

The Spire

OCTOBER 2011

First Baptist Church

With the fall of the year, we traditionally return from vacationing and enter into the routines of life ordered around work, school, and for us, church. At First Baptist we have recently reinstated our 'winter schedule' with Sunday School, worship time and at least one small group gathering on Saturday evening. This past Wednesday we gathered for prayer.

Baptists prefer to think of ourselves as people of the Bible and prayer. However, if this is to be a reality in our lives and not just wishful thinking, then now is the time to purposefully cultivate some critical spiritual habits, disciplines.

Two passages of Scripture that are relevant to these thoughts are: Hebrews 10:25 and Philipians 3:12.

I offer you this month, a selection from my reading that underscores the importance of daily personal time spent reading and studying the Bible and praying, as well as faithful participation in the structured prayer, worship and Bible study opportunities offered in the church fellowship.

"We, Protestants, are an undisciplined people. Therein lies the reason for much dearth of spiritual insight and serious lack of moral power. Revolting, as we did from the legalistic regimens of the medieval church, we have forgotten almost completely the necessity which inspired these regimens, and the faithful practices which have given to Christendom some of its noblest saints.

"Without discipline there would have been no Francis of Assisi, no Evelyn Underhill, no Thomas Kelly.

"Without discipline there will be no such rich legacy of sainthood bequeathed by us to succeeding generations, or revitalizing the church and redeeming the society of this generation.

"The spiritual vitality of the church depends, not on complicated organization or creative administration, important as these are; not on eloquent preaching or adequate theology, valuable as they are; not on unlimited financial resources or cultural maturity, helpful though they be.

"What the church primarily needs now, as always, is the presence within it of God-conscious, God-centered souls. Even a few here and there would mean very much to a church confronted by the chaos of this age.

"A multitude of men and women, pressing "on to the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus," would confront the secularism and skepticism of our time with a challenge not easily laughed off or shunted aside."

From *Discipline and*

Discovery by Albert Edward Day

Blessings,
Pastor Tom

Pulpit Committee News

After waiting nearly four weeks from the time we submitted our church profile, we have received several minister profiles. These profiles serve the same function as a letter of interest and include some basic information about the candidate, including past work experience, level of education, and work style. We extended our search nationwide and we advertised through several local seminaries. With the help of Rev. Jim Smith, we got pastor profiles from all areas of the country and from the seminaries all in the same format. This con-

sistency helps us fairly review all of the candidates. So we reviewed the first eight profiles on the 14th of September and as of this writing, have nine more profiles to review. We saw a few candidates that caught our interest. We will send our church information to each of them along with some written questions and a request for sample sermons. So I feel that we are off to a great start.

We are prepared to pursue preliminary interviews that include the written questions and review of sample sermons, telephone interviews, all the way to having face-to-face interviews with several candidates concurrently. At that point we will narrow ourselves to a couple of finalists for the neutral pulpit step. From there we present one candidate to the congregation during the Candidate Weekend. This process takes time at each step for the candidate to review and respond to us and for us to review his or her submissions / responses. At every step along the way, each, the candidate and the committee, decides whether to continue the process or to step away. Each decision is made prayerfully and by being receptive to God's direction.

Remember that to protect the confidentiality of each candidate, we cannot share any names. This means that we cannot comment on the status of any individuals during the process or after. We have faith that the correct person is in God's mind and will be revealed to us if we remain open to His guidance. We will update you along the way on how the process is moving forward in the Spire and through announcements in worship. Please continue to keep the search committee in your thoughts and prayers as we work on your behalf.

Debra Sawyer

CALL TO A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF VERMONT & NEW HAMPSHIRE.

To: The Churches and Delegates of ABC/VNH

It is my pleasure to announce that the Board of Trustees, at their September 10th meeting, voted to call a special meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Vermont & New Hampshire. This special

meeting will be on Saturday, October 22nd, at 10:00am at the First Baptist Church of New London. The purpose of this meeting will be to vote on the recommendation of the Search Committee and the ABC/VNH Board of Trustees to call the Rev. Dale Edwards to become our next Executive Minister. You will find a Biographical Sketch on Rev. Dale Edwards and a Statement of Vision for ABC/VNH from Rev. Dale Edwards included with this call for a special meeting.

