



The Bellringer

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First Baptist Church of Mansfield

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Seventeenth Annual Steeple Chase Bike Tour Fundraiser

The 17th Annual Steeple Chase Bike Tour held on Saturday, August 16, 2008 raised over \$62,400.00 for WAIM and Perception Programs Inc. We want to thank the members and friends of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield for helping make this event such a great success.

Thanks for the use of the church facilities to make the Pasta Salad the day before the ride and to Ginny Shepardson and Ellie Trainor for helping in that effort. Thanks to Lee Salina for organizing and running the sign-in table checking to be sure all riders were back safely. Thanks to those helping Lee with that effort; Martha Davis, Hazel Rubins, Trish Baker and Olivia Baker.

Thanks to Lisa Reas for being the S.A.G. Wagon Boss the day of the ride. Lisa with all her Steeple Chase experience keeps the riders on the various routes safe and on track by directing the activities of the S.A.G. Wagon Drivers. Thanks to the S.A.G. Drivers that patrol

the routes tending to the safety of the riders; Prescott Spencer, Sam and Ginny Shepardson and Dan Austin. Thanks to David Stevens for

again making his pasture and shelter available as a Rest Stop for the riders and to Ally Austin, Ellie Trainor and Faith Austin for helping David run the Rest Stop.

Thanks to Charles Woody, David Stevens, Faith Austin and others that helped supply food for the event. Thanks to Trish Baker and Kerry Landeck for riding in the Bike Tour and to all those supporting them with their prayers and checks.

Thanks to Lena and Phil Barry for supporting the event in their special way.

For the Steeple Chase Tour Committee

—Ed Austin



First Baptist Church of Mansfield

- *- Established 1809 -*
- *A Word from the Pastor*

I think my most vivid memory from the opening ceremonies of the Olympics was a picture of President Bush and Russian Prime Minister Putin talking in the stands as the television announcers broke the news that Russia had just invaded the Republic of Georgia in response to some military action by the Georgian military forces. For quite a while the conflict was headline news everyday. There was a large front page story with large pictures in the newspapers. Now we don't hear much about it, but I'm sure it is still in the headlines of the news in Georgia and Russia.

I have not been able to contact the friends I made when I preached at the Russian Baptist Church. I continue to try to e-mail them, but with no success. I have heard from the host of my trip to Georgia, the Archbishop Malkhaz Songulashvili. I shared part of his first letter in Worship a few weeks ago. He wrote; *"I would also like to ask you to join me in prayer for peace in Georgia and for reconciliation between the warring sides. Last Monday was the darkest day in my life. As I was receiving dozens of devastation messages, both by mobile and internet, I lost the ability to see the power of the Gospel. I knew it was still there but I could not see and communicate it to others. For the first time in my ministry I failed to say to the people: 'Do not be afraid!' In my mental torment I saw a vision that helped me to forgive the enemy and to mentally embrace the arch-enemy of the country. Obviously this experience did not make him less evil, but it did liberate me from anger and hatred. What I am saying here might be over-emotive and too personal. Perhaps I should not be writing it in fear of antagonizing those who are on my side. But I felt I had to be truthful with even if the truthfulness makes you vulnerable."*

As we have heard from the news, the Russian troops have begun to pull out of Georgia, and there are talks of treaties and such. I have received a couple of other letters requesting prayers and financial support. One of the letters described a stream of thousands of refugees into the capital city of Tblisi and the 260 refugee camps set up in the schools there. The Beteli center where I stayed during my time there has also become a refugee camp with 40 refugees from Baptist churches in

Gori and other towns, along with the other senior adult residents who were already living there.

I received a letter on August 28th written by Archbishop Malkhaz titled "What is Georgia's fault?" I feel like I have missed a great part of the conversation that may have led up to the letter but it expressed frustration and anger about who is at fault in this conflict.

At one point he says; *"Is it Georgia's fault that we love our freedom and want to talk with others on equal footing...? This is our fault that we would like to build a modern state. But this makes some of our neighbors extremely unhappy. As I was leaving the village of Ptsa yesterday, some village men realized that we had not come with evil intentions. They walked out from their hiding places, gathering around the village spring. I could not pass them without stopping and chatting. I jumped out of my car and walked over to them. They all seemed to be frightened and disheartened. 'Is there hope for us Father?' one of the men asked me. 'I hope there is some hope,' I answered reluctantly. I do believe that there is hope for us in this country. We as Georgians and Ossetians have made lots of mistakes during the conflicts in Ossetia and Abkhazia. The fact that we were provoked to behave the way we all did does not justify any atrocities committed by all sides. As long as we are alive there remains hope."*

Yesterday I read another letter on the website **www.EthicsDaily.com** that revealed another aspect of the conflict. It was titled "Georgia—Russia



Conflict Divides Baptists in the Region". In the letter the Archbishop is quoted as saying, "Regrettably all the religious groups in Russia are lining up with the party line of the Russian authorities without leaving room for open dialogue between two countries." In response to that the Russian Union of Evangelical Christians – Baptists, (RUECB) said his comments were "propaganda and a misinterpretation of historical events."

