

THE SPIRE JAN. 2012

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Brennan Manning has written:

“**T**o be Christian, *faith has to be new*—that is, alive and growing. It cannot be static, finished, settled. When Scripture, prayer, worship, ministry become routine, they are dead.”

Manning includes the following meditation as his invitation to a series of devotional meditations on the love of God. It is an invitation to a new discovery of God’s love and I offer it to you as an invitation to a New Year.

COME

Be here, now.

And here, at the beginning, we should begin again, don’t you think? All things are new, even this by-now-familiar story.

Imagine...

You are being pursued by a ferocious tiger. You run as fast as you can but come to the edge of the cliff. Glancing back, you see the tiger about to spring. Fortunately, you also notice a rope hanging over the edge of the cliff. You grab it and scramble down, out of reach of the tiger. A close escape!

But now you look down. Five hundred feet below you see jagged rocks. So you look up. You see the tiger, crouched and waiting...and also two hungry mice, already gnawing on the rope.

What to do?

Nearby, on the face of the cliff, you notice a strawberry. Carefully, you reach out, pluck it, and eat it whole. “Yum!” you exclaim. That’s the most *delicious* strawberry I ever tasted in

my whole life!”

What does this story tell us? Seize the gift of this moment! If you are preoccupied with the rocks below or the tiger above—with your past or your future—you will miss the strawberry that God wants to give you in the present moment.

In the readings ahead I ask you to make a serious effort to remain rooted in the moment. Discipline your time, your thoughts, your emotions. Don’t allow anxieties or distractions to crowd out the work of the Spirit in your life. Be here now. Then the God who comes will find you in the present—waiting, listening, and ready to receive His gifts.

Reading: Psalm 139

Calm thyself, O my soul, so that the divine can act in thee!

Calm thyself, O my soul, so that God is able to repose in thee so that His peace may cover thee!

SOREN KIERKEGAARD

from The Ragamuffin Gospel by Brennan Manning

BLESSED NEW YEAR

Pastor Tom

Special Meeting

There will be a special Congregational meeting directly following worship on **Sunday January 8, 2012** to vote to pay to the Assistant Treasurer, who will be doing the work of the bookkeeper, the sum of \$30.00 per hour, until the next Annual meeting.

Mission Moments

In regards to the Giving Tree and senior collection of gifts, the packages were delivered to the Town Hall with Dick Jackman's help.

Gift cards are needed and can be purchased from local grocery stores. Personal care products are needed as well especially for the older children, middle school age and up, that cannot afford to purchase items on their own, such as deodorant. Also paper supplies are needed for food pantry items.

The theme for our Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering is "Remember With Love—Give With Gratitude". Offerings will be taken until Feb. 5. We are proud to continue this yearly giving in our church this month.

From ABC/VNH Newsletter

The First Baptist Church of Plaistow, NH has been awarded \$300 for a Community Senior Outreach which will provide hearing aid batteries for hearing impaired seniors. Every November the church erects a "Giving Tree" to present requests for needy seniors in their community. They contribute gifts, AA, AAA, and 9 Volt Batteries. This year it came to their attention that hearing aid batteries, not covered by Medicare, can add an extra burden to the already depleted budgets of many fixed income seniors. They thought, "Could our church extend a helpful mission in this situation?"

Members will donate batteries for individual requests this Christmas. The award will enable the church to purchase more hearing aid batteries so that this outreach can continue throughout the year.

Food Pantry News

Has anyone noticed the new "magic" food barrel sign that was made by Kelsey, Jessica, and Ella?? 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, laundry detergent, items that most of us take for granted, but are luxuries to others.

Thank you everyone, your donations are most appreciated.

Dick and Nancy Jackman

Ladies Social Circle

The Ladies had their annual Christmas Lunch at Mr. Mikes on Dec. 14. Marcia did a superb job that included games and gifts for all. A brief meeting was held to discuss buying a stove for the parsonage. Also Marcia gave an update on the 125th Anniversary of the Ladies Social Circle, on January 8, 2012. We will have a light lunch & refreshments after Sunday Service. Please join us.

Next meeting will be on January 11, 2012. We will be nominating officers. Caller will be Gail. Hostesses: Nancy Jackman and Joyce Wright. Devotions and Grace by Phyllis Wood.

Triangle Guild

The Triangle Guild met on December 7 to listen to the Kokopelli Flutists and have some delicious refreshments.

We will meet again on January 4, 2012 at 7:00 pm. The program is "Quilting" by Patty Ducette from the Sewing Basket. Refreshments will be served by Sandy Kamitian and Jean Latham.

