

THE SPIRE FEB. 2012

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

As I send this article to THE SPIRE, Christmas and New Years Day are behind us and the bills and credit card statements for our celebrations are arriving. By the time you read these words we will be calculating our tax returns for 2011 and planning and budgeting for this present year including our giving to the life and mission of our church. And at church, the budgeting process is also underway. If there is one season of the year when we are nearly consumed by considerations of money: what we have earned, what we have spent, what we can give, what we can buy, what we can accomplish with what we are promised, this is it. The godly, biblical counsel of Richard Foster has influenced many. I know God has used his writing to shape my own thought and conscience. I share this excerpt and commend his several books to you in this season.

“We simply must decide who is going to make our decisions – God or mammon. Do we buy a particular home on the basis of the call of God, or because of the availability of money? Do we buy a new car because we can afford it, or because God instructed us to buy a new car? If money determines what we do or do not do, then money is our boss. If God determines what we do or do not do, then God is our boss. My money might say to me, “You have enough to buy that,” but my God might say to me, “I don’t want you to have it.” Now, who am I to obey?”

Most of us allow money to dictate our decisions: what kind of house we live in, what vacation we will take, what job we will hold. Money decides.

Suppose Carolynn says to me, “Let’s do this or that,” and I complain, “But we don’t have enough money!” What has happened? Money decided. You see, I did not say, “Well honey, let’s pray together and see if God wants us to do it.” No, money made the decision. Money is my master. I am serving money.

J. Hudson Taylor would never have launched the great chapter in mission history called the China Inland Mission if he had let money decide. He was an ordinary person with few resources, yet once he had determined that God wanted him to go, he went. God had made the decision, not money. His master was God, and it was this master that he served.

Over the course of his effective ministry, God channeled very large sums of money through Hudson Taylor, enough to care for the needs of well over a thousand missionaries. But from his earliest days in the slums of London, Taylor had learned to understand money in the light of the cross. He had learned to use money without serving it.”

Richard Foster – page 56-57 -

[The Challenge of the Disciplined Life](#) -

Harper & Row – 1985

May God bless you in 2012,

Pastor Tom

Girl Scout Cookies

If anyone has an urge for Girl Scout cookies, Dick Jackman has an order form from the Girl Scout troop that meets here in Colcord Hall on Tuesday afternoons.



Executive Council Meeting

There will be an executive board meeting on Monday, February 6th at 7:00 pm. All committee chairmen and officers are urged to attend. If you cannot attend please ask someone on the committee to bring your report to the meeting.

New Assistant Treasurer

Please welcome our new Assistant Treasurer Lee Hawkins. She has been appointed to fill the office until the annual meeting. We thank our former assistant Cindy Simard for her work and also the bookkeeper Monique for coming to our aid when we needed her.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee meets on the third Sunday of the month at 8:45 am. The committee continues to research and plan for new pew cards for the pews. In response to a question about what the church puts on Twitter, Brent said whatever's posted on Facebook goes on to Twitter, in their format (but not pictures).

The Committee discussed the logistics of building use and how to better communicate who's using Colcord Hall on a particular date in order to avoid double bookings. It's important for committee chairpersons to fill out the form Debra sends them listing Committee members, chairpersons, meeting date and time and also to write dates on the Church calendar.

The next meeting will be Sunday, February 19 at 8:45 am.

Pulpit Committee Report

The committee has been reviewing candidate profiles and continues to receive more profiles from ABCVNH. We have seen some candidates that appear to have the qualities that best match the

needs of our congregation. We have asked these candidates to respond to written questions and to supply us with samples of sermons. We will review these items as we receive them and determine whether to continue the interview process with that candidate.

The next steps of the process include telephone and face-to-face interviews which narrow the candidate field to two or three that we would schedule to see in a neutral pulpit. At that stage we decide on one candidate to present to the congregation for the Candidating Weekend. That event would culminate in a congregational vote on whether to call that candidate to become the past of First Baptist Plaistow.

Triangle Guild

The Triangle Guild met January 4th. The program was about Quilting. There were many displays of different kinds of quilting presented by Patty Ducette from the Sewing Basket on Main Street, Plaistow. I'm sure we all learned a lot. It was most enjoyable. Delicious desserts were served by Sandy Kamitiam and Jean Latham.

At the February 1st Meeting we will make up trays of cookies brought in by the members. These trays will be taken to people who are confined to their homes, or people in nursing homes. We have done this for many years. It is really appreciated by the recipients.

Midge Wood, President

Food Pantry News

If you haven't noticed the new "magic" food barrel sign that was made by Kelsey, Jessica and Ella, please do. They did a wonderful job. It seems to be working like the Top Hat in Frosty the Snowman, every time we empty the barrel, like magic it fills up again!!!