So now there is a division between the Baptists of Russia and the Baptists of Georgia. Imagine that, Baptists not getting along with each other. A spokesman for RUECB said *"During the past 15 years, the Baptists of Russia and Georgia have grown distant from one another. After centuries of harmonious relationships between our two peoples we grieve the fact that our friendship is dying. We Baptists are becoming strangers to one another."* He also said *"We believers must rise above the fray; rise above the narrow, selfish political partisanship. Georgians feel invaded; Russians feel they are protecting and defending the weak and vulnerable Ossetian people. War crimes have been committed on both sides. Let us look deeper and denounce war for what it is; a satanic expression of hatred."* The article closes with this statement. *"Various Baptist groups have tried to find common*

ground in the years since the Cold War, but that consensus is said to be breaking down."

During the Olympics you could not turn on the TV or radio, or open a newspaper and not see something about the competition. However, now that they are over we hardly think about them. It is that way with the situation in Georgia as well. It is no longer a front page story and so it is out of our minds, but those people are still suffering. They are real people living through a real nightmare. We need to continue to pray for those who were injured, the families of those who have died, the refugees with no homes to return to, the children whose schools are now refugee camps, and many other persons of all ages.

We also need to pray for the unity of the Christians in Georgia and Russia. In their greatest time of need they can not even turn to their brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray for the Archbishop Malkhas and his church the Georgia Peace Cathedral. Pray for Pastor Joseph, his wife Olga and their church the Russian Baptist Church of Tblisi. Also pray for the other friends I met when I was there, Marina, Oksana, Nazi and Irina.

Pray for peace.

Pastor Ron

Board of Deacons

Welcome to the newest members of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield, Olivia Baker, Ethan Fulton, and Brian and Rose Nilson!

Olivia and Ethan participated in new member classes with Pastor Ron and were baptized on June 8th at the Church family picnic. Brian and Rose have been attending our church with their children, David, Tyler and Nicole, for the past two years and have become involved in our music program and the youth group. All four of them received the right hand of fellowship on Sunday, September 7th.



A Praise and a Continued Request

Over a year ago I asked our church family to donate the complimentary individual size soaps, shampoo, hand lotion, and deodorant received from hotels on their travels. Members of the Rhode Island College faculty and staff collect these and contributions, assemble them into packages, and distribute them to homeless people in the Providence area. As usual, you have been very generous, and the project has benefited between 50 and 100 homeless people so far. The effort continues and I still welcome donations of these items to help our less fortunate neighbors.

Meradith McMunn

News from the Trustees

Fifteen volunteers came out for the Fall Workday on Saturday, September 6th despite the questionable weather. The shed was cleaned and organized, we spruced up the hallways and the Sunday School rooms including cleaning and freshening up the upholstered furniture. The mirror for the Men's Room was replaced. The outside of the church building has been weeded and cleaned up for the fall. Pachysandra was planted in the northeast corner of the property to cover some bear spots. And a small crew undertook donating, designing and planting a 3 season garden under the maple tree at the north end of the building. The garden is made up of plantings that will bloom from spring to fall with the colors of blue, pink and yellow. The planting area contains: 'Happy Returns' daylilies, Rozanne Geraniums, Cinnamon Fern, Ruby Ribbin Switch Grass, Robustissima Anemone, and Guacamole Hosta. Walk out toward the back parking lot and take a look.

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers: Ed, Ron, Morgan, Olivia, Tricia, Laura, Lena, Sue B. and Sue F., Nancy, Patty, Dellon, Guy, Grace and John.

There are still a few inside tasks that remain to be done to complete our goals for the work day. If you have an hour or two to spare and are willing to handle a paint brush, clean a closet, wash some glass, or help Grace or-

ganize music please see John Riesen, Grace Riesen or Nancy Flynn.

**IN PREPARATION
FOR OUR UPCOMING
BUDGET MEETINGS
THE TRUSTEES
WOULD ASK
EVERYONE TO
SUBMIT THEIR
BUDGET REQUESTS
BY SEPTEMBER 28.**

Later in the fall the Trustees will hold a leaf raking and leaf blowing event to clean the yard, the parking lots and the gutters from the fall leaves. Details will follow when the leaves have fallen and the weather permits this outdoor event to take place.

