

THE SPIRE

AUGUST 2011

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

This month I am sharing some thoughts on the “process” which I believe to be inspired and timely. We are certainly in the middle of a great and significant process together.

GOD’S PURPOSES OR MINE?

“He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side...”

Mark 6:45

We tend to think that if Jesus Christ compels us to do something and we are obedient to Him, He will lead us to great success. We should never have the thought that our dreams of success are God’s purpose for us. In fact, His purpose may be exactly the opposite. We have the idea that God is leading us toward a particular end or a desired goal, but He is not. The question of whether or not we arrive at a particular goal is of little importance, and reaching it becomes merely an episode along the way. What we see as only the process of reaching a particular end, God sees as the goal itself.

What is my vision of God’s purpose for me? Whatever it may be, His purpose is for me to depend on Him and on His power *now*. If I can stay calm, faithful, and unconfused while in the middle of the turmoil of life, the goal of the purpose of God is being accomplished in me. God is not working toward a particular finish – His purpose is the process itself. What He desires for me is that I see “Him walking on the sea” with no shore, no success, nor goal in sight, but simply having the absolute certainty that everything is all right because I see “Him walking on the sea” (6:49). It is the process, not the outcome, that is glorifying to God.

God’s training is for now, not later. His purpose is for this very minute, not for sometime in the future. We have nothing to do with what will follow our obedience, and we are wrong to concern ourselves with it. What people call preparation, God sees as the goal itself.

God’s purpose is to enable me to see that

He can walk on the storms of my life right now. If we have a further goal in mind, we are not paying enough attention to the present time. However, if we realize that moment-by-moment obedience is the goal, then each moment as it comes is precious.

July 28 from My Utmost for His Highest

by Oswald Chambers

Pray for our church; that we may see Jesus, know Him and walk with Him in His love and care at this time, on this “sea”.

Blessings,

Pastor Tom

175th Anniversary Celebration



We celebrated our One Hundred Seventy-fifth anniversary on Sunday, June 5th with a day of many special activities. The morning service at 10:00 included many visiting clergy taking part in the worship service. Rev. Dr. Louis George, Interim Executive Minister of American Baptist Churches Vermont/New Hampshire, gave the sermon titled “It’s not about Ourselves”. Our Chancel Choir presented special celebratory music, lead by Chancel Choir Director, Susan Howard and accompanied by our Church organist, Carla Carney.

After the morning service, a catered luncheon was served. The evening service at 6PM included many invited local dignitaries. The Reverend Dr. Robert Aspinwall, who served as Minister to the Church for over 19 years, gave the sermon titled "Have you Seen My Keys?" Special music was provided by our Church choirs: the Folk Choir, Praise Choir, and Compass Band and singers, as well as the Chancel Choir. After the evening service light refreshments were served during fellowship hour.

August Birthdays

- 1 Ed Wright
- 3 Kayla Gelinias
Erin Gerrish
Bradley Powers, Jr.
- 4 Karen Bartlett
- 7 Don Hutchinson
Robert Rochussen
- 8 Arin Daggett
Richard Latham
- 9 David Guthrie
Kadi Sickel
- 10 Janice Valletta
Russell Robie
- 11 Elaine Melesky
- 15 Sophia Rendo
Kelsey Peirce
- 16 Jeralyn O'Leary
- 20 Christine Clarke-Swift
Joanne Isherwood
- 22 Gawain Wood
Adam Cunningham
- 24 David Trumper
- 25 Samantha Carlino
- 29 Becky Schosser
- 31 Linda DeLotto

August Anniversaries

- 1 McKenzie & Lisa Scott
- 2 Floyd & Shirley Gates
- 3 William & Eileen Hull
Henry & Davena Szmyt
- 12 Gary & Donna Rochussen
- 14 James & Leslie Brown
- 23 Peter & Susan Cunningham
- 28 William & Elaine Melesky

Dear Church Family,

I would like to ask for your help. I am looking for a housemate; professional female, non-smoking. Costs for living space \$650/per month; includes own bedroom; shared bathroom and plenty of common shared areas. Country setting in Danville, close proximity to highways Rt 125, Rt 101 and Rt 95; plus commuter rail access within minutes located in Exeter.

If you know anyone that might be interested please give me a call at 603.642.7795; Thank you in advance for any help you can provide.

