

The Bellringer



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Tents of Hope

A journey of compassion and peace with the refugees of Darfur, Sudan

The "Tents Of Hope" project gives us an opportunity to do ministry on several levels. One thing it does is raises our awareness of the suffering of people in Darfur Africa. The other night I made a quick dinner of hot dogs and french fries in between different meetings we each had. I pulled food out of a full freezer and pantry, grabbed a pan and put it on the stove. It's no where near that easy for the people of Darfur and I thought of them and said a prayer for them that night.

I took time to read an article in Newsweek recently about Darfur. What caught my eye was a picture of a woman trying to chop the thick roots of a tree a few feet deep in the ground. The caption said she was trying to find wood to cook with and now there isn't much wood left anywhere so they look for tree roots to



use. As part of our "Tents of Hope" project we are raising money to buy solar cookers so women will not have to risk their lives just looking for wood to cook with.

I also believe that our one little tent will make a difference for one little family somewhere in a refugee camp. Whether they appreciate the effort that went into painting it or not I don't know, but someone will be glad to have some shelter from the sun or blowing sand, or even rain sometime.

The other great thing about the "Tent of Hope" project is that it gives us an opportunity to unite with four other faith communities on a common goal. To help, at least in a small way, to ease someone else's suffering.



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"Communities creating conscience"

I long to dwell in your tent forever, and take refuge in the shelter of your wings.

Psalms 61

(Continued on page 7)

First Baptist Church of Mansfield - Established 1809 -

A Word From the Pastor

What do you think of when you hear the words "*March Madness*"? Of course in our neck of the woods here in Eastern Connecticut, those words refer to the NCAA college basketball tournament that happens this time every year. However, I can think of a few other things for which that term might be appropriate. Maybe the excess rain we had this year in March could be considered *March Madness*. I did have to borrow a pump to keep the water in our cellar from reaching our newly installed furnace and that was pretty *maddening* to me. And speaking of maddening, the presidential primary campaigning seems unprecedented this year; although, that would not only be *March madness*, but a monthly *madness* until November. And speaking of unprecedented, I paid \$3.49 a gallon for gas just the other day. That, along with preparing to file our taxes in the month of March led me to different kinds of *madness*. Maybe we could think of the early Lenten season and Easter as a kind of *March madness*.

Well, regardless of how we think of it, it's over. March and its *madness* is in the past. I don't know about you, but to me it seemed like it flew by. That leads me to ponder and pose some other questions. What will you remember about the month of March 2008? Were the things you worried about really worth worrying about? Did you do anything for anyone that they will remember with gratitude and joy?

The month of March was the month we had to replace our very expensive furnace. Our clothes dryer also broke down after nearly 18 years of faithful service. It was the month that we had to haggle with our insurance company over replacing our totaled car. But I don't think these will be the things I will remember a

year or two or ten from now. I will remember the kindness and trust of the Bauer family and the Nakka family in lending us their cars for several weeks at a time. I will also remember the help of Prescott Spencer in repairing some things at home. I will remember the love and concern of my church family in the aftermath of our accident. I will remember the sunrise at the early Easter service on Springhill. I will remember the Family Fun night when we laughed and sang together. I have heard it said that we do not remember days, but we remember moments. May God bless your moments of April and May. Each one is a gift from God.

What the Apostle Paul said in Philippians 1: 3 so often comes to my mind; "I thank my God every time I remember you."

God's Blessings



Church Picnic

The picnic will be held on **June 8th** after the service. *(Remember that June 8 is the first Sunday of the summer schedule. No Sunday School and the service will start at 10:00)* The picnic will once again be held at June Norcross Webster Boy Scout Camp located on Route 44 in Ashford.

Directions to the camp:

Go north on Rt 195, go through the UConn Campus, until you get to Rt 44 (3 miles). Turn right onto Rt 44 and head east about 6 miles. J.N. Webster is on the right about a mile past the Rt 89 intersection.

Once inside the camp, follow the Main Dirt Road to the parking area.

Last year there was some confusion because the front gate wasn't open. It should be open this time, but if it is not, the road through the Camp Ranger's work shop empties out on the Main Dirt Road.