Elizabeth A. Senter

Plaistow, NH: Elizabeth A. "Yibba" (Mayo) Senter, 70, a native and lifelong resident of Plaistow, died Thursday evening, December 1, 2011 at her home, following an extended illness.

Daughter of the late Robert and Bertha (Riley) Mayo, she attended the Pollard School and Sanborn Regional High School and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Plaistow.

A housewife and homemaker, Mrs. Senter enjoyed gardening and baking.

Survivors include her husband Clinton W. "Brother" Senter, Jr., three sons and daughters-in-law, Clinton W. III and Karen Senter of Plaistow, Ricky A. and Vicki Senter of Northwood, and Jeffrey B. and Samantha Senter of Plaistow, two daughters and sons-in-law, Cynthia L. and James Vadeboncoeur of Raymond, and Dianna R. and Pete Alberti of Sandown,

brothers and sisters-in-law, Robert and Carlene Mayo of Danville, Billy and Penny Mayo of Plaistow, George and Sandy Mayo of Plaistow, Ralph and Judy Mayo of Twin Mountain, and Charles Mayo of Florida, sisters and brothers-in-law, Josephine and Norman DeSerres of Danville, Bertha and Ray Horsch of Twin Mountain and Carol and Robert Laporte of Haverhill, MA, also nine grandchildren, five great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a grandson Clinton W. Senter IV.

Waking hours were on Monday, December 5, 2011 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Brookside Chapel & Funeral Home, 116 Main St., Route 121A, Plaistow, NH. Her funeral took place on Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the funeral home. A private burial service will take place at a later date in Maplewood Cemetery.

Edward N. Carifio, 87

PLAISTOW, N.H. — Edward N. Carifio, 87, died Thursday, December 22, 2011 at Hannah Duston Healthcare Center.

Born in Haverhill, son of the late George and Philomena (Uzzi) Carifio, he was the last surviving member of one of Haverhill's greatest sports families consisting of seven brothers that dominated Haverhill sports in the late 1930's and early 1940's. Raised in the Bradford section, Mr. Carifio was a 1943 graduate of Haverhill High School, where he captained the varsity football and basketball teams and also was a member of the varsity baseball team.

He was an Army veteran of World War II, serving as a Technician 5th Grade in Company C of the 78th Engineer Battalion. He saw action in Manila, the Philippines and Japan and was a recipient of the World War II Victory Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, American Theater Campaign Ribbon and Asiatic Pacific Theater Campaign Ribbon.

Following his discharge from the service, Mr. Carifio was offered full football and basketball scholarships to The University of New Hampshire, University of Rhode Island and University of Miami, where he played center for the Miami Hurricanes Football Team. Following his college years, Mr. Carifio and his brothers played in local charity

basketball tournaments and events as "Carifio and Company Basketball Team".

Employed for thirty-five years as a letter carrier for the Haverhill Post Office, he later worked for Galloway Trucking Co. of Kingston and received his New Hampshire Weigh Master's License. A member of Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish of Plaistow and the Victor Emmanuel Lodge of the Sons of Italy, Mr. Carifio enjoyed playing cards at the Michael J. Bucuzzo Post, taking trips to the beach, watching television, coaching Little League Baseball and his weekly Saturday morning breakfast with his grandson, Jonathan.

Survivors include his wife of sixty years, Barbara (Ordway) Carifio, two sons and daughters-in-law, Edward N., Jr. and Nora Carifio of Stuart, Florida, and Alan D. and Phyllis Carifio of Plaistow, a daughter and son-in-law, Jyme C. and Robert Marcotte of Plaistow, a grandson, Jonathan E. Carifio of Plaistow, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his grandson, Nicholas R. Marcotte, brothers, Joseph, Nicholas, Harry Paul, Luigi, George and Americo Carifio, and sisters, Anna Giampa and Delores Smith.

He was buried with military honors in Maplewood Cemetery, Plaistow, after services at Brookside Chapel and Holy Angels, Friday, December 27th.

Lazarus House

You have given hope and comfort to so many throughout the year. With gratitude we wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and joyful New Year!

Thank you,

The staff at Lazarus House

Ladies Social Circle

The Ladies Social Circle will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary on January 8. Following the church service, a catered luncheon will be served by Corner Pocket catering. A sign up sheet is available on the table in the Vereneau Room.

Greetings from Gove Hill!

Do the men in your house shoot off guns on Christmas Eve to ward off evil spirits? Does your family eat Kentucky Fried Chicken on

Christmas day? Do any of your parishioners arrive at church for service on 12/25 on . . .roller skates?