Sincerely, Christine Clarke-Swift

AD HOC COMMITTEES FBC - 2011-2012

BY LAWS

Chairman, Ben Sadewicz
 Secretary, Elaine Melesky
 Eleanor Peabody
 Joyce Wright
 Dick Latham
 Meeting: Every second Wednesday at 6:00 PM.
 Next meeting is August 3

RAINBOW PRESCHOOL

Nancy McCormack, Chairperson
 Elaine Melesky, Secretary
 Peter Lund
 Jan Valletta
 Melanie Bixby
 Meetings: Weekly on Thursdays at 7:00 PM

VISION HOUSE

Dick Jackman, Liaison
 between church and Goodwins
 John Demmer represents the Finance Committee
 Joanne Isherwood represents the Deacons
 Chris Swift represents the Property Committee
 Meetings TBA

PULPIT COMMITTEE:

Debra Sawyer, Chairman
 Jill Senter, Co-Chairman
 Sandy Kamitian, Secretary
 Brent Carney
 Joanne Isherwood
 Gail Lewis
 Lynda Mailhot

Ben Sadewicz
Midge Wood
Meetings: Every Wednesday at 7:15 PM

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Finance

Eleanor Peabody
Midge Wood, Co Chairperson
Joyce Wright, Secretary
Carol Hurn, Nominating representative
Meetings: 2nd Monday each month at 7:00 PM

Trustees

Kristen Peirce, Chairperson
Midge Wood, Nominating Representative
Meetings: As needed

Board of Christian Education

Peter Lund Chairman
Sharon Bilodeau, Assistant Chair
Diane Powell Secretary
Nominating Representative, Melanie Bixby
Meetings: 2nd Monday at 5:30 PM

Deacons

Terri Russell, Chairperson
David Aspinwall, Vice- Chairperson
Nancy McCormack, Secretary
Jan Valletta, Nominating Representative
Meetings: Last Monday each month at 7:00 PM

Communications

Peter Lund, Chair
Pam Trevor, Secretary
Nominating Representative, Debra Sawyer
Meetings: 2nd Monday at 5:00 PM

Flower

Person in charge of each month: Chairperson
Nominating Representative

Hospitality

Nancy Jackman, Chairperson
Janice Valletta, Co-Chairperson
Nominating Committee Representative

Music

Property Committee

Chris Clarke-Swift, Chairperson
Elaine Melesky, Secretary
Midge Wood, Nominating Representative
Meetings: Third Monday at 7:00 PM



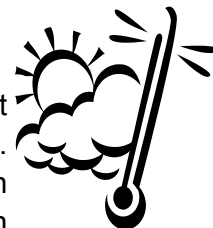
Vacation

Bible School

August 15 – 19

The time is coming for VBS. We are looking for volunteers; we need help with the Kitchen, registration and group leaders. Watch the bulletin for our next meeting or speak with Elaine, Kristen, or Jill for details. The theme is birds and we have lots of fun planned, so mark your calendars and tell your friends that soon VBS begins.

I pray that you have made it through the heat wave unscathed. Kevin Van Brunt posted this on the Camp Sentinel Facebook page on Friday: Today's schedule (94 degrees)...sunscreen...swim...eat...drink water.. sunscreen.. drink water.. Swim... Eat.. Drink water... sunscreen... swim.. eat...think winter :) (and he posted a picture of the swimming area covered in snow!)



Communications

The Committee discussed the Relationship cards which have been in the bulletin. Rather than printing more, we felt 3 color coded cards for different purposes could be put in the pew slots...one each for prayer requests, visitor information and general information.

The article about the 175th celebration which is included in this newsletter, was also sent to ABC/VNH along with some photographs. If you haven't already, please check out the photos on the bulletin board in Colcord Hall of that very special celebration. Our thanks to the 175th committee: Midge Wood, Jill Senter, Ellie Peabody, Jan Valetta, Gail Lafayette and Ben Sadewicz for such a wonderful day.

We are in need of someone to video Compass and Sunday services. Pastor Tom has found that broadcasting Church services on Public Access TV is a better way for shut-ins to see our services. If you would like to volunteer to help out with this very important ministry, please see Peter.

The committee had a request that we publish Birthdays of deceased persons so that their family could be remembered. Debra has compiled a list from the past 5 years, which we could publish on All Saint's Day the first of November.