The Pantry could still use items like: bath soap, toilet tissue, paper towels, cleaning items, laun-

dry detergent, item that most of us take for granted, but are luxuries to others.

Thank you everyone, your donations are most appreciated.

Dick and Nancy Jackman

Lenten Supper Series

The theme for our Wednesday evening Lenten gatherings will be a focus on Lenten hymns. We will consider one hymn each Wednesday evening from February 22 – March 28. Although our worship hymnal does not include a section of hymns for Lent, there are several hymns included in our hymnal that are appropriate and traditionally used during Lent. We will concentrate on the poets and composers, the biblical themes and backgrounds for each hymn with a brief meditation on the present importance of the hymn and an opportunity to sing it together. We will gather at 6:00 pm each Wednesday for a light Lenten supper with the hymn meditation following. Our series will culminate with Maundy Thursday worship together on April 5th. Please plan to participate.

Lenten Supper Assignments:

February 22

Finance Committee and Trustees

February 29

Hospitality (This is a change)

March 7

Board of Christian Education and Communications (This is a change)

March 14

Missions and Music

March 21

Flower Committee

March 28

Property Committee

April 5, Maundy Thursday

Board of Deacons

Ladies Social Circle celebrates its 125th anniversary



Ladies Social Circle's 125th celebration. Back row L-R: Ellie Peabody, Elizabeth Smith, Phyllis Wood. Front row L-R: Nancy Marston, Joyce Wright, Nancy Jackman

The Ladies Social Circle celebrated its 125th anniversary on Sunday, January 8. A brief service was held during Sunday worship, led by President of the Circle Nancy Jackman who introduced past Presidents of the group to share some thoughts on the history and ministry of the women's group. Past Presidents Elizabeth Smith, Ellie Peabody, Joyce Wright and Nancy Marston recalled some highlights of the Ladies Social Circle. Phyllis Wood, widow of Rev. John Wood, who served as Pastor to the Church for many years, also spoke about the Circle's influence in the Church. A catered luncheon was enjoyed by members and friends after morning worship.

Finance Committee

We met on January 9th. and voted to accept the reports submitted. Our new Asst. Treasurer/Bookkeeper, Lee Hawkins, was with us at the meeting. No other appli-

cants were in attendance. We discussed and finalized a list of her duties: (i.e.) attending the Finance and Executive meetings with a monthly report of the expenditures and the balances of the budgeted line items, also payment of bills, employees payroll and quarterly tax reports and annual reports.

Chuck Travers, our Insurance Adviser, was present and explained that by the time our Insurance Policy is to be renewed on April 15th, we should have in the by-laws a ruling concerning abuse, molestation, and harassment policy.

The Deacons will be working on these changes along with the By-laws committee. They will also be working to adopt a harassment policy regarding our Internet and Communications committees.

So as you can see it was a busy meeting. There is a lot to consider.

Midge Wood and Elie Peabody

Property Committee

Present: Chris Clark Swift, John Demmer, Chuck Traver, Charlie Woodland, Brad Powers, Bill Hull, Al Wheeler, Midge Wood, Elaine Melesky and Ex-Officio Custodian Dick Jackman.

Chris called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. John led us in prayer. Minutes were accepted as written.

Dick Jackman report:

- Parsonage is equipped with salt and a shovel.
- Lock set for garage side door has been bought & is keyed the same as porch door. One set of keys is kept in the church office. Ladies Social Circle paid for this.
- Lights in the parsonage flicker.
- We have a second person for Friday AA meetings. During AA meetings, children play in the Cook Room. Kristen Peirce has crayons, coloring papers and books for the

children to use.

- On Jan 13th there was no heat . Mike Murphy was called. An ignitor was replaced under warranty.
- On Jan. 12th there was a leak in the Sunday School room. The soaked rug had to be thrown out.
- Piano was moved to Warren Room by Susan Howard.
- Andrea has moved "stuff" into the Warren Rm. Elaine will talk with Andrea.
- Dick spent \$50 for blinds for the office windows.
- The town donated a moveable stop sign for the driveway.

Preschool:

- Elaine presented plans for cabinets. Cost - \$510. Bill will order them from East Coast. Brad will install them. Midge will find the money to pay for them.
- Preschool hooks will be moved to corner of Warren Room. As soon as painting is complete.

Building Use:

- Jean Rae Baker is planning a Rae family reunion from noon -5pm on Aug. 25th. She will be using Colcord Hall and the kitchen. The meal will be catered. We have received a check for \$100.
- Charles has arranged to have the parsonage driveway plowed at a cost of \$30/plowing.
- Discussed removing front pew on the piano side of the sanctuary. This was tabled until summer.
- Dick Hawkins replaced bulbs in the steeple and repaired the rake board on the edge of the roof.
- Chris and Bill will paint the Warren Room and hall with a neutral color. All volunteers welcome.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Next Meeting: Feb. 20, 2012 at 7pm.

