

THE SPIRE

SEPT. 2011

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

This month I have chosen to share with you a selection from **Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God**, by Henry & Richard Blackaby. I have participated in this workbook based, 12 week group Bible study several times and completed it again only recently. It is always powerful, challenging and life-changing. I recommend it to you. I believe the thoughts expressed in this selection are pertinent and timely for First Baptist as we begin our fall programming together.

(One) adjustment that is a part of knowing and doing the will of God is your coming to a total dependence on God to complete what He wants to do through you. Jesus said our relationship with Him would be like a vine and branches. He said, "Apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). When you are God's servant, you must remain in an intimate relationship with God in order for Him to complete His work through you. You must depend on God alone.

The adjustment requires moving from doing work for God according to your abilities, your gifts, your likes and dislikes, and your goals to being totally dependent on God, His working, and His resources. This is a major adjustment, and it is never easy to make.

*I am God, and there is none like me....
My purpose will stand,
And I will do all that I please....
What I have said, that will I bring about;
What I have planned, that will I do. (Isa.*

46:9-11)

Without God at work in you, you can do nothing to produce Kingdom fruit. When God purposes to do something, He guarantees it will come to pass. He is the One who will accomplish what He intends to do. If you depend on anything other than God, you are asking for failure in Kingdom terms.

Once a church asked, "O God, how do You want to reach our community through us and build a great church?" God led them to start a bus ministry and provide transportation for children and adults to come to church. They did what God told them to do, and their church grew into a great church.

They were flattered when people from all over the country began to ask, "What are you doing to grow so rapidly?" They wrote a book on how to build great churches through a bus ministry. Thousands of churches began to buy buses to reach their communities, believing the method was the key to growth. Later many sold the buses, saying, "It didn't work for us."

It never works. He works! The method is never the key to accomplishing God's purposes. The key is your relationship with a Person. When you want to know how God wants you to reach your city, start a new church, or be involved in His work, ask Him. Then when He tells you, don't be surprised if you can't find any church that is doing it that same way. Why? God wants you to know Him. If you follow someone else's plan, use a method, or emphasize a program, you tend to forget about your

dependence on God. You leave the relationship with God and go after a method or a program. That is spiritual adultery.

Good books, successful methods, creative programs, and others' success cannot take the place of your relationship with God. They never do the work. God does the work. Apart from Him you can do nothing (see John 15:5). By focusing on anything other than God as the answer, you rob yourself and your church from seeing God at work. You keep yourself and your church from knowing God. That is a great tragedy for many in our day. May God deliver us from that.

Does that mean God will never lead you to develop an organized program or follow a method? No. But only God has the right to tell you what to do. Don't take the initiative to decide for yourself what you will do. Wait before God until He tells you what His will is for you.

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;

They shall mount up with wings as eagles;

*They shall run, and not be weary;
and they shall walk, and not faint.*

(Isa. 40:31)

You may think of waiting as a passive, inactive time. Waiting on the Lord is anything but inactivity. While you wait on Him, pray with a passion to know Him, His purposes and His ways. Watch circumstances and ask God to interpret them by revealing His perspective to you. Share with other believers to find out what God is saying to them. As you wait on the Lord, actively ask, seek, and knock (see Matt. 7:7-8). While you wait, continue doing the last thing God clearly told you to do. By waiting, you shift the responsibility of the outcome to God, where it belongs.

When God gives you specific guidance, He will do more through you in days and weeks

than you could ever accomplish in years of labor on your own. Waiting on Him is always worth the effort. His timing and His ways are always right. Depend on Him to guide you in His way and in His timing to accomplish His purpose.

