's on that day).

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL HAS BEGUN!!!**

We had a wonderful start to Rally Day on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>! We had a great turnout for classes, and everyone enjoyed a pizza party and fun in the bounce house after the worship service. If you haven't checked out Sunday School yet, it's never too late to start! We have classes for ages three through adult and meet at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings!

## **"SERMON ON THE MOUNT" STUDY**

The Adult Sunday School class is studying the "Sermon on the Mount" by Jesus, the Christ, through an interactive study guide compiled by John Stott. We are picking up where we left off last year and are in chapter eight which focuses on the Lord's Prayer. Booklets are

available and the conversation has been lively! It's never too late to join us – we meet each Sunday at 9:00 AM in the Pellerin Room.

## **BAZAAR IS JUST WEEKS AWAY!!!**

The date for this year's Holiday Bazaar has been set for Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds from the Bazaar go to support our church Food Pantry, helping to buy groceries for the winter months. November 7<sup>th</sup> is coming at us fast and we'd love to have everyone in the congregation participate in some way! Ways to be of service include donating items to sell, helping with setting up for the Bazaar on days leading to up it, and working at the church on the day of the Bazaar for part or all of the day. We will be looking for donations of White Elephant (yard sale type) items, Jewelry and Craft items, Christmas Tree Ornaments, and Homemade Baked Goods. Be on the lookout for the red insert in your Sunday church bulletin to volunteer your time and talents!

## **GOVE HILL WORKDAY – OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**

Gove Hill will be holding its fall workday on Saturday, October 10 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. A free breakfast will be served at 8:00 AM and a free lunch at noon. There are work projects for all levels of ability. Come help get our retreat & conference center ready for winter! If you can help for part or all of the day, please contact Bill or Bernice Clark at 802-785-4000 or [govehill@abcvnh.org](mailto:govehill@abcvnh.org) so they can have plenty of food for all! Gove Hill is located in Thetford Center, VT.

## **SHORT COURSE IN CHURCH HISTORY!**

Ever wish you knew more about how Christianity got to where it is today? Why not join the pastor's Church History Class on Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM?! This is a 9-week class hitting the important events in the history of Christianity, and is open to all. *Note: There will be no class on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>.*

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP DINNER NEWS**

Women's Fellowship Dinners have resumed for the fall, and all women are invited to these fun events! The next dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20 at 6:00 PM at the home of Marge Olson, 30 Dorset Lane, Lebanon. The Dinners are potluck and we are continuing a study of *The Purpose-Driven Life*. It's a great time to get to know other women

from First Baptist in a relaxed setting. A sign-up sheet is located on the sanctuary bulletin board so Marge can have an idea of how many to plan for.

### VACATION FOOD PANTRY HOURS

The pastor will be on vacation October 9-14. If you have a pastoral emergency during that time, please call Gretchen Cole (448-2370) or Lorraine Bickford (632-5651). Also, during that time the Food Pantry will be open as follows: Friday, 5:30-7:30 PM; Saturday & Tuesday, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM; Wednesday 10:00-12:00 and 1:00-2:00.

### NEXT CONCERT OF PRAYERS OCT. 24<sup>TH</sup>

Has the Lord ever answered your deepest cry for help in a direct way? Imagine praying for another's request within a small circle of believers, and the honor of asking God to answer someone else's needs.

Have you ever thought we should step 'outside the camp', and leave the safety of the church walls, and walk around the city of Lebanon praying for its churches, pastors, families, schools, elected officials, medical providers, lawyers, judges, firemen and policemen ?

Has your heart ever been burdened by the events occurring in our world, in such a way that you wish you could join with other Christians and pray for those that are jobless, homeless, suffering war, drought, famine, or serving in the military?

Then please join our gathering that meets in the sanctuary of First Baptist Church for our next Concert of Prayers. In addition to our times of prayer, there will be ample time for fellowship. Refreshments will be provided by your board of deacons.

We look forward to joining our voices with yours, as we truly spend time with God our Father, Jesus our Brother and Intercessor, and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit's leading. Please mark your calendar with the date! Our next Concert of Prayers will be held on Saturday, October 24 from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the church.

**WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY DINNERS???** We'd love your help in any way, big or small. Whether you'd like to organize and cook, or just lend a hand on a Wednesday afternoon/evening, we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact Sharon Weightman, 603-298-6554 or email [d.weightman2@myfairpoint.net](mailto:d.weightman2@myfairpoint.net). Please note last month's newsletter contained an error in the email address!

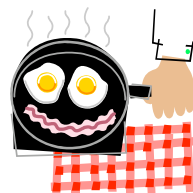
### COLLEGE ADDRESSES

If you have a child away at college and they would like to receive the church's monthly newsletter, please contact the church office with their school address! Thank you.

### FREE CLOTHING GIVEAWAY AHEAD!

A Free Clothing Giveaway is being planned for late November (tentatively Nov. 21). So please set aside gently used clothing for men, women and children and bring them to the church **after November 7<sup>th</sup>**. This event has become a great service to the community!

First Baptist's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
**FALL FESTIVAL**  
Saturday, Oct. 3  
4:00-7:30 PM  
At the Cole/Adams Farm  
450 Poverty Ln., Lebanon  
Hot Dogs, Hayrides, Campfire  
& More  
Bring Lawn Chairs, Flashlight  
&  
Apple Pie to Share  
Free Fun for All Ages!  
Rain Date: Sunday, Oct. 4



Men's Breakfast  
Saturday, Oct. 10  
7:30 AM  
All Men Welcome!

*Women's Fellowship  
Potluck Dinner &  
Purpose-Driven Life  
Study*  
Tuesday, October 20 @  
6:00 PM



Mark Your Calendar  
**HOLIDAY BAZAAR!**  
Saturday, Nov. 7  
8:30AM-1:00PM