



# Cross and Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church

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

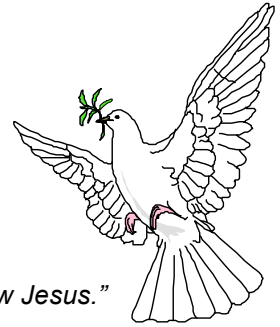
Pastor: Rev. Dale Edwards

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September 2009 Volume 26, No. 8

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



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## Waffles Is a Poopy Head

Laurie Edwards

I didn't realize how rough the pet situation in the Edwards' household had been over the past six months until I re-read last November's newsletter article. At that point in time, we had "a rabbit named Lucius, a guinea pig named Pigsley, a heretofore unnamed goldfish, . . . a cat named Ida, . . . a snapping turtle named Boris Karloff." Since that writing, Pigsley has passed away, Lucius died unexpectedly, the goldfish has been flushed, and Boris has been released to the (hopefully) happy life of the swamps. Of the original list, only Ida remains – I didn't realize it had been a year of so many losses!

But, you will be happy to know that Ida is no longer alone! A new rabbit has come to reside in the Baptist parsonage. His name is Waffles, and Waffles is a rabbit who lives up to his name. Unlike the rather dignified Lucius, Waffles acts more like a wild hare. He races around the living room as though it were a race track. He leaps from floor to couch to table to chair before you can say "jack rabbit". In his first month of residence he has managed to jump with ease over the plywood barrier into our dining room – an achievement never reached by his predecessor. He consumes copious amounts of rabbit grain and water, then proceeds to dirty his cage in record time. In his first days living with us, he decided that he'd prefer to use his litter box as a bed and picked another corner of the cage to do his business. He's chewed up the bindings of photo albums, books, game boxes, video cases, and taken a bite out of my favorite leather sandals. You have to watch him every second that he's out of his cage lest he find some new mischief to get into.

I told Dale the other day that it's like having a toddler in the house again. And while you'd think that might be welcome with our youngest having gone off to college, sometimes I'm honestly not so sure about it!

But Waffles is here to stay. What can I say – he's family. Where Lucius arrived as a surprise gift, adopting Waffles was a conscious decision. And although you can pick your friends and you can't pick your relatives, we adopted Waffles and we're committed to raising him as our own. We're with him through thick and thin, chewed electrical cords and random rabbit droppings. Whatever shenanigans he manages to get into, whatever unexpected follies, Waffles is ours and we are his for the long haul.

Sometimes I'm struck that God's adoption of me is like that. He's adopted me as His own. Wherever I mess up, however I might stumble, God is with me for the long haul. He's my Father and I am His child. Jesus called Him "Abba" or Daddy, and so can I. Don't worry, I haven't lost my senses. I realize this is a silly parallel because Waffles is just a rabbit. But God has adopted us as His own children. There is NOTHING that can separate me from His love. When I go astray, He is always waiting with open arms to welcome me back home. All I need to do is get up, brush myself off, turn around and run back home to Him. We are never any farther from the forgiveness and tender loving arms of God than these simple words, "I'm sorry."

When I think of the story of the Prodigal Son, I'm struck that the Father is watching and waiting for him and prepared to celebrate at the moment of his return. I've heard the expression that home is the place where they have to take you in. God doesn't have to, He chooses to. And that's a party I don't want to miss!

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF EVENT!**

**RALLY DAY IS SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>!**

**Please join us at 9:00 am on Sunday, Sept. 13 for our first day of Sunday School! We have classes for ages 3 thru Adult. Stay for Sunday morning worship at 10:00 am, then join us after church for a pizza party and bounce house on the church lawn!**

## **YOUTH GROUP STARTS SEPT. 20<sup>TH</sup>!**

**Attn: Youth in grades 6-12!!! Youth group begins on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 PM at the church. We'll have a fun evening of food, fun & games. Junior High youth group for grades 6-8 and Senior High youth group for grades 9-12. Join us!**

## **SEPTEMBER CONCERT OF PRAYERS**

Our September Concert of Prayers will be held on Thursday, September 17 from 6:30-8:30 PM. Please join us as we pray for the needs of one another, our church, our community and beyond. Please join us!

### **3 DAY PRAYER EVENT**

**\*\*72 IN SEPTEMBER\*\***

**Join Us at First Baptist for**

**3 Days of 24-Hour Prayer**

**Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 17-19**

"24-7 is not a radical discovery or a program. In fact it's the oldest, simplest idea there is... that we were made to walk in intimate, unbroken friendship with God. 24-7 is just a way of getting as many people as possible to lock themselves in a room with God for an hour and see what happens. Jesus said that the first and greatest commandment is to love God. That really is the very heartbeat of the movement. 24-7 Prayer exists to transform society . . ." *24-7 Prayer Website.*

How to Sign Up: In Church, see the Prayer Chart next to the sanctuary bulletin board. 1) Choose a Day(s), Choose a Time(s). 2) Write your name & phone number in the desired day/time slot(s). 3) Take an orange "reminder slip" to write your date, day & time. 4) Show up a few minutes early to the prayer closet downstairs and knock on the door to know you're there. 5) Person leaving says a prayer for the next Pray-er and leaves. 6) Enjoy your quiet time with God!!