In preparation for our upcoming budget meetings the Trustees would ask everyone to submit their budget requests by **September 28**. Please

place them in the Trustees mailbox or e-mail them to John Riesen at riesen_john_w@sbcglobal.net.

Please mark your calendars with the date for our next church meeting! It will be held after the service on **Sunday, October 26**. Good attendance is vital to the workings of our church and our mission on Spring Hill. The Social Committee will provide soup and beverages so please bring a sandwich if you wish.

The next regular meeting of the Trustees will be on **Sunday, September 14** after the service.

Nils Setterberg is the Trustee in charge of lock up in September and Nancy Flynn will be the Trustee in charge of lock up in the month of October.



Church Women United

Save the date, **October 4, 2008** for a great morning for Church Women United's Prayer Breakfast and Annual Meeting! This takes place at the St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Windham Center. We will enjoy **breakfast at 9:00 a.m.** followed by Guest speaker, the Rev. Claudine Crooks,

whose morning topic is "Sign Language As Prayer!" The short business meeting follows her presentation. If you are interested in joining with Church Women united ladies, contact Lena Barry- 429-4431! We will car pool.

Ladies Aid Society

Fall is upon us and that means apples! The Ladies Aid will be hosting an **Apple Crisp Sale on Sunday, September 21**. Individually wrapped servings of crisp will be for sale in the Conference Room after the worship service. Do share in this delicious fund raiser.

On **Sunday, September 28th** we are looking forward to providing a meal for those that are gathering at our church for a Northeast Association meeting. We will be providing soup, sandwiches and dessert. There are quite a few folks who have volunteered to help with this but we are always happy to have more help. Please speak with Patty Geissler if you would like to join us as our church hosts our association.

We will also be running our annual **Butter Braid Sale** beginning in October. Order forms will be available on **Sunday October 12th** and should be turned in by **November 2nd**. The sale will feature the tasty braids as

well as something new this year...frozen pies. You may order for yourself on the church sign up form or take a form and invite neighbors, friends and co-workers to make purchases. At this point the delivery date is scheduled for **Saturday, November 15th**. We will be making more announcements about this as the dates get closer. We appreciate your assistance with this sale as this has become one of our most important fund raisers.

Recipes, recipes, recipes....we have been asking you to share your favorites for quite some time now. The deadline for submissions is now quickly approaching. If you have a special food that you like to make and folks like to eat, please share the recipe with us. We would love to hear where the recipe came from, why it is special, or something about the person who made it so deliciously. **Please share two, or three or four or more recipes with Nancy Flynn or Jill Stedman-Myette by Sunday, December, 7th.**

The Flower Committee

The Flower Committee would like to thank all those who brought in flowers for the Sunday morning worship services during the summer.

We will be placing new fall wreaths on the front doors of the church at the end of September.

I will be removing the palms from the sanctuary the end of the month.

If anyone would like to bring in a flower arrangement may do so. Please read the flower calendar in the Christian Ed wing and sign up for a Sunday.

Thank you to Alice Spencer for doing a nice job on the planters at the front entrance.

Martha Davis
Flower Committee Chair

Stamp Cut-Ups

Your stamp cut-ups, Bev and Ron Tooley sent this thank you late this summer.

"We made our 6 month delivery to the Stamp Dealer in Maine in May. Thanks to you, \$294.00 has been added to the CT. Baptist Homes Sunday Chaplain Fund".

Keep the stamps coming and remember to leave 1/2 inch about the stamp!

Thank you!



Board of Christian Education

Rally Day was a great day! We began Sunday School classes with opening exercises at 9:30 a.m. Classes were held for children from kindergarten to twelfth grade, for Parenting and for Adults.

After Worship and a Blessing by Pastor Ron, we enjoyed a wonderful array of sandwiches, pot-luck salads and chips, and ice cream sundaes to celebrate the beginning of a new season of learning about God and developing our friendship with Jesus with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Classes are available for all ages, we look forward to seeing you next week!

2008-2009 Sunday School Leaders

K—Grade 2: Karen Watson

Grades 3—4: Susan Figueroa

Grades 5—8: Pastor Ron

Grades 9—12: Brian and Rose Nilson

Adult: John Riesen and

Doug Whittemore

Parenting: Tricia Baker



Upcoming Christian Ed Events

Many of our events are still in the planning stages, but watch for announcements for a Jr/Sr High Retreat, a late night for grades 3-6, our Gold Rush Auction program, and a Women's Bible Study.

Advent Event: Crafts, fellowship, preparing the Church for Christmas, will be held after Worship on **Sunday, November 30th**.

Do You Love to Read?