Blessings,

Pastor Tom

Baptism by immersion at Country Pond



A wonderful, inspiring and joyful celebration of baptism by immersion was held at Country Shores Campground on Country Pond, Kingston, NH on Sunday August 14 at 2:30PM, with Rev. Thomas Hiltley officiating. Eleven candidates were baptized by immersion. Sharon Bilodeau, Susan Gersbach, Ryan Gersbach, Eileen Hull, Joanne Isherwood, John Lees, Lynda Mailhot, Walter Mailhot, Joanne Pereira, Terri Russell, & Jill Senter. Pastor Tom spoke and prayed with each candidate before their baptism, several sharing their thoughts and beliefs with everyone. Many church members and friends were present to witness and participate in the baptism with singing, laying on of hands, prayer and hugs. Refreshments were enjoyed after the baptism. Please check out Meaghan Hull's wonderful photographs of the baptism on First Baptist Church's Facebook – First Baptist Church-Plaistow, which can also be accessed by our website – www.fbcplaistow.org.

Rainbow Ad Hoc Committee Update

The members of this committee include: Melanie Bixby, Peter Lund, Elaine Melesky, Nancy McCormack and Jan Valletta. We have met every week since the first week of July with the following information gathered.



Peter Lund obtained a copy of the Timberlane Regional School District census where it was noted that enrollments are down in the district, primarily, for 2 reasons: (1) decrease in births and decrease in migration into the district (related to real estate slowdown).

Pollard School has a Kindergarten program with students projected to be from 62-65 over the next five years. This year they have 60 registered: 36 in the AM class and 24 in the PM class.

Competition is extensive in the area with about 10 day care/Preschool programs within a 4-8 mile radius of Rainbow.

We found several concerns with Rainbow PreSchool including limited hours of operation, limited advertising (due to cost), but the main concern is not enough enrollment to pay 100% of the teacher's salaries.

Rainbow also has some good asset/plusses. The school is located next door to Pollard School, is licensed by the State of NH, has had a very good reputation over the years, the teachers are all educated in Early Childhood Education and our tuition fees are right-in-line with other area schools. Also, this year we will offer extended hours for Kinder-care and Nursery school, the Kinder-care offers art, music and science (which Pollard does not), we offer outdoor play in our private and fenced-in yard (Pollard Kindergarten students do not play outside) and our students are escorted by our teacher to and from Pollard.

What do we need to do? We need more enrollment and we need to market and advertise the school and the various programs offered.

The committee decided to tackle the problem on two fronts: (1) current school year and (2) future school years. Our plan for future school years is to:

- Watch closely the finances at Rainbow through the fall
- Prepare a Business Plan
- Initiate a Marketing/Advertising Plan for

2012-2013

- Form a new Board of Director's for Rainbow to consist of 3 members:
 - ◊ 1 member from Board of Christian Education
 - ◊ 1 member to be a parent
 - ◊ 1 member a Plaistow or area resident.

The plans for the current school year will consist of an Open House on August 29th that will coincide with the Pollard School open house. The classrooms will be decorated and the teachers will be available to discuss the various programs offered at the school. We will have press releases in the local papers and take pictures at the Open House.

We will also assess the financial situation during the middle of September when we anticipate most children will be registered and attending the school. A fund raiser for school supplies will be held during the early months of the school year to help defray some of the cost.

Enrollment for this coming school year is currently at 20: 14 students in PreSchool (3 & 4 year old) and 6 in Kinder-care. (There is the possibility of several more children to sign up, but we have only included those who have signed a contract and paid their first month tuition.)

Note: The enrollment of 20 students is larger than our classes started last year.

The monthly tuition income from these students amounts to \$4390. The estimated budget for the month – including teacher's salaries and other expenses – amounts to \$4791.

This means that income and expenses are extremely tight, but we have suggested to the teachers that we will probably recommend that their salaries be tied to tuition income.

In other words – the Ad Hoc Committee will suggest to the BofCE that the salaries of the Rainbow teachers go up and/or down depending on tuition received. Therefore, we are not asking for any monetary assistance from the church.

As an additional note, - following the presentation of the Ad Hoc Committee, it was announced by Ellie Peabody, Finance Committee, that the church had received an anonymous donation of \$10,000 to be donated to the Rainbow PreSchool. This

was wonderful news and it is anticipated that numerous discussions will be held by the BofCE and the Ad Hoc Committee on how best to take advantage of this gift.