We will also take a final vote on the proposed new Constitution and Bylaws and Rules of Procedure for ABC/VNH at this special meeting. At our annual meeting on June 18th, the following motion was passed. Rev. Dr. Steven Jewett made the motion that the American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire give provisional approval pending a legal evaluation of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws and Rules of Procedure recommended by the Board of Trustees at its March 2011 meeting with final approval to be acted upon at the meeting called to approve the call of a new Executive Minister.

The purpose of this provisional approval is to allow Associations to elect Trustees pursuant to the provisions of the proposed new Constitution and Bylaws and Rules of Procedure. The motion was seconded by Rev. D. Melvin Burrowes. The provisional vote was unanimously voted in the affirmative. With this call you will also find a statement from Rev. Dr. Steven Jewett recapping a meeting with Attorney Chet Lopez on July 14th.

The guidelines for voting delegates are given below.

DELEGATES FROM THE LOCAL CHURCHES (Article V - Membership, Section 2.) Each member congregation shall be entitled to voting delegates to the annual and any special meeting of the Corporation as follows: the pastor(s) of the church; two representatives from the first one hundred (100) church members or major fraction thereof; one representative for each additional one hundred (100) or major fraction thereof; any member of the church who is an elected officer of the American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire; any member of the church who is member of the Board of Trustees of the American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire.

(Article V - Membership, Section 3). Each eligible voting delegate shall have only one vote. No proxy votes or absentee ballots shall be allowed.

ALL ABC/VNH CHURCHES ARE ENCOURAGED TO HAVE DELEGATES PRESENT FOR THIS IMPORTANT AND EXCITING SPECIAL MEETING

In His Service with you,
Rev. James F. Smith
President, ABCVNH

ICE CREAM SOCIALS

It's not just about earning money or enjoying ice cream. It is a social event where you can stay from 6 to 7:30 PM and visit with friends or even make a new friend while you enjoy an ice cream, or you can come in, get an ice cream and go to the Town Green and enjoy the band concert. Some people like to enjoy their sundae on the church steps. We even have two dogs that are regular customers. If you have never come to one of our Ice Cream Socials, you don't know what you are missing.

A lot of people have asked about having more Wednesdays but by only having the Socials on Wednesday from Old Home Day through August they remain something special to look forward to.

This year we turned in \$1,257.05 in profit. We used 47 tubs of Hodgies Ice Cream and also purchased extra strawberries and whipped cream. The total cost was \$1,147.50.

We still sell sundaes for \$1.00, \$2.00 and \$3.00. This year chocolate became more popular perhaps because we had peanut butter sauce to go on it. This was new this year, thanks to the Sadewicz family. We sell mostly \$1.00 dishes with the \$2.00 a close second. That is a lot of scoops of ice cream to take in over \$2400.00.

Many thanks to those faithful scoopers and

workers and everyone who came and ate ice cream.

We will have brownie sundaes Wednesday Oct. 12 from 6 pm to 7 pm. and also Apple Pie A-la Mode on Wednesday Nov.9th from 6 to 7 pm. See Ed Wright if you would like to donate Brownies or an Apple Pie. Workers are also needed.

Most of our people who scoop have done it so much they know exactly what the customer usually has. We know who donates the various toppings, as they do the same thing each year. Ed is in charge of ordering and picking up the ice cream and putting out sign up sheets for toppings and volunteers, Joyce takes care of the finances, Jonathan Carifio is good at scooping and so is Debra Sawyer. Other help fills in where needed. Everyone is very much needed and appreciated.

I think the first ice cream social was in either 1987 or 1988 and a couple members of the Property Committee donated the ice cream. Our ice cream even then came from Hodgies and Ed ordered it and picked it up.

Joyce Wright

Brownie Sundae Social

There will be a Brownie Sundae Social on October 12th from 6 pm to 7 pm. Come and enjoy a brownie with ice cream and hot fudge sauce, nuts if you want them and whipped cream for only \$3.00 for adults and the price will be adjusted for smaller ones for the small children. If you can make brownies, they would be appreciated. Please make a note if they have nuts in them. Sign up sheets are in the Veroneau Room.

We will also have an Apple Pie a-la mode Social on Wednesday November 9th from 6 pm to 7pm. We need apple pies for this one, and sign up sheets are in the Veroneau Room. The cost for apple pie and ice cream is \$4.00 for a large and can be adjusted down for a half serving. It's a good way to meet your neighbors and enjoy dessert at the same time.



Rockingham VNA & Hospice

Fall Bereavement Groups
at the Exeter location –
RVNA&H Office.

