

THE SPIRE

NOV. 2011

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

“**I**n the Christian community thankfulness is just what it is anywhere else in the Christian life. Only he who gives thanks for little things receives the big things. We prevent God from giving us the great spiritual gifts He has in store for us, because we do not give thanks for daily gifts. We think we dare not be satisfied with the small measure of spiritual knowledge, experience and love that has been given to us, and that we must constantly be looking forward eagerly for the highest good. Then we deplore the fact that we lack the deep certainty, the strong faith, and the rich experience that God has given to others, and we consider this lament to be pious. We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts. How can God entrust great things to one who will not thankfully receive from Him the little things?”

“If we do not give thanks daily for the Christian fellowship in which we have been placed, even where there is no great experience, no discoverable riches, but much weakness, small faith, and difficulty; if on the contrary, we only keep complaining to God that everything is so paltry and petty, so far from what we expected, then we hinder God from letting our fellowship grow according to the measure and riches which are there for us all in Jesus Christ.”

The two paragraphs above are both from the book *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

I came across these words again recently in my devotional reading. They are a strong and timely reminder that a heart and mind-set of gratitude to God for His present gracious provision for us in *all* things is our constant responsibility and our best preparation for God’s continuing and extending favor. This is true even as we yearn for a new and richer experience in our church fellowship in the days and years to come.

Gratefully,

Pastor Tom



Pulpit Committee

We are still receiving, reading and assessing pastor profiles and waiting for letters of references for those candidates that appear to have strengths in the ministry areas we identified as important to our church. Once all of the supporting materials come in, we will send our profile and some written questions to the candidates and ask them to send us some recorded sermons. This is when the real discernment begins. Thank you all for your prayers and continued support as we enter this screening phase of the search.

Communications

The November meeting of the Communications committee will be Sunday, November 20 at 8:45 am at the Church. The Committee is alternating their meeting times between the third Monday of the month at 7 pm and the third Sunday of the month at 8:45 am in order to accommodate members' schedules.



Mark Your Calendar November 26th 4pm

It's time to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season. The first Sunday of Advent is November 27th. We will have our annual Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, November 26th from 4-6pm. There will be ornaments to make to help decorate our tree, a light soup supper and some carols to sing. Everyone is invited. Please join us for this fun event.

Brownie Sundae Social

Thank you, to everyone who in any way helped to make the Brownie Sundae Social a success. Again it was not just a fund raising event, or just a time to enjoy brownies and ice cream, but a time to enjoy time talking to friends and those about to become friends. We were able to give \$129.00 to the general fund.

Apple Pie Ala-Mode

An apple pie ala-mode social will be held on November 9th. Come enjoy apple pie and ice cream and a social



time with friends. The cost is just \$4.00 for a good sized slice of pie with a hearty scoop of ice cream.

We need some help serving this. The time is 6 pm to 7 pm and the workers need to be at the church by 5:30 and stay to clean up afterward.

Let's enjoy pie, ice cream, and a chance to relax with friends.

Rainbow Ad Hoc Committee



The Committee met on Monday, October 3rd and agreed to change the regular meeting night to the second Monday of the month. This way we will not interfere with the Executive Committee meetings. Therefore, our next meeting will be Monday, November 14th.

Jan Valletta reported on the Rainbow supply drive and how successful it had been. She was very pleased to report that on the Sunday that the drive was commenced all the stickers were taken by our congregation and soon after the various supplies were brought into the school. Once again, our church has shown their wonderful support of a very worthwhile project.

We have also made arrangements for some part-time coverage at Rainbow to help Andrea with the children, especially during the time they are on the playground and as they prepare to get ready to go home. Jan Valletta, Elaine Melesky and Jean Baker will supply the help, as needed.

Jan Valletta and Elaine Melesky have also agreed to be substitute teachers for the school, if and when, they are needed.

At last, we are turning to the task of working on a Business Plan for the school. We have decided to split up the various parts of a plan, as follows:

Business description & history	Jan Valletta
Product/service we provide	Elaine Melesky
Market Analysis	Melanie Bixby
Management/ Operations Team	Peter Lund
Financial Plan	Nancy McCormack

Each member will be asked to report on their assigned section at the next meeting.