Submitted by
Nancy McCormack, Chair
Rainbow Ad Hoc Committee

Communications Committee

We are very pleased to have Laurie Padellaro on the Communications Committee as a member. The Committee met with Jeff Comeau, our web designer on Tuesday, August 23. Jeff has added links to the Spire, the Church Facebook page, Twitter and Rainbow Preschool and Kindercare. Members of the committee will be responsible for updating portions of the website. He reported that 79 individuals visited our website in August, with several reaching our site via a link on Meaghan Hull's Photography website

Ladies Social Circle.

We will be meeting on September 14, at which time we will plan the Silver Tea to be held on September 28th.



The caller for September is Becky Schosser. Hostesses for September 14 are: Barbara Carifio and Nancy Marston; Grace/Devotions, Ellie Peabody.

Please bring in your Rain/Shine bags. All women are invited to join the Ladies Social Circle.

By-Laws Committee

The By-Laws Committee has been meeting every other Wednesday. We thank Debra Sawyer for retyping the by-laws for us.

We have been going through the by-laws line by line making small changes such as the new mailing address for the church and correcting typos and renumbering some sections.

The appendices are missing. If anyone knows where they are please let Ben Sadewicz know.

At the annual meeting the church members voted to invite non-members to serve on some committees. It was decided that non-members would only vote in their respective committees. It was also decided that the church secretary should report to the pastor only.

The Rainbow School Board will be named "Board of Directors" rather than "Board of Trustees".

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 Rice-A-Roni type products; Ramen Noodles; Snacks (pretzels, crackers, cookies, granola bars, 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 Farren – 603-275-6644

Finance Committee

A Parable of Tips & Tithes

Now as it came to pass on a certain day at noon, the story-teller was a guest of a kindly man and we sat down at a popular restaurant where the food was good.

Now when the meal was at hand the waiter brought unto the host the reckoning of his debt. The host looking upon it was somewhat displeased, but spoke not a word, but as the time for our departure drew nigh, I observed that he layeth under his plate a gift of coins. However I know not how large his gift was, but the waiter, who stood near by, smiled, and was a happy countenance, being interpreted, meaneth that the tip was satisfactory.

Now with such customs we are all familiar and this parable telleth what is right or wrong., in the

custom of the tip ... but as I meditated on the coins, that become tips in our land, I began to think about tips and tithes, for a proverbial tip must be least, A Tithe ... Indeed, unless it be fifteen or twenty percent the waiter or waitress may turn against you.

And, as I continued to think on these things that it came to me that a few people who go to church treat their God as they do honor their waiter for they give unto their waiter a tithe but unto their God they give whatsoever they think will get them by. Verily does man fear the waiter more than God? Or does he love the waiter more than he loves God? Truly, truly, a man and his money are past understanding.

Eleanor Peabody,
Finance Chair

Triangle Guild

We begin another year with a Pot Luck Supper on September 7 at 6:00 pm. Following our meal we will have an Installation of Officers for the coming year. We have a lot planned for the year. All women are welcome.

Remember our Fair Work Parties every Tuesday from 10-12. We have a great time working on all kinds of crafts, talking, and eating. Please don't hesitate to join us.

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.

Missions Committee

The first meeting after summer break will take place on September 12 at the home of Cheryl Zanello. Meetings will be the 2nd Monday of the month at a time to be determined.

We will be sharing mission moments concerning Vacation Bible School, Camp Sentinel, and other awards and "positives". We ask for your thoughts as we consider projects this year.

September Anniversaries

3 Russell & Marcia Sargent
10 Lee & Donna Hurst
11 Leo & Klatie LaPointe
13 Dennis & Gloria Proulx
14 Patrick & Melaqnie Bixby
17 Bill & Stacy Rendo
19 Don & Wendy Hutchinson
25 Paul & Ellen
30 Russell & Kristen Peirce



NOTE:

The By-Laws notebook is among the missing. Please look around to see if you have it and forgot to return it.

Property Committee

Property Committee is happy to report that the roof has been repaired on the inside where it had not been structurally sound. Work was completed by Custom Barns LLC. The next step to secure the roof over the Sanctuary (Pollard Side of the building) will be shingling; done by Dunton Construction. This work will be completed, to the best of our knowledge, by the end of September.