Daytime Group

~ General Group – Sept. 19-October 24,
Mondays, 2:00-3:30 pm

Evening Groups

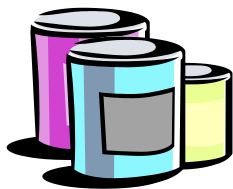
~ General Group – Sept. 20-October 25,
Tuesdays, 2:30-7:00 pm

~ Motherless Daughter Group – Sept. 20-
October 25, Tuesday evenings 5:30-7:00 pm

Groups are free to the public – must have 4
registered participants. To register call Lee Ma-
her or Dick Munsey at 1-800-540-2981.

Message from the Food Pantry

There are several cate-
gories which we are
“Out Of” or “Running
Very Low”. Any help would be
much appreciated. Canned vegetables (No
corn please); Rice-A-Roni; Ramen Noodles;
Soup, canned fruit, apple sauce, Dessert type
items (cookie, cake or brownie mixes, pudding/
jello); canned pasta with or without meat;
canned meats (turkey, chicken, hash, spam
etc.) No tuna please. 603-275-6641.



Triangle Guild

Triangle Guild women’s group will hold
their monthly meeting Wednesday, Oc-
tober 5 at 7PM. The program will be an
exhibit and talk of Pam Traver’s art-
work...etchings, monotypes, linocuts and oil
paintings. Refreshments and the meeting will
follow the program. Ellie Peabody and Barbara
Carifio are in charge of refreshments and
Joyce Wright, Devotions.

Our Potluck Supper and Installation of officers
was held on September 7.

There will be a luncheon for the Blind Guild on
Saturday, October 8.

We continue to have craft workshop
for the fair every Tuesday morning
from 10-12. Ladies, you do not have
to belong to Triangle Guild to come



and have a good time making things for the fair.
We have something for everyone to work on. You
don’t need a special talent, just a willingness to
help.

Remember to bring in toys for the toy baskets.
Please give them to Jean Baker or Jean Latham.

Ladies Social Circle

Our September 14th meeting was planning
the Silver Tea. The Tea will be held at
1:00 pm. on September 28th.

Our October meetings will be held on October
12th and October 26th. Gail will be the caller for
October.

October 12th meeting will be a Pizza Party at 12
noon. Joyce and Nancy J will be hostesses. Mar-
cia will have devotions.

October 26th will be a Halloween party at 12
noon. Hostesses will be Marcia & Barbara. Devo-
tions will be announced.

All ladies of the church are invit-
ed to all meetings.

Rainbow Preschool

We the staff of Rainbow
Preschool wish to ex-
tend our gratitude to
the congregation for its support
of our beloved school. We are truly appreciative
of the generous donations received and the many
kind words and actions on our behalf.



Since its establishment in 1975 Rainbow Pre-
school has provided a Christian environment
where each child and family is treated with love
and respect. Working together we can continue to
offer the children of our community a safe and
happy place to grow.

Sincerely,
Andrea, Karen and Natalie

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee met on
Sunday, September 18 at 8:45 am. Work
continues on improving and adding con-
tent to our website, including getting the church
calendar on the website and adding an interactive
Facebook box. In order to accommodate mem-
ber’s schedules, the committee will meet alter-
nately on the third Monday at 7PM or the third
Sunday of the month at 8:45 am.

Christmas Fair

The Triangle Guild has been working on the annual Christmas Fair since early spring. This year we have a limited number of members available to help on Tuesday mornings. Since the proceeds from the fair have been used primarily to help when special church projects, such as our new kitchen and the renovations of the parsonage, we would like to ask other members of the congregation to help if possible.



Whatever your talents, we would appreciate donations of handmade craft items for the fair. It really is an "All Church" fair and we so need your help. The fair will be held on November 19th this year. Please see Midge Wood or Jean Latham if you have questions or suggestions. Thanks so much.

Property Committee Update

Church roof, area facing the Pollard school was completed during the week of Sept 26th with new sheets of plywood and shingles. The work was completed by Dutton Construction LLC. Committee is grateful to board member Brad Powers for confirming estimates and execution of liaison between Dutton Construction and property.

Next large project on the horizon is the steeple. The Property committee has received several proposals for work to the steeple and has decided to work with Custom Barns, LLC, Phil Laplante. Work will include some interior structural repair in order to access the belfry. Due to age, weather exposure and wood framing deterioration this work has to be completed before the step to repair damage to the belfry itself, determine reasons for bell frame settling towards back of church and establish plan to reinforce steeple frame.