What to Bring:

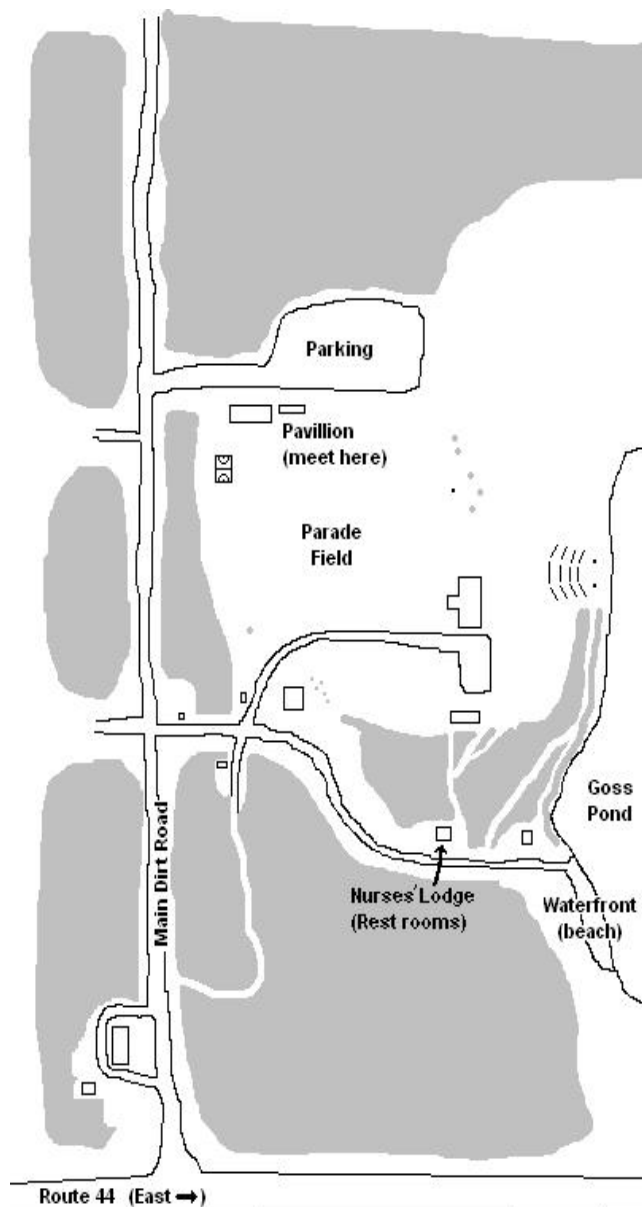
Bathing suits and towels

Basket balls (there is a basket ball court)

Football, soccer balls, baseballs and glove, Frisbee...etc. The parade field is large enough for several small games or a large game.

There is a pavilion but you may want to bring a popup canopy to provide some protection from sun (or rain!)

Salad or fruit or vegetable. The Social Committee is organizing the food. More details on this will follow.



June 8th is the first Sunday of the **Summer Schedule**
No Sunday School and the service will start at 10:00 am



Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees held a monthly meeting on March 9th many topics were discussed and plans were made. A sub-committee has been formed to review accounting line items. Much progress has been made by this committee in reviewing procedures policies.

The date for the **Spring Work Day** is set for **Saturday, April 19, 2008**. We have identified quite a few projects that will require *many hands* to complete. A Project Manager has been assigned for each project. If you can help in any way please contact the Project Manager before April 19th and let them know how you will be able to help.

Project: Landscaping around Church

Project Manager: Nils Setterberg

Project: Store Historical Document

Project Manager: Meradith McMunn

Project: Repair Skirting around Building

Project Manager: Guy Myette

Project: Organize Office Supply Closet

Project Manager: Nancy Flynn

Project: Paint Narthex and Doors

Project Manager: Nils Setterberg

Project: Scrape and paint window sills

Project Manager: Laura Austin

Please mark your calendar for the **Spring Business Meeting** on **Sunday, April 27, 2008**.

The next meeting of the Trustees will be **Sunday, April 20th**. Nancy Flynn will be the Trustees on Lock Up in April.

Church Women United

May Friendship Day, the next Church Women United event is coming to First Baptist on **Sunday, May 4th at 4:00 p.m.!** The theme for this event "God's Wisdom Inspires Hospitality" promises to united all with renewed awareness of opportunities of Christian Hospitality! How can we plant a seed of hospitality? Come and share your thoughts with us! Questions, please phone Dottie Rose Gilliam at 429-4378 or Lena Barry at 429-4431.