All the rugs on the first floor of the building have been cleaned as of 8/24/2011.

The next 'big project' engaging the Property Committee's attention at this time is the repairs to the steeple.

A change has been made to the usage fees for Colcord Hall, please seek out new forms and update from John Demmer if you or you know someone who wants to use Colcord Hall.

Thank you all for your support and understanding as the Property Committee manages the different aspects and projects to maintain a safe, clean and effective meeting house. Please keep the Property Committee in your prayers.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Clarke-Swift, Chair.

Pulpit Committee

The Pulpit Committee has taken some time off as Rev. Smith has published our church profile and is awaiting resumes. We plan to resume our work on Sept. 7 when Rev. Smith brings us a packet of pastor profiles to review. He will attend this meeting to make sure we understand how to interpret all of the information on the pastor profiles, answer any of our questions, and be able to immediately follow up on any candidate we may find to be a preliminary match for us.

At that point, Rev. Smith contacts the pastor to see if s/he is interested in continuing the process with us. If so, then we begin the interview process by sending the candidate all of the profile information about our church, including the annual report and some bulletins. At that time we send a list of questions for written responses. After this step, if both sides are still interested, we will set up a phone interview. If both are still interested, we will schedule a face-to-face interview out of town. This is to protect the candidate in case s/he does not want their current congregation to know that s/he is looking for another position. If both are still interested, we suspend our process with any other candidate we are considering and participate in a "neutral pulpit" time to see the candidate conduct a service. The next step would be the candidating weekend here in Plaistow.

It seems like a very long process - much longer than most businesses take - but I liken it to look-

ing for a marriage partner. The relationship between a congregation and a pastor is very similar in terms of trust, compatibility, and love. We are trying to determine which candidate will be a good match for us in a short period of time. This whole process would be impossible without God's direction. So continue your prayers for the committee members and the candidates so that we are all open to God's direction. Remember the old Folk Choir songs "You Can't Hurry My God" and "Everythin Gonna Be All Right". We are in good hands with Pastor Tom and Deirdre as we follow God's lead in this search.



September Birthdays

- 2 Julia Killey
- 3 Kalla Ames
- 7 Henry Szmyt
Mark Fowler
- 10 Jordi Janeiro
- 12 Dennis Proulx
- 13 A.J. Wheeler
- 14 Melda Lambert
- 15 Christopher Szmyt
- 16 Linda Cleary, Jeannie Mailhot
- 17 Steven Bilodeau
- 20 Mildred Ilsley, Lindsay Hawkins,
Kristen Clohecy
- 21 Stacie Powers
- 22 Barry Sargent
- 24 William Trumper, Paul Trumper,
Jean Baker, Gabriella Zarba
- 27 Mary Bilodeau, Hope Nardone
- 28 Tim Auclair
- 29 Rita Fortin
- 30 Ben Padellaro

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!



Hospice Volunteer Training Fall Sessions

A terminal diagnosis can be a lonely experience. At a time when understanding is needed most, many Hospice patients find themselves isolated even from family and friends. You can help end that isolation by becoming a Hospice volunteer. We will teach you how to provide compassionate support to those patients at the end of life and their families.

Rockingham VNA & Hospice is offering a ten-week comprehensive Hospice volunteer training beginning on September 9 and continuing each Friday from 9am-noon through November 11, 2011. *There must be a minimum of 5 people registered for the training to be held.*

Classes will be held at Rockingham VNA & Hospice, 137 Epping Road, Exeter, NH.

To register or for more information: Call Martha Chandler, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, 772-2981 or 800-540-2981 ext. 140.

Fall 2011 Bereavement Groups Exeter Location—RVNA&H Office

Daytime Group

~ General Group

September 19th —October 24th
Monday afternoons 2-3:30 pm

Evening Groups

~ General Group

September 20th —October 25th
Tuesday evenings — 5:30-7 pm

~ Motherless Daughter Group

September 20th —October 25th
Tuesday evenings — 5:30-7 pm

*Groups are free to the public
must have 4 registered participants*

To register call Lee Maher or Dick Munsey
at 1-800-540-2981

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.