These are just a few of the non-traditional ways in which other cultures celebrate Christmas. Good or bad, silly or interesting, it's always beneficial to be reminded that we are each unique individuals and bring our own history, views and memories into the Christmas season.

Merry, Merry Christmas to each of you. I pray that God will bless you in ways you never imagined in the year to come. Thank you for all the hard work you do every day of the year and for your compassion, energy and vision.

Will you help Gove Hill Retreat?

Are you tired?

In our overworked, busy-busy, multi-tasking world it's easy to become exhausted mentally, emotionally and physically. That's why institutions such as Gove Hill Retreat (GHR) are so important. The focus of our beatific retreat center is summed up in its tagline: "Rest, Renewal and Relationships."

We are proud to continue offering creative retreats for artists and writers, workshop and seminar space for groups, primitive camping for the more adventurous and a 187-acre campus dedicated to serving the needs of individuals and groups from Vermont and far beyond.

In 2011 GHR needed to replace the furnace, an expensive but much needed undertaking. Weatherization is a huge need at GHR and as you probably know, an improvement that nearly pays for itself over time. The initial cost, however, is great. Additionally, GHR is in need of energy efficient windows.

"What can my one contribution do to help?" you might be asking. The answer is a lot. Whether you decide to give a one-time contribution or a monthly gift, every single dollar you give is helping to secure a future for GHR.

Guests often tell us about their favorite memories on our Thetford campus. Your donation enables GHR to continue its mission of providing a welcom-

ing atmosphere where churches, nonprofit and educational groups can grow and be renewed.

Thank you for considering our organization in your end of year giving. We greatly appreciate it.

PS We are now able to process donations online via credit card. Please visit Gove Hill Retreat's website at www.govehillretreat.org or call us at (802) 785-4000 for assistance.



January

Birthdays

- 1 Ashley Wheeler
- 4 Xaiver Fortin
- 7 Derek Cunningham
- 10 Aaron Judson
Kristin Simmons
- 12 Melanie Bixby
- 13 Jessica Peirce
- 15 Peter Cunningham
- 18 Susan Howard
Xavian Johnson
- 19 William Hull
- 21 Lisa Schiavoni
Brad Simmons
- 24 Donna Hurst
- 26 Erin Swift
- 27 Leo LaPointe
- 28 Jesse Getchell
- 29 Katherine Kiarsis
Susan Cunningham
- 31 Garrick Lewis
Daniel Savage



Are there any Anniversaries for this month?

Any other Birthdays for this month.

Please let me know any names and dates so that I can update the list. Thanks, Jean B.

From ABC/VNH Newsletter

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Music News

Ladies and Gentlemen! A "One-Time" Opportunity to sing in our all women, or all men, choir. We will have the ladies sing on January 8 and the men on January 15. One Sunday only with one **easy** rehearsal before worship at 9:15. Come and share your voice and have fun.

Hymn Sing!

There will be a Hymn Sing at the First Baptist Church of Brentwood, (corner of Rte. 125 & North Rd.). The Date is Sunday January 15, 2012 at 7 pm. Refreshments and fellowship to follow. If you have questions: call the office of Pastor John Hastings, 679-5259.

Pulpit Committee

The Pulpit Committee is busy receiving and reviewing profiles as they come in. We continue to meet on Wednesday evenings. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 4th.

Pampered Chef Party

The Board of Christian Education is hosting a Pampered Chef Party on Thursday evening, January 26, 2012. All money raised through this event will be given to our Rainbow Preschool. We will gather in Colcord Hall at 6:30 PM to share and learn about the latest kitchen tools to enhance our preparation and presentations of food.

Members and friends of FBC and Rainbow Preschool will be able to place orders through the catalogue whether or not you are able to attend the demonstration on the 26th. We have chosen the timing of our fundraiser to allow delivery of your order to be in time for Valentine's Day! Save the date. See you there! Please speak with Sharon Bilodeau or Peter Lund if you would like more information. Thank you."

Food for thought: Seeing Through the Eyes of a Baby

A father was in the maternity waiting room anxiously awaiting the news of a boy or girl. However, when the obstetrician came in the father could tell something was very wrong. The doctor said, "I am sorry to tell you, but your son lived only two hours after his birth. We did everything we could to save his life." As the sympathetic doctor was leaving the father said, "I was just reading where human eyes are need-ed for cornea transplants. Could my son's eyes be used to help someone else see again?" That same day a corneal graft restored the sight of a working man who had a large family and that of a mother. In that short time a baby who lived only two hours gave physical sight to a father and mother who had been waiting expectantly for a long time.