Communications Committee

It's time to update the photos and information on the church web-site – www.fbcmansfieldct.com. Some of the photos and information is out of date and we need your help to make our web page informative and lively. If you have some ideas or suggestions please talk to a member of the Communication Committee – Carol Bigl, Lena Barry, Nancy Flynn, Bill McMunn, or Kim Setterberg. We are willing to listen and work with the Boards and Committees to show our community what the First Baptist Church of Mansfield is all about.

Get your newsletter on the web! The Communications Committee puts the complete newsletter on the web for all to read, with color photos. If you have an email address and access to the web please consider using the web version. We will email you the link to the BELLRINGER for easy access. Send an email to bellringer@fbcmansfieldct.com to let us know that you want the BELLRINGER delivered to your email address.

BELLRINGER Deadlines for 2008

June/July/August Issue – **June 8**

September Issue – **September 7**

Oct/Nov Issue – **October 12**

Dec/Jan/Feb Issue – **November 30**

We do our best to make the **BELLRINGER** available in print on Sunday following the deadline and on the web on Monday following the deadline.

Emma Gardiner Missionary Society

Soon these ladies will be looking forward to our help as they undertake a new project! For Mother's Day we will be promoting a campaign to purchase blankets for Church World Service! These blankets can be purchased for \$5.00 and given in Honor or Memory of Mothers/Grandmothers! We hope many will thank of the warmth these blankets will give to those in need all over the world. You are in for a treat, as Emma Gardiner promotes this event on **Sunday, April 27th**.

American Baptist Women's Ministries of Connecticut

The Northeast Association Annual Meeting and Mission Travelcade will be held at the First Baptist Church of Mansfield located at 945 Storrs Road, Mansfield on **Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** All are welcome for lunch.

The speaker will be Chris George, Executive Director of IRIS, Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services.

IRIS started welcoming the first refugee families in 1982 as part of Episcopal Social Service, Inc. In 2007 they have welcomed 112 refugees from 19 countries. In the 25 years of its existence they have resettled over 4,000 people.

Everyone is invited! If you have questions, please phone Grace Riesen at 429-7569, Lena Barry at 429-4431 or Laura Austin at 455-0843.

The Annual Conference of American Baptist Women's Ministries of Connecticut Will be held on **Saturday, June 7, 2008** at the First Baptist Church of Southington.

The theme is Break the Chains: Slavery in the 21st Century with Special Guest Speaker Barbara Anderson, former President of ABWM of Massachusetts.



The Flower Committee would like to thank all those who participated in the preparation of

the Easter Memorial Names and for the purchase of the beautiful spring plants. The plants were given to family and friends of our church.

Lee Salina and I picked up pansies for the planters in front of the church at Ledgcrest Garden Center. Kerry Landeck planted them for us. Thank you Kerry.

Heritage Committee

The Heritage Committee has met to begin plans for the celebration of the First Baptist Church's **200th Anniversary in 2009.** The celebration will involve everyone in the Church, from the youngest to the oldest. We will emphasize our long and fascinating history with a series of **"History Moments"** in Sunday worship services. Our roots go back to early beginnings with Baptists meeting in Mansfield homes in the late 1700s, continuing through the establishment of our church on Spring Hill in the first decade of the 1800s, its development through the 19th and 20th centuries, up to our present 21st century program. We will have several outside speakers on the history of the Baptist movement in America, founded in 1639 by Roger Williams in Providence, Rhode Island, and brought by Rhode Island pastors to Connecticut in the early 1700s.

We are still developing the details of how to celebrate this important milestone, and we welcome suggestions and participation in the planning process by members and friends of the Church. If you would like to get involved, please contact one of the members of the Heritage Committee.

Nancy Flynn, Ethel Larkin,
Meradith McMunn, Bill McMunn

Flower Committee

The beautiful forsythia wreaths were placed on the front doors by Lee Salina. We have had several people remark on how pretty they look on the red doors.

I would like to extend a big thank you to Sarah Hocking, Karen Hocking, and Faith Austin for their help in setting up the flowers for the sanctuary for the Easter Sunday worship service, and to Nils Setterberg for helping me unload my car on Good Friday.