Communication with Religious Education committee continues to evolve as we work together to solve this issue of shelving in the Preschool Rainbow classroom. David Aspinwall is helping acquire the cabinets that are needed. Thank you David.

Property Committee will once again be hosting a

Fall Cleaning day as we prepare the church for upcoming season. Hope you are able to help out or volunteer a bit of time as many hands make light work.

Respectfully submitted,
Chair- Christine Clarke-Swift

Sunday School

Sunday School began on September 11th. What a wonderful group of children we have. There are two classes that meet Sunday mornings. There are 8 children in the younger group (Ages 4 through grade 3) and 8 children in the older group (grade 4 through grade 9). Welcome to Julia Killey who is helping out this Fall with the older class. We are very excited to have her help. Sandra Tomasi and Chris Swift are also teaching the older class. Jan Valletta and myself are teaching the younger class.

We could use your help. I have several Sundays in November, January, March and May that the older class needs teachers. We do have curriculum for this class.


The nursery needs volunteers.

Please see Kristen Peirce if you can help in any of these capacities.

Thank you.

Kristen Peirce

Rainbow Ad Hoc Committee:

The Rainbow Ad Hoc Committee met on September 19th and were pleased to hear from Andrea Lohnes, Director of Rainbow Preschool that she has 20 children enrolled in the preschool and 10 in kindercare. Not all of the children are full time, but she is very pleased with the enrollment for this year. 

Due to the increased enrollment we have voted to hire Jan Valletta and Jean Baker to help with the preschool on three days of the week. Jan will help Andrea with playground duty and dismissal on Tuesday and Thursday. Jean will help with dismissal on Wednesday. They will each be paid a stipend for their support.

Jan Valletta is in charge of the Rainbow

“supply” drive. She announced in church on Sunday, September 25th that Happy Face stickers were placed on the entry way to Rainbow with the various supplies listed for the school. She asked for the support of the congregation for this drive to help the school keep down the expense of buying all the necessary supplies needed for their arts and craft and other projects.

The Committee will be meeting on October 3rd at 7:00 p.m. to start work on the business plan for the school.

Submitted by:

Nancy McCormack

Executive Council

Meets on October 3rd at 7 pm. All chairmen please attend or send a representative.

Mission News

World Mission Offering will be collected through the Month of October. The theme this year is “Live The Word” Proclaim the Word - Be Transformed.

Camp Sentinel has an October Retreat Weekend for men and boys and a wonderful Nov. Retreat for 6th graders up.

We would welcome a new member or two to participate on our committee.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee met on Sunday, September 18 at 8:45 am. Work continues on improving and adding content to our website, including getting the church calendar on the website and adding an interactive Facebook box. In order to accommodate member’s schedules, the committee will meet alternately on the third Monday at 7pm or the third Sunday of the month at 8:45 am.

Finance Committee

The committee wishes to thank all who have contributed to the finances of our church. We have been able to pay all bills and hope to continue. We do save a little on cost of a part-time minister and of course heating bills are not coming at this time. Eleanor Peabody, Chair



October Birthdays

- 1 Leslie Duston
Laurie Padellaro
- 2 Richard Hawkins
- 5 Sharon Bilodeau
- 6 Ashley Murray
Kane Guthrie
- 7 Deborah Matz
- 11 Kathy Morin
- 12 Lauren Sickel
- 14 Jennifer Kiarsis
Allan Wheeler
- 15 Elizabeth Dickinson
- 16 Nancy Jackman
Robert Schiavoni
- 18 Ruth Killey
- 20 Stephen Drelick
- 21 Nicholas Lang
- 23 Hannah Morin
- 24 Lois Aspinwall
Allison Carlberg
- 26 Katie Hutchinson
- 27 Rachel Proulx
- 28 Terri Russell
- 29 David McMahan
Riley Bixby

October Anniversaries

- 1 Charles & Martha Fowler
- 4 Donald & Judy Sargent
Allan & Leslie Wheeler
- 5 Edwin & Joyce Wright
- 6 Timothy & Janice Murray
- 9 Harold & Jean Baker
- 11 Walter & Lynda Mailhot
- 17 George & Viney Prosper
- 18 Jeff & Laurie Padellaro
Jim & Christine Taylor
- 24 Bill & Aaron Lee
David & Cindy Simard
- 25 Raymond & Jill Senter



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.