**Women Together in Ministry
of Greater Cleveland Presents
"Empowering and Encouraging
Women in Ministry"**

A Conference for Female Clergy In partnership with AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES Friday, August 26 – Saturday, August 27, 2011. Hotel Accommodations - Hilton Hotel, Cleveland East/Beachwood, 3663 Park East Drive, Beachwood, OH 44122. Phone Number: 216-464-5950 Fax: 216-464-6539

WTIM Reservation Code: **ABM**

For more information please click on the links below:

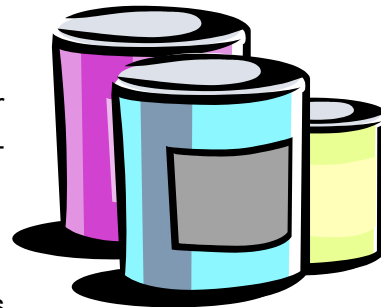
www.abhms.org, www.wtimofgreatercleveland.org
Peace and blessings,

Joyce Lake, ABWIM Assistant

Message from the Food Pantry

There are several categories which we are "Out Of" or "Running Very Low". Any help would be much appreciated.

Canned vegetables (except corn);
Rice or type products; Ramen Noodles;
(pretzels, cookies, pop tarts etc.);
Dessert type items (cookie, cake or brownie mixes, pudding/jello);
canned pasta with and/or without meat; tuna fish, canned meats (turkey, chicken, hash, spam etc.);
canned baked beans; Juice boxes. Any fresh meat, eggs, dairy, please call me to leave off directly.



Peace in Christ, Marie Farrer – 603-275-6644

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**First Baptist Church of
South Londonderry, Vermont
200th Anniversary Celebration**

Join us July 31-August 7

Activities happening every day!

For more information call

802-856-7266

Or contact clerkfbc@gmail.com or go to

www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org

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Prayer Service Announcement

These are very critical and important days of transition and change in the continuing life and ministry of First Baptist Church. On **Wednesday evening, September 21, 2011 at 7:00 pm**, the Deacons and Pastor Hiltzley will be offering a special service of worship and prayer for our **congregation**, our **Pulpit Committee**, and our **future pastor**. We believe that God is both attentive and responsive to the praise and prayers of believing people. Mark the date and plan to be present. This is an event you will not want to miss. All members and friends of First Baptist Church are invited and encouraged to attend.



Xavian Johnson, son of Erin Gerrish at Camp Sentinel for his third season. Pictured is Camp Director Rev. Kevin Van Brunt, Xavian and his buddy "Pooch".

You are invited to participate in a video study series & discussion.

TIME OF YOUR LIFE

Walter and Lynda Mailhot, cordially invite you to their home at 70 Main Street in Plaistow. Anyone is invited who would like to participate in a 5-part video series lead by Andy Stanley called: **TIME of Your Life, Making the Most of It.**



What time is it? Does time really fly when you're having fun? Maybe we think about time so much because there never seems to be *enough* of it. Maybe there's only one question we need to ask. What am I *doing* with my time?

Simple question? Easy answer? It's time you found out. In this 5 part series, *Time of Your Life*, Andy Stanley will help you discover that answer. Don't waste another second.

Video and Fellowship time will begin

-->Saturday, September 10, 2011 at 7:00 PM

and will continue each Saturday night through October 8, 2011.

Light refreshments will be served.

There is a signup sheet in the Veroneau Room for anyone interested in participating. See you there!

Triangle Guild

Come and join our work parties for the fair every Tuesday from 10-12. We have fun, food and still get our crafty projects completed.

Property Committee

The members of the Property Committee would like to thank Jean Martin of Haverhill for donating many items for use at the Parsonage. On a more general note, Thank You to all who donated items to the parsonage, I was one of them but I am not aware of all that participated in donating items, however much gratitude and appreciation to all. Thank you to Bill H., Brad P. and Dick L. for dispensing the debris accumulated when we did our clean up of the church property. Please stay tuned as we move forward with the fixing of the church roof that is in dire need of repair and re-roofing. Sincerely, Christine Clarke-Swift, Property Committee Chair.

Compass Worship

There will not be a service in August. See you in September on the 11th.

Ice Cream Socials

Every Wednesday

from 6 to 7:30 pm

There has been a great turnout for every Wednesday with 80-100 people showing up for Sundae. Come and join us August 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31.



There will be a Lake Immersion Baptism at Country Shores Campground, Route 125, Kingston, NH, Sunday Afternoon, August 14th. Everyone is encouraged to be there. Save the date.



Sunday School Registration

Sunday School will begin on September 11, 2011

2011 – 2012 Church School / Nursery Registration

Parent's Name (s):

Address:

Phone #:

E-Mail:

Child's Name	Age	Grade in Sept.	Birthday	Allergies/Other Concerns
1				
2				
3				
4				

Will you be interested in nursery care for your child under age 4?

Are you able to assist in nursery rotation with other parents?

Please return completed forms to Kristen Peirce, mail to the church, or place in the collection plate any Sunday. Thank you.