Martha Davis
Flower Committee Chair

Church Family Fun Night

Many family members and friends enjoyed an evening of fun, fellowship, food and entertainment at our Church Family Fun Night, sponsored by the Youth Choir, held on Friday, March 28th. American Baptist Women's Ministries focuses on a specific geographical area of the world for in-depth study where American Baptist Missionaries are based. This year the emphasis is on Eastern Europe – including the countries of Bulgaria and the Czech Republic. This mission emphasis is tied in with Church Family Fun Night by having "Moments of Missions" about missionary activities in this area of the world, and also including food items special to these countries.

Many, many thanks to those who participated in this wonderful evening, both those who were a part of the entertainment, and those who helped behind the scenes in the kitchen and setting up:



For entertainment:

Ally Austin, Morgan, Olivia and Pastor Ron Baker, Bob Erickson (Mater of Ceremonies), Jessy and Samantia Figueroa, Betty Geissler, Dottie Rose and Randy Gilliam, Sarah Hocking, Bibe, Gemilath, Rahim and Raman Mama, Francis Nichols, Andy Noznick, Grace and John Riesen, Bill, Melissa and William Rood, Frank Wells, and Kyra Whitehead.

For kitchen help and set-up:

Pastor Ron Baker, Jill Myette, John and Grace Riesen, Lee Salina, Kyle and Laurie Whitehead.

The evening included songs and dancing, poems, stories, jokes and riddles, instrumental music of piano, saxophone, trumpet, piccolo, flute, violin, guitar and percussions!

Thank you one and all for a great evening.

Grace Riesen





(Continued from page 1)

I truly believe that it pleases God when God's people work together. Thank you to the Sunday school people who did such a great job of painting. You shared your time and talents, and in doing so you gave of yourselves. Well done.

The community "Tent of Hope" will be displayed in the community **April 27 through May 11th.**



Ladies Aid Society continued

The future also holds two **Crisp Sales**. A Blueberry and Peach Crisp Sale on **August 23** and an Apple Crisp Sale on **September 21**.

As always our aim is to support the needs and mission of our Church and we encourage one and all to join and support our activities.

Patty Geissler
Ladies Aid President

Ladies Aid Society

The Ladies Aid had a well attended and spirited meeting on Friday, April 4th. We began with a most delicious pot-luck supper that reminded us of what wonderful cooks and bakers we have among us. We know that the cook book that we will be producing next year will be amazing and a book that everyone will want to have. Lee Salina made a superb corn pudding that was a recipe of Dora Beauregard's that she intends to submit! Please check your recipe boxes as the deadline for submission will be in the fall. We are looking for an assortment of recipes and if you want, please include a short line or two about the person who used the recipe or how the food was enjoyed.



At our business meeting we decided to provide simple refreshments for a reception that will be held at Juniper Hill in May to celebrate the opening of the Assisted Living Area. Lena Barry and Lee Salina will be coordinating the effort and would be glad to hear from volunteers who might want to bake or chop vegetables. Please speak with them if you could help with the May 2nd event.

We regret to announce that we will be **cancelling the Fellowship Supper** that was to take place on May 3rd. It seems to be a very busy time for many of us. Instead we will be working with the Social Committee to coordinate a **Pot Luck Luncheon after church on April 27th** for the Spring Business meeting.

**First Baptist Church of
Mansfield Youth Group**

Spaghetti Supper



Saturday, May 31, 2008

5:00 p.m.— 7:00 p.m.

At The First Baptist Church of Mansfield
945 Storrs Road—Route 195

Menu: spaghetti, meatballs, tossed salad, garlic bread,
beverages, and dessert

Adults: \$6.00

Children (Under 12): \$3.00

Take-outs are welcome!



Photos from 2007 Youth Mission Trip to West Virginia

**Proceeds from this public supper will benefit the
Church Youth Group's Mission Trip to
West Virginia this summer.**

COME AND HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

Dear Church family,

We will be holding a Spaghetti Supper fundraiser again this year to support the youth mission trip to West Virginia. The supper will be on **Saturday, May 31**. There will be many ways that you can help to support our mission trip. We will be asking for food donations for the supper. We will also need volunteers to help at the supper. One of the most important things that you can do is come to the supper, and invite your friends and neighbors. If everyone brings a guest or two we can fill the tables, and make it our most successful supper fundraiser ever. We will let you know more about it as the date gets closer. If you have any questions you can ask Alyssa Geissler. Thanks for your support.

