

# Cross and Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church

11 School St., Lebanon, NH 03766

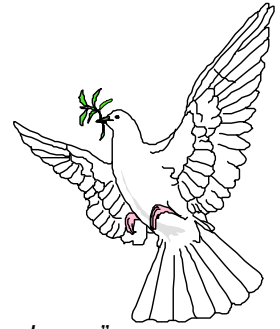
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*"Not a perfect church, not a perfect people, just a simple desire to follow Jesus."*



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## REFLECTIONS ON CHAT: CHURCH HEALTH SURVEY

By Dale Edwards

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who took the CHAT survey, and labored through its 70 questions, plus several customized question. I can't thank you enough that 63% of our church community responded. The survey designers say that 35% is considered an optimum response. I thank everyone for taking the time to ponder and answer questions, either on line, or filling out the paper survey.

The church leadership and I are now digesting an incredible amount of information. (Anyone in the congregation who would like to read the final report, please contact me and I will get you a copy.) The first part of the report is 19 pages and the appendix is 51 pages. I have read through it all several times now, bedtime reading, and have highlighted trends, themes, observations, etc.

The report reveals that our three greatest strengths are: Sunday worship, experiencing God's presence, and our stewardship and generosity. Almost tied with third is being a caring community. Our community desires more experience and teaching in the area of spiritual disciplines, more training in the area of servant leadership, and more networking with other ministries. I think the strengths are wonderful and the desires equally as wonderful. When I put our strengths and desires together, I see a community with an appetite for spiritual growth and formation, and building God's kingdom.

One of the immediate findings I notice is that 58% our church has been worshipping at First Baptist for ten years or less. I think this reflects our growth, the more transient community Lebanon has become, and the unfortunate loss of older members. This is why I sometimes hear the concern that we do not know each other well. The good news is Sunday morning worship does reach new people. But the church has grown beyond the one big family community that existed maybe 20 years ago. Today we are a community of several cells or groups of people who often overlap each other, and individuals who choose to stay a little more on the edges of things.

Outside the report, I took a look at our attendance figures and noticed we have grown 17% over the last three years. This incremental growth is not quickly noticed until we sit back and crunch a few numbers. Another curious piece of data I notice in the report is the balance between young and old: of those responding, 11% are under age 30 and 10% are over age 70, with the rest of us in between.

This is just the first reflection/digestion/rumination I want to share with you. As the church's leadership and I look through the data more and more, I will have more to share. I also believe that as we prayerfully look at who we are, God will give us direction for the future.

God Bless,  
Dale

## **FIRE DESTROYS VERMONT CHURCH**

On August 3<sup>rd</sup> the First Baptist Church of So. Londonderry, VT was completely destroyed by fire. Our hearts go out to our sister church in this tremendous loss. If you would like to make a gift to help the church in South Londonderry, you may do so through our regular offering by making a notation on your check or envelope, "For So. Londonderry Church". Every dollar designated for this cause will go directly to that church.

## **PRAYER CHAIN**

We are revising First Baptist's Prayer Chain. Volunteers will be placed on a list to be called to pray for emergency prayer requests and to pass the request on to the next person on the list. If you'd like to be part of the Prayer Chain, fill out a slip from the Sunday order of worship and place it in the offering plate.



**COFFEE,  
FELLOWSHIP &  
PRAYER!**  
**Saturday, September 25**  
**8:30-10:30AM!**  
**Come join us for a Time**  
**of Fellowship,**  
**Refreshment and**  
**Prayer!**

## **WHITE CROSS PROJECTS & NEWS**

There will be a survey in the bulletin soon to figure out a good night for us to get together to do business meetings and work on projects. Friday night didn't seem to work. The big push right now is to do the White Cross Gifts of the Heart which include the Baby Kit(Layette), School Kits and the Health Kits. If you can't do a complete kit that is okay, do what you can and bring it into the church, put it in the box under our table and we will finish. Any help is greatly appreciated. I do need sewers who can make cloth bags with handles, the size is 12"X14", these will be used for the School Kits, as of right now I know we have at least 12 kits put together that need a bag. There are kits for the baby gowns ready to go, also there are kits for the prayer shawls - they

can be found on the table in the front entrance. All the patterns are there for the shawls and if you need a pattern for the baby gowns let me or Jeanne Lang know. On October 2nd at the First Baptist Church of New London there will be a meeting for the ABW ministries, I will be going and I'm hoping others will also join me, we can car pool. I will be putting up a sign-up sheet in the back of the church next month. This meeting is where we can get all our questions about the White Cross and the projects answered. Thanks to all of those who are working on the projects and those who will join us in this.  
Blessings, Lorraine

## **POST-GRAD/FBC20'S**

Post -Grad Group is going strong. We have been studying "Bible one-anothers" for the past several weeks. There have been some great discussions about relationships and how God would have us treat each other (i.e. greet one another, honor one another, encourage one another) Our numbers vary weekly with as little as 8 and as many as 20, but we always have a great time of sharing, games, food and fellowship. Anne Morin has graciously hosted at her new house a few times and has recently led the group into action. The last topic was about how we can become more involved with the ministries of the church. There was a spirited conversation and a lot of interest. Anyone who is between the ages of 18 and 30 is welcome to join us Sunday evenings at 6:30. See Pastor Edwards, Randy Collins, Lehann Collins or any Post-Grad Group member for details.