Triangle Guild

Triangle Guild met on October 5th. Pam Traver set up Colcord Hall like an art gallery and discussed all the different types of art that she has worked with. Way-to-go Pam. Thanks for a wonderful program.

Our Christmas Fair is coming up very soon, November 19th. We have all been working very hard at our Tuesday morning get-togethers. If you have been working at home, we will need those items a day or two before the fair. You may drop them off at the church office on Wednesday and Thursday, November 16 and 17, or you may bring them to the church Friday night while we are arranging the crafts in the different booths.

Food Pantry

Items currently needed for the Food Pantry are listed below:

Pasta, & pasta sauce, canned pasta, canned meats, paper towels, toilet paper, canned beans, Rice-A-Roni, Tuna & Hamburger Helper, brownie and cake mixes, instant mashed potatoes. Thanks for all your help.

Hospitality

Will everyone who notices that some of the supplies are getting low, please let Nancy Jackman know by listing them on the back of the supply closet door, or by speaking directly to her.

Thank You.

ABC/VNH news:

**From Our President – Rev. Dale Edwards
Elected New Region Minister**

“And Are We Yet Alive” is a great hymn penned by Charles Wesley during the English revivals of the 18th century. The Region delegates who met at First Baptist Church, New London on Saturday, October 22nd left with no doubt that, “Yes, we are still alive!” The results of the meeting were a unanimous vote for Rev. Dale Edwards to become the next Region Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Vermont & New Hampshire, and the adoption of the new Constitution, By-laws & Rules of Procedure which will guide our future ministry.

Throughout the gathering as Dale shared with heartfelt passion his vision and dreams for the Region there was a strong sense of the Holy Spirit's presence. God is moving in our Region. God has a vision for our Region, and it is a vision centered in the hope of the risen Christ. It is a vision rooted in much prayer as brothers and sisters have learned to dwell in unity. As we anticipate a renewed future empowered by the Holy Spirit's leading, I am reminded of these words of hope: “I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord. “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11).

I do believe a new day is dawning for us throughout Vermont & New Hampshire. But it will not be the accomplishment of one person. Renewal will come as brothers and sisters throughout the Region pray for one another, and yield their hearts to the stirring of the Holy Spirit.

Rev. Dale Edwards will begin his official duties on January 17th, 2012. Next year's Annual Gathering will be held at Mount Snow Resort in West Dover, VT on May 18th & 19th. Dale's service of installation will be on Friday evening, May 18th.

As we anticipate a new day, may we all pray daily for Dale and for ABC/VNH, which is still yet alive!

In His Service,

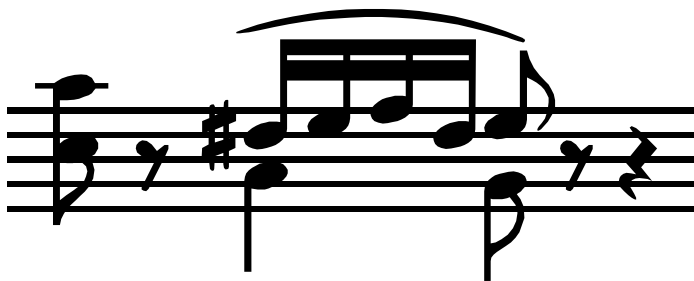
Rev. Jim F. Smith, President, ABC/VNH

Pie Auction

On Nov. 13th following worship the deacons will be hosting their 2nd annual pie auction to raise money for local food banks. This is an opportunity for us to share our good fortune with those who could use a hand. Thanksgiving is a time for families and friends, so let's all make an effort to include them in our plans. Any deacon will be glad to accept donations towards this cause at any time.