Car Wash

On **Saturday, May 17th** the Youth will hold a car wash to raise money to help support youth attending Camp Wightman and the Youth Mission Trip to West Virginia this coming summer. The Car Wash will be held from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Each Youth that helps to wash cars will earn money to pay for camp and the trip. Tell your friends about this fun filled service.



Church Family News

There is a new baby boy in town! Austin Michael Waldron was born on January 24, 2008. He weighed in at 8lbs. 6oz and was 21 inches long. Austin's parents are Karen Buscaglia and Steve Waldron. They make their home in Ellington. Bonnie and Dave Buscaglia are the proud grandparents and Betty Geissler is the very proud great grandmother.

New Address:

Pvt. Daniel Parker, Jr.
Please contact the church office for this address.

Our sympathy is extended to Lynn and Larry Whitlock on the occasion of Lynn's sister, Dorine Nierintz's, recent death.

Kristin and Alyssa Geissler will be walking in



American Cancer Society Relay for Life Events this spring. Kristin will be participating in the UConn Relay for Life on **April 11**.

She shares the following in her on-line page which can be found at http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RelayForLifeNewEnglandDivision?px=3606538&pg=personal&fr_id=6971

Hello Everyone!

I just wanted to let you all know that I will be participating in the UConn Relay for Life again this year on April 11th with some of my friends! Our team name is 'Huskies for Hope' and we've decided that we want to try to raise \$2,000 this year, which is \$500 more than our goal was last year.

This year's relay slogan is "Celebrate, Remember, Fight Back", which is very appropriate as we all know and love many people whom we celebrate as cancer survivors and remember as those we have loved and lost. This is why its is so important

that we do our part to "Fight Back", so that even if we can't change what has happened and what may be happening now, we can help to change the future. We are hopeful that what we do as individuals, as a team, and as a university, can do just that!

Alyssa will be walking as a member of the Athletic Council of the Woodstock Academy Centaurs Team on **May 17th**. The Relay that she is participating in will be held at the Woodstock Fairgrounds.

Both girls have reached their personal fund raising goals but would be happy to have your good wishes and prayers for good weather and overall success for both events. If you are interested in knowing more about the events or would like to make a donation you may contact Alyssa or Kristin.

Laura Flynn is the Relay for Life Team Captain for her sorority Delta Delta Delta at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Laura and her team hope to raise \$1,600.00 this year. They will be walking on **Friday, April 18th**. To make donations toward Laura's goal visit her web site at: http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RelayForLifeGreatLakesDivision?pg=personal&fr_id=4342&fr_id=4342&px=290372 Q. You can also read the following:

My reason to relay is to join people around the world in celebrating those who have survived cancer, remembering the people we've lost, and supporting the lifesaving mission of the American Cancer Society.

Please make a donation to me or join my team. You are helping deliver the hope that future generations will not have to endure cancer threatening the lives of their friends and family. You have the power to fight back against a disease that affects millions.

*21st Annual Festival
Of
Singing Children
Sponsored By
Springfield / Hartford
Chapter of Choristers Guild
Guest Conductor
Helen Kemp*

Children's Choirs from Connecticut,
New Hampshire, Massachusetts.

**The festival theme is
The Church Year**

**Saturday, April 26, 2008 2:00 pm
United Congregational Church of Holyoke
395 High St., Holyoke, MA**

Free to the public
On the web: www.uccholyoke.org

THIRD SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTIONS

The Third Sunday Food Collections for the Covenant Soup Kitchen Pantry have gone extremely well for the first two times. As Ron commented, each one probably has netted more food than the totals for the entire previous year. The generosity for the donors is to be commended and it must give each person a small glow in their heart to know they have helped someone in need.

Although the drives have specialized on certain items so far, other items have been donated. The Pantry welcomes all non-perishable food items such as dry cereals and canned items such as fruit, vegetables, meat, fish and various pasta items such as ravioli, etc. I try to look for specials, usually in store brands, to get the most "bang for my buck".

Announcements will be made each month regarding each drive.

The **Month of April** is **CANNED MEAT** such as tuna fish and chicken. The turn in date is **April 20th**.

Keep tuned for further information. Join the fun and feel that glow each Third Sunday!