Submitted by Elaine Melesky



Notes from the Music Committee

January has been very different month for us. The choirs had some wonderful help from all of our men and women volunteers. On Jan.8th the women and a few young ladies combined their voices to sing, *It's All In The Hands Of God*. The choir benches were filled! Has this ever happened before? Then on Jan.15th the men's voices were exceptional! Their selection, *Let There Be Peace On Earth* was sweet on the ears! Thank you to all who participated.

Here is an official invitation for anyone who would like to join us for the upcoming Easter season. If you like to sing and do not want to join the choir for **life**. (Ha! Ha! Ha!) Then this is just what you are looking for. Come make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Easter is a special time to bring voices together to solemnly and joyfully celebrate our Lord. We are starting to pick out pieces to sing so join us. Practices are Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:00PM See you there!

Lastly, on a different note, Please send your warmest thoughts and prayers out to Ruth Killey. Hi Ruth!!! We hope for a speedy recovery and to see her back in her second row choir chair soon.

Greetings from Gove Hill!

Ahhh, boundaries. We talk about setting them. We long to have them in our relationships. We encourage others to strengthen them. But somehow when it comes to our own lives, boundaries are often overlooked.

"It doesn't happen that often," we muse as we help someone at the last minute (once again).

"It's the Christian thing to do."

"I just wouldn't feel right about telling Mrs. Smith that I can't eat her famous cherry cheesecake.

She loves making it for me."

Never mind that helping someone at the last minute makes us late (again) for an important family event, or that we end up feeling resentful instead of loving, or that our blood sugar skyrockets after we have "just a small slice" of Mrs. Smith's killer cheesecake.

Setting boundaries is one of the top issues that people in helping fields struggle with. So how do we act as Jesus did while maintaining our sanity?

A few important questions to ask when setting boundaries:

What's our motive? We can talk a lot about how "Christian" or "worthy" a certain task is, but if deep down in our hearts we're doing it for vanity or fame or the admiration of others, then our motives are impure.

Are we avoiding conflict? As the former queen of conflict avoidance, I can tell you that I'd rather have all my teeth drilled simultaneously than pick a fight with someone. Ah, but there's the key: conflict doesn't have to be about fighting and arguing. It can be about addressing something that's wrong or being direct about a problem--no screaming required.

Can we say no? There are various reasons we find it hard to say no. We may disappoint someone. We might hurt someone's feelings. A project or event might fall apart. It's important to remember though, that every time we say "no" to one thing, we are saying "yes" to something else. Do we need to volunteer with every board and committee at our church? If so, we're saying no to more time with our family and friends, or maybe to reading our Bibles or conversation with God.

Many of you are probably already aware of the book, "Boundaries," by Dr.'s Cloud and Townsend. If not, you might want to pick up a copy. If you've already read it, you might want to skim it again.

Setting and maintaining boundaries isn't always easy. But it's always worth the work, particularly if it makes you a more effective, healthier, and happier individual.

Food for thought: Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever

Rev. Dale Edwards, in a goodbye letter to the congregation at First Baptist Church, Lebanon, which he pastored for 25 years, had this to say:

"I know Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. If I have any legacy for a Christian community, it would be: love Christ, be kind, gracious and patient with one another, trust that the Holy Spirit is always moving, always take the Gospel seriously but not yourself, only God the Father is in control, Christian community is sometimes a fragile thing, handle gently, and there is no hope or salvation without Jesus Christ, and count all lost for the sake of knowing Christ Jesus."

THANK YOU, LOU GEORGE

Many, many thanks to you, Rev. Dr. Lou George, for your leadership these past two years following Rohn Peterson's death. You worked tirelessly (more than you should have) to keep the Region moving forward even as you dealt with Priscilla's and your own health issues. All of us in the American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire wish you well in your second retirement. We pray that you and Priscilla will be able to enjoy time together doing some things that you haven't been able to these past couple of years. You are in our prayers and pray that we will be in yours as well. God bless and God speed.

Love, your ABC/VNH family



Gove Hill Retreat News

Finally we have snow cover and cold weather in Vermont and New Hampshire. I can do without the below zero tempera-

tures, but the snow cover makes the winter season worth it! The snow takes our limited sun light and magnifies it creating a brilliant landscape. All those tiny snowflakes working together do an amazing job.

Sometimes I feel like a snowflake. My dad would now interject that he always knew I was flaky! I feel small, insignificant in the vast field. I wonder how I make a difference in the world. Like the snow flakes, by being part of a wonderful community of Christians, I am part of something bigger. I am part of the body of Christ. We work together to reflect God's love and create a brilliant display of His peace and grace to the world around us.