## **FBC TABLE AT CARENET BANQUET!**

Tom & Doreé Clifford will be hosting a table from First Baptist at the Pregnancy Care Center's annual fundraising banquet on Thursday, Sept. 24 at the White River American Legion. Tickets are free! If you are interested, contact Tom or Doreé 448-4174.

## **Note of Thanks:**

*To Our Church Family,  
The thoughtful cards and words of comfort from so many of you was so appreciated during the loss of my mother. It was a great feeling of relief to know so many of you were praying for us. Our grief of knowing she will never be with us here is lessened by knowing she's now in God's care. Sincere thanks to you all.  
Blessings, Doreé & Tom Clifford*

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, September 10 at 6:30 PM.

## **WORLD MISSION OFFERING**

Did you know the World Mission Offering is used to support over 2500 short- and long-term missionaries in more than 70 countries to tell the good news of Jesus Christ while meeting human needs?! During the month of September we will be accepting this offering to help people come to Christ, grow in Christ, and change their world with Christ. Please prayerfully consider your gift to this important offering! A special envelope is included in this newsletter for your convenience. Thank you!

**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 [dweightman2@myfairpoint.net](mailto:dweightman2@myfairpoint.net).

## **MISSION ACTION EVENT @ GOVE HILL**

Saturday, Sept. 19 from 9:00am to 4:30pm. Come and join with other Baptists for a day of bringing missions to life through a variety of service projects! After worship and a missionary speaker, groups will leave for a variety of worksites in the Upper Valley. Cost is \$25 to cover lunch and materials. See your Sunday bulletin for registration sheets.

## **ISI WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

Iron Sharpens Iron for Women. Saturday, October 17 in Hartford, CT.

Saturday, 10/17, 9 AM – 5 PM (not an overnight)

Keynote speakers – Elizabeth George, Shaunti Feldhahn & 16 different seminars

For info or to sign up, contact Ruth Newcomb at 603-448-2782, or [ruthless\\_girl@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthless_girl@yahoo.com).

## MORE DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Please make the following changes to your church directory:

Dudley, Terri & Roger  
38 Dana St.

W. Lebanon, NH 03784

298-8056 [Terri.Dudley@comcast.net](mailto:Terri.Dudley@comcast.net)

Emery, Gail [Gailemery45@comcast.net](mailto:Gailemery45@comcast.net)

Kendall, Richard & Jeannette(Langley)

135 Three Mile Rd.

Hanover, NH 03750

603-643-4241

Meagher, Tina & Karl

88 Creampot Rd.

Hartland, VT 05048

Nguyen, Dai & Kim

133 Colonial Dr., Unit 702

White River Jct., VT 05001

Roberts, Flo

4 Maple St., Apt. 32

W. Lebanon, NH 03784

Roy, Barbara

703 Miller Pond Rd.

Grantham, NH 03753

603-863-3777

Sullivan, Corrina

18 School St.

Lebanon, NH 03766

Waters, Jim & Terri

603-632-1145

## CROP WALK OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>

The Upper Valley CROP Walk will be held, Sunday, Oct. 4 in downtown Lebanon. Registration is at 12:30 PM and the walk begins at 1:00. Walker packets will be made available near the church entryways. The CROP Walk raises money to help fight hunger here at home and around the world. Proceeds from last year's walk raised over \$1900 for our own Raven Box Food Pantry!

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

An ecumenical Bereavement Support Group will be held in Sacred Heart Church's Youth Activities Room on Thursday evenings from Sept. 3 to Oct. 8 from 6:30-8:00 PM. If you or someone you know is grieving the loss of a loved one, they are welcome to attend. The group is warm and welcoming, and places no demands or expectations on participants. For

more information or to enroll, call Jeanne Childs (603-643-4440).

## DO YOU HAVE A CHURCH KEY?

Please call the church office (448-5618) so we can be sure to get you a key when new locks are installed. Thank you!

## Update:

Mirela and Roberto have returned to Brazil!

Here is their contact info:

Roberto & Mirela Camargo

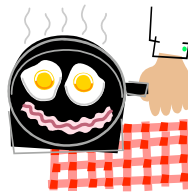
RUA DOUTOR JOAO LEITE, 662

JAU-SP-BRAZIL

17201-090

[Mirela-fisio@hotmail.com](mailto:Mirela-fisio@hotmail.com)

[betocamargo@hotmail.com](mailto:betocamargo@hotmail.com)



Men's Breakfast  
Saturday, Sept. 12  
7:30 AM  
All Men Welcome!

Concert of  
Prayers  
Thurs., Sept. 17  
6:30-8:30 PM  
Join Us!



Women's Fellowship  
Potluck Dinner  
& Purpose-Driven Life Study  
Tuesday, Sept. 15 @ 6:00  
At Marge Olson's  
All Women Welcome  
Directions & Sign-up Sheet  
on



Don't Miss  
Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Fall Festival!  
Saturday, Oct. 3\*  
4:00-7:30 PM  
At the Cole/Adams Farm  
450 Poverty Lane, Lebanon  
Hot Dogs, Hayrides,  
Campfire & More!  
Bring Lawn Chairs, Flashlights &  
Apple Pie to Share  
Free Fun for Everyone!  
\*Rain Date:: Sundav. Oct. 4