April 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
6	7	8 EGMS	9 Bible Study	10	11 Sr High Youth Group	12 ABWM of CT NE Assoc. 10-2
13	14	15	16 Bible Study	17 Men's Lunch	18	19 Spring Work Day
20 Soup Kitchen Collection Trustee Mtg	21	22	23 Bible Study	24	25	26 ABCCONN Festival of Singing Children
27 Pot Luck Luncheon Business Meeting	28	29	30 Bible Study			
Display Darfur Tent—April 27 through May 11						

April Birthdays

April 2—Susan Figueroa
April 4—Bruce Bradshaw
April 4—Ronald Nichols
April 8—Nitheesha Nakka
April 15—Brian Reas
April 16—Michael Davis
April 16—Ginny Shepardson
April 17—Dante Salina
April 25—Althea Ward
April 30—Samantha Gardiner

May Birthdays

May 8—Bibi Mama
 May 8—Priyanka Nakka
 May 10—Kristin Gardiner
 May 10—Harold Mattern
 May 12—Emma Barry
 May 13—David Floer
 May 13—Amanda Keane
 May 13—Dorothy Lackman
 May 15—Alice Spencer
 May 16—Robert Bauer
 May 17—Bill McMunn
 May 21—Nils Setterberg
 May 22—David Kloss
 May 23—Kevin Reas
 May 28—Nichole Nilson
 May 30—Shirley Corcoran
 May 30—Lisa Reas
 May 31—Barbara Moore



June Birthdays

June 1—Pete Bradshaw
 June 2—Evan Fulton
 June 4—Thomas Lackman
 June 4—Ethel Larkin
 June 4—Jennifer Whittemore
 June 7—Lyrica Yanaway
 June 8—James Kloss
 June 10—Karen Hocking
 June 10—Robert Peters
 June 11—Bonnie Buscaglia
 June 11—Millie Larkins
 June 12—Frank Whitehead
 June 13—Michele Gagne
 June 13—Brendan Reas
 June 15—Meradith McMunn
 June 16—Faith Austin
 June 16—Guy Myette
 June 18—Lee Salina
 June 19—Karen Watson
 June 22—Pastor Ron Baker
 June 23—Quinn Yanaway
 June 25—Wendy Edwards
 June 28—Ryan Quigley

May 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
Display Darfur Tent—April 27 through May 11						
4 CWU 4 pm	5	6 EGMS 2 pm Safety Comm 6:30	7 Bible Study	8 Hillside Cemetery 7:30	9	10
Display Darfur Tent—April 27 through May 11						
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14 Bible Study	15 Men's Lunch	16	17 Youth Car Wash 9—12:00 Baby Shower 1-3:00 pm
18 Soup Kitchen Collection Music Sunday Trustee Mtg	19	20	21 Bible Study	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Bible Study Deacon's Mtg	29 NO Adult Choir	30	31 Youth Group Spaghetti Supper 5-7:00 pm

June 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Last Day of Sunday School Trustee Meeting	2	3 EGMS 2 pm	4	5	6	7 ABW Annual Conference
8 Summer Schedule WORSHIP 10:00 Church Picnic Summer Newsletter Deadline	9	10	11	12	13	14 Riesen Anniversary
15 Father's Day Soup Kitchen Collection	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



Dates to Remember

April 8—Emma Gardiner Missionary Society	May 6—Safety Committee 6:30 pm
April 12—NE Assoc Meeting 10-2:00 pm	May 15—Men's Luncheon
April 17—Men's Luncheon	May 17—Car Wash 9-12:00 pm
April 19—Spring Work Day	May 18—Soup Kitchen Collection
April 20—Soup Kitchen Collection	May 18—Trustee Meeting
April 20—Trustee Meeting	May 28—Deacon's Meeting
April 26—Youth Choir Festival	June 1—Last Day of Sunday School
April 26—ABCONN Annual Meeting	June 1—Trustee Meeting
April 27—Church Business Meeting	June 3—Emma Gardiner Missionary Society
April 27—EGMS Promotion	June 7—ABW Annual Conference
April 30—Deacon's Meeting	June 8—Summer Schedule Begins
May 4—Church Women United	June 8—Church Picnic
May 6—Emma Gardiner Missionary Society	June 8—Summer Newsletter Deadline



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MANSFIELD

945 Storrs Road, Storrs, CT 06268

Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.

Church School — 9:30 a.m.

Youth Choir Rehearsal, Sunday - 9:00 a.m.

Adult Choir Rehearsal, Thursday - 7:30 p.m.



An American Baptist Church