To all you fellow "flakes" out there working together, thank you for creating a community where we can shine our best.



Animal Rescue League

We are continuing to collect items for the animal shelter throughout the year. The demands to provide shelter and rescue for animals never changes nor does the tremendous need for donations.

The shelter is primarily a volunteer organization. In addition to their need for supplies, there is also a need for volunteers to care for the animals and assist with daily operations. Please call the Salem Animal Rescue League if you are interested in becoming a volunteer.

Shelter "Wish List": towels, sheets, blankets,

Dawn liquid detergent, Chlorox bleach, cat and kitten food, 30 gal. trash bags, clay based kitty litter.

Thank you for your support,
The Mission Committee



Camp Sentinel News

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

February Birthdays

- 1 Timmy May
Karen Powers
- 2 Russell Hawkins
- 4 Erinn Wright
- 6 Joanne Hobbs
MacKenzie Scott
- 8 David Mailhot
- 12 James Brown
- 13 Kelsey Hutchinson
- 16 Mary Roberts
Beth Trumper
- 17 Lauren Sickel
- 18 Stacey Rendo
- 20 Candace Moussa
- 21 Kyle Hatfield
June Woodland
Angelica Robie
- 23 Meaghan Hull
- 24 Robert Lang
Danielle Manseau
- 25 Murray Dickinson
- 28 Eleanor Peabody



February Anniversaries

- 6 Stephen & Kim Drelick
- 10 Bradley & Karen Powers



Region Day of Prayer.

On Tuesday, January 17th, many gathered around the warm crackling camp fire at Sentinel Lodge. Voices lifted up prayers for our new Region Minister, Dale Edwards, and each New Hampshire and Vermont Church by name. Thank you to Rev. Robert Dix from Goffstown Christian Fellowship who led and facilitated the prayer time.

Summer Camp 2012

Courageous - Taking a commitment to move, knowing God will guide you always. This summer we will unpack what it means to be "strong & courageous", being brave & acting right in the face of popular opinion. We will learn the importance of leadership in the face of challenge, obedience to God & His word & trusting God through all circumstances. Joshua 1:6-9. (2012 brochures have been mailed to campers & churches.)



Early Registration Discount Ends January 31st

The early bird gets the worm...and a discount. Register online for summer camp 2012 by January 31st with a \$100 deposit and receive 10% off camp fees.

Register online by

Friday January 27th -

Enter to win a \$50 gift card to the camp store AND a new Sentinel sweatshirt.





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Please make plans for and mark your calendars for the:

2012 Annual Gathering of the American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire

Friday, May 18 through Saturday, May 19

Grand Summit Hotel and Conference Center at Mount Snow Resort in West Dover, VT

Theme: Transformed by the Work of the Holy Spirit

On Thursday, May 17 the Ministers Council will be sponsoring an evening with Dr. Jeffrey Johnson, National Coordinator of Evangelism and New Church Planting with American Baptist Home Mission Societies. Dr. Johnson will be our main speaker at the Gathering.

Friday evening will feature the installation of Rev. Dale Edwards as our new Region Minister. Rev. Dr. L. Roy Medley, ABCUSA General Secretary, will be attending.

Saturday is a family-friendly day. The staff from Camp Sentinel will be on hand with a program for children and youth. Childcare will also be available.

Great Adventure: Be Courageous!

Toddlers (potty-trained), youth and teens (15 yrs. and under) are invited to come together for a time of fellowship, fun and faith. Events and activities (swimming, games, crafts, Bible study) are age appropriate and supervised by well trained and passionate Camp Sentinel staff members. Register by May 4th to info@campsentinel.org with campers name and age. Times: 9:30-12:30 p.m.; 1:30-3:00 p.m. Cost: \$5 per youth or \$10 per family. Lunch will be provided. Bring bathing suits, towel.

Rev. Malcolm Hamblett

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February 2012

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 7 Triangle Guild 7:15 Pulpit	2 7 Choir 7 Al-Anon	3 7 AA	4 7 NA
5 10 Communion	6 7 Exec Council	7	8 10 Ladies Soc 6 By-Laws 7 Pulpit	9 7 Choir 7 Al-Anon	10 7 AA	11 7 NA
12 10 Worship	13 6:30 BOCE* 7 Finance	14	15 7:15 Pulpit	16 7 Choir 7 Al-Anon	17 7 AA	18 7 NA
19 8 Men's Bkfst 8:45 Commun. 10 Worship	20 SPIRE deadline 7 Property	21	22 1 Ladies Soc 6 Ash Wed Supper 6 By-Laws 7:15 Pulpit	23 7 Choir 7 Al-Anon	24 7 AA	25 7 NA
26 10 Worship	27 7 Deacons	28	29 6 Lenten Supper 7:15 Pulpit			