Those operations cost thousands of dollars. More than 2,000 years ago a baby came into our sin-darkened world to give spiritual sight to all who will receive it, and that is free – without money and without price. (See Isaiah 55:1-7.) Yet there are multitudes today who are blindly looking for some-thing to give them peace and purpose. Unfortunately they are not looking in the right place.

Isaiah prophesied, "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light, those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them" (Isaiah 9:2). That prophecy was fulfilled in Matthew 4:16 when Jesus, the Light of the world, was born in Bethlehem. Today there are those who are still trying to put the Light out. There are none so blind as those who will not see.

-- Rev. Harold Muzzey, Jr

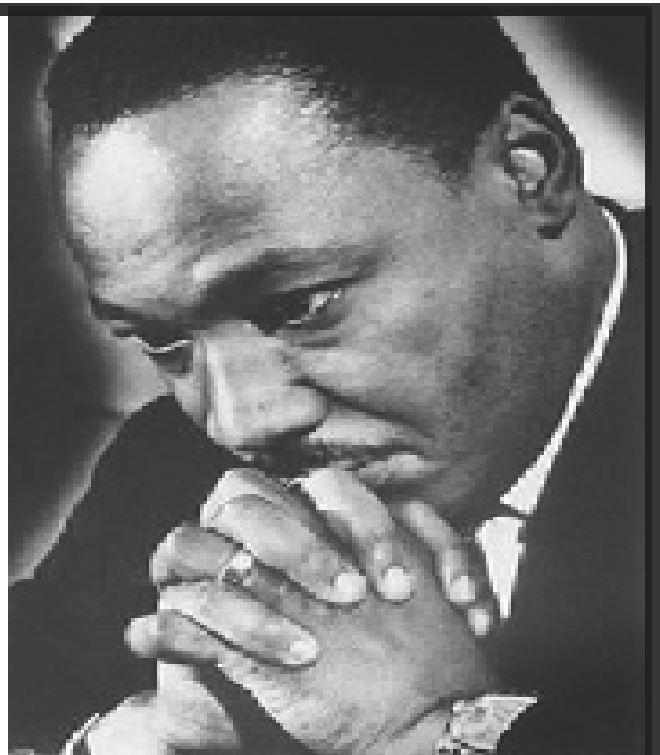
30th Annual Celebration

A Tribute to

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Saturday, January 14, 2012 6 pm
First Baptist Church of Nashua
121 Manchester St.
Nashua, NH

Keynote Speaker

Valerie Cunningham
NH African American Historian



Join us for an evening of celebration and music

Music by

First Baptist Church of Nashua Choir
New Fellowship Baptist Church Choir
New England Pentecostal Church
Nashua Choral Ensemble
NH Gay Men's Chorus
Julia Leonard, Soloist

Refreshments will be
served after the
celebration
Childcare provided

For further information:
603-882-4512
<http://www.fbcnashua.org>

EMAIL: FIRSTBAPTISTCHURCHPLAISTOW@GMAIL.COM 603.382.5075

WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

REV. THOMAS W. HILTSLEY ~ INTERIM MINISTER

Serving God's People with Open Hearts, Minds, and Arms

WE ARE NOW ON THE WEB AT WWW.FBCPLAISTOW.ORG

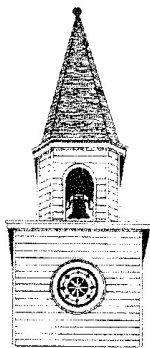


JANUARY, 2012

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
122 MAIN STREET

NON-PROFIT
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Plaistow, NH 03865



The Spire

January 2012

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10 Communion Chancel Choir	7 Executive Council		7 Triangle Guild 7:15 Pulpit Committee	7 Choir Rehearsal 7 Al-Anon	Epiphany 7 AA	7 NA
8 10 Worship Folk Choir	7 Rainbow Ad Hoc 7 Finance	10	1 Ladies Social Circle 6 Ad Hoc By-Laws 7:15 Pulpit Committee	10 Stevens Bennett 7 Transition Team 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 Al-Anon	13 7 AA	14 6 Rev. Dr. King J30th Anniversary FBC Nashua 7 NA
15 8 Men's Bkfst 8:45 Communications 10 Worship Chancel Choir	16 SPIRE deadline 6:30 BOCE No Property mtg.	17	18 7:15 Pulpit Committee	19 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 Al-Anon	20 7 AA	21 7 NA
22 10 Worship Praise Choir	23	24	25 1 Ladies Social Circle 6 Ad Hoc By-Laws 7:15 Pulpit Committee	26 6:30 Pampered Chef Fundraiser 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 Al-Anon	27 7 AA	28 7 NA
29 10 Worship Special Music	30 7 Deacons	31				