Thanks,  
Lehann, Anne, Ryan (and a little Randy)

**Women's  
Fellowship  
Potluck Dinner**  
Tuesday, Sept.  
21@6:00  
At Marge Olson's  
30 Dorset Ln.,  
Lebanon Directions



**BAZAAR COMING NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>!**

We are looking for homemade craft items, white elephant items (PLEASE NO bowling balls, exercise equipment and electronics. We cannot give these items to the Listen Center or Good Will if we do not sell them and have to pay to discard them.) Baked goods and jewelry are huge sellers! Last year we got a lot of Christmas tree ornaments so we are not in such a big need this year. Thank you for your support, all proceeds go to our food pantry. If you have any questions please contact Terry Bolduc 603-632-5168.

**SEPTEMBER IS MISSIONS MONTH@FBC!**

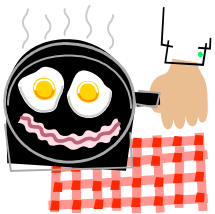
There are lots of different ways to be involved:

**Help Build a House** with Habitat for Humanity. FBC Volunteer dates are Sept. 11 & 18. Contact Chris Clark (667-1892) or Steve Girdwood (448-3318) for more details!

**Spend an Evening with the Coats** - Debbie & John Coats, missionaries to Cambodia, will be joining us on Tuesday, September 21 @ 6:00 PM for a Potluck Dinner and Fellowship Time. Come and meet the Coats, Learn about their Work, Bring a Dish to Share!

**Hear About Inter-Varsity Campus Ministry** - Brendan and Jackie Jorgensen will be joining us for worship on Sunday, September 26 @ 10:00 AM to discuss their new ministry with Inter-Varsity, followed by a cookout and discussion time. Be on the lookout for more details!

**Support the World Mission Offering!** Use the enclosed offering envelope to support American Baptist Missionaries around the world! Last year's response to the needs in Haiti was wonderful - help us support international missions!



**MEN'S BREAKFAST**  
Saturday, Sept.  
11 January 93  
7:30 AM  
ALL MEN WELCOME!!

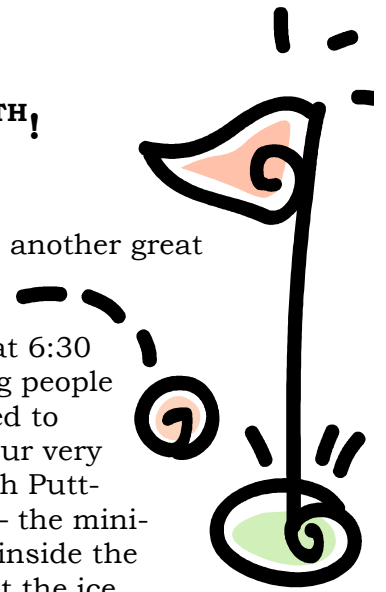
**NOTE OF THANKS**

*Dear Friends,  
I wish to express my thanks for all your prayers, well wishes and cards to each and everyone at First Baptist Church. I'm getting along slow but sure.*

*Sincerely, Wayne Follensbee*

**YOUTH GROUP  
STARTS SEPT. 19<sup>TH</sup>!  
& FBC PUTT-PUTT  
RETURNS!**

We're looking forward to another great year of youth group! Our first event will be Sunday, September 19 at 6:30 PM at the church. Young people in grades 6-12 are invited to come try their hand at our very own First Baptist Church Putt-Putt. That's right folks - the mini-golf course will be back inside the church. And don't forget the ice cream! We'll be making our own sundaes afterwards.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
IS FOR EVERYONE!!!**

**What is Sunday School?** It's a place to learn about God, Jesus & the Bible, and living the Christian life!

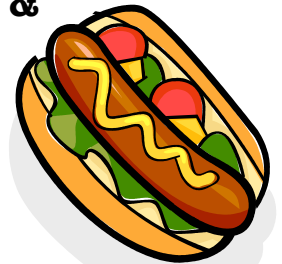
**Who is Sunday School?** Everyone ages three and up! We have classes from preschool to adults. Great teachers - check it out!

**When is Sunday School?** Sunday mornings at 9:00 beginning September 12.

**Where is Sunday School?** Right here at First Baptist Church!



**Come &  
Join  
Us**



**RALLY DAY!**

**Sunday, Sept. 12  
9:00 Sunday School  
10:00 Worship  
Free Hot Dog Lunch  
After Church!**