Thank you all, The Deacons



Music Committee

The music committee has been meeting regularly since September. Our chairperson is Cindy Simard and co-chair is Pattie Killey. The Chancel, Praise and Folk choirs have started up and are rehearsing regularly. You will hear the Chancel Choir on weeks one and three of the month, Folk on the second and Praise on the fourth. On the occasional fifth week we will enjoy a special artist. Oct.30 brings Paul LaVoie and his guitar to us from Grace Ministries International of Brentwood, NH. If you attended the coffeehouse last year, you will remember Paul and his band who are wonderful musicians and brothers in Christ.

We are always looking for folks that want to sing! So, please, come and join us. Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursday night at 7PM, Folk Choir-First Sunday directly after service and Praise Choir-directly after service on the

third Sunday of the month.

The committee has renewed our CCLI license so we are legal to copy music. We are gathering information for the insurance policy as to the value of our instruments. We also hope to learn about the carillon from Dick Latham.

I would like to acknowledge Carla Carney for the wonderful music she provides each and every Sunday. And it's always a treat when she and Nancy McCormack play piano/organ duets! We have so many talented folks in our congregation! God is good.

The next music committee meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 3 at 6PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Pattie Killey, co-chair

Property Committee

On Nov. 13th, after church service, we'll take out the structures for the church fair and organize the things that are stored in the Vision House barn. If anyone has stored something in the barn, be sure it is labeled or it may be thrown out. The barn has gotten crowded.

On Nov, 17th at 6 p.m. we could use some help setting up the booths for the Church Fair. We'll also need help on Nov. 19th after 2 p.m. to put Colcord Hall back in order. On Nov. 5th at 2 p.m. we'll meet at the parsonage to rake leaves.



Now that the church roof is shingled, our next big project is to have the steeple roof shingled.

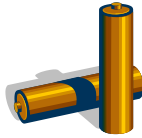
Mission Committee

Another reminder of our upcoming Christmas Projects for the Seniors in our community”

1. On Sunday, November 20, we will have our Senior Giving Tree and an opportunity to provide gifts for the seniors in our area. A sign-up sheet will be in Colcord Hall before and after service.



2. This year we will be asking for Wrapping paper and AA, AAA, and 9-volt batteries,



3. An exciting new chance to share will consist of a hearing aid battery request. For seniors. We will provide specific batteries for seniors because insurance does not cover costs. More later on this new mission

4. All gifts must be returned by December 11 this year.

Christmas Fair

Our annual Christmas Fair will begin at 9:00 am on November 19.

Coffee and muffins at 9:00 am with lunch being served from 11 o'clock on.



The menu is delicious. We will have Fish Chowder, Hot dogs, Chicken Ala King and Chili with Swedish Apple Pie for dessert.

Visit with Santa from 10 to 12 and have your picture taken with him.



Ladies Social Circle

The meeting of October 12 began with a Pizza Party. Hostesses were Joyce and Nancy J. Marcia gave grace and devotions.

President, Nancy Jackman, asked each member to share a memory of Melda Lambert, who recently passed away. Melda was a long-standing member and will be missed by all. Our next meeting will be held on October 26. This will be



our annual Halloween Party. Caller is Gail. Hostesses are Marcia and Barbara

Please remember to bring all items for the Valley Christian Center.

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Melda E. (Potter) Lambert

Plaistow, NH: Melda E. (Potter) Lambert, 85, died on Tuesday, October 4, 2001 at her home.

Born in Lawrence, MA, daughter of the late Lewis and Edith (Woolley) Potter, she attended Lawrence Public Schools.

Mrs. Lambert was a housewife and homemaker. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Plaistow.

She was predeceased by her husband Harold A. Lambert, her survivors include three daughters: Virginia R. White of Exeter, NH; Susan E Currier and her husband Richard of Brentwood, NH; Barbara A. Bowie and her husband Allan of Chester, NH; one sister and brother-in-law: Marilyn and Colby Walker; three grandchildren: Christopher L. Bowie, Jessica White and James Bowie.

There are no calling hours. The family has requested that donations be made in Mrs. Lambert's name to: New Hampshire SPCA, 104 Portsmouth Ave., Stratham, NH 03885 or online at www.nhspca.org.