The Board of Christian Ed is looking for someone with a passion for books to help plan and decorate our new library area. This person would also be involved with choosing and ordering materials and books for the library, and possibly for promoting books with book reviews. If you can help, please contact Susan Figueroa.

Thanks so much - Karen Hocking

Woman's Bible Study

"God at Your Wits' End" Hope for Wherever You Are

By Marilyn Meberg



Do you often struggle with feelings of uncertainty when it comes to faith? Are you worried that God has somehow forgotten about you or turned His back on you because of something you have done? Questions such as these constantly plague our minds and weaken our faith in God.

In *God at Your Wit's End*, author and counselor Marilyn Meberg probes the corners of our minds to uncover the faulty thinking that leads to feelings of uncertainty about our faith. She then explains how God affirms and even welcomes our humanity in the midst of our brokenness as she guides us through question and answer sections specifically designed to assist us in our journey. As she continually points us to the awesome power of God's majestic truth, she helps us reshape our thinking as we re-establish the foundations of our belief in a loving God.

Joy Erickson will facilitate this Woman's Bible

Study using the wonderful material from the very humorous Women of Faith's Marilyn Meberg. Joy was able to get the last copy of the companion DVD to this bible Study! It has been so popular that they can't keep it in stock. So here is your opportunity to explore this study together.

Time: Sundays from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at the Church – Conference Room or Office depending on our numbers

Dates: September 28, October 5 & 26, November 2, 9 & 16

A light supper will be provided.

For questions and to let me know which days you can make it call - 429-5524 or e-mail bobjoy_erickson@sbcglobal.net

A Thank You Note—Camp Wightman



Youth Mission Trip 2008

Our Youth Mission Trip was inspiring. Here are a few thoughts from the group:

Big Signs...Making the walkways...Worship Services...Valley Worlds of Fun.

Matthew Hocking

The Singing. Fellowship and sharing, especially during the evening meetings. Close Spirit during the work. Friendliness with outsiders. Stoney.

Laura Austin



Riding on the back of the quad which is delivering dirt for the walkway. Wednesday night service at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church. Going to Valley Worlds of Fun on Wednesday. Life changing experience.

Morgan Baker

Riding on the quad... Water fight with Pastor Randy... Slumber parties...Morgan screaming on quad...Hide and Seek in Chapel...Dance party with volley ball girls...Talks in our group rooms.

Kyra Whitehead



My favorite part of the West Virginia trip was the Wednesday night church service.

Alyssa Geissler



I really enjoyed building the fence with Ruben—it was awesome getting to know the people who were heading our worship. I loved riding the ATV—it was really fun and something the people in WV did, so I totally felt like part of the community.

K G Brandon

I liked the bonding experience of the whole trip. It was good to get together and learn more about each other and be more comfortable with each other.

Dellon



Church would never stop feeding us...Big signs and the ATV/quad...Worship Services...Building walkways...Morgan and "painting the church steeple"...Valley Worlds of Fun.

Sara

Riding around on toy and tricycles in the community center. Adrienne and I had on awesome time getting totally covered in tar. Jeanette and I doned in the rain/thunder and lightening. Climbing in our windows!...Dance party in the Chapel!...Singing Disney songs in the van!

Kelsely T

I enjoyed attending Mt. Vernon Church in the community of Brownnton. Having the few rows of pews full excited the priest who continuously jumped around and said, "I love God!" Being able to even for a day, make this Pastor feel really excited about preaching. Perhaps our time spent in W. Virginia aided more than just the structures we renovated.

Adrienne Vitullo

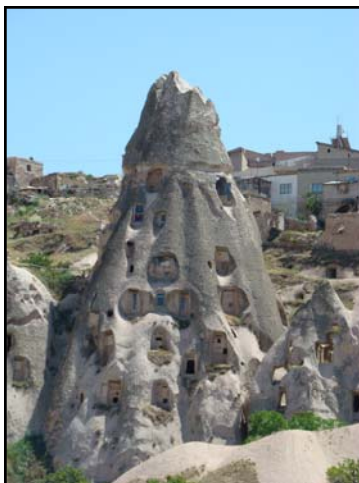


My favorite memory of working in West Virginia this year would definitely be building a fence with Jenette, Pastor Randy, and help from the band and other people stopping by. These hard working days were often followed by water fights within our group and Pastor Randy and his family. Memorable nights included singing and playing hide and seek in the Chapel, but the highlight of the trip had to be the closeness and the bonds formed within our group.

Clare Flynn

Explore the History of Christianity

Please join me as I explore the history of Christianity in Turkey as I present my personal findings as well as worldly facts that have guided our religion to where it is today! The presentation will be held **Saturday September 27th at 6:00 pm** in the conference room. David Stevens and I will serve a Macaroni and Cheese Dinner with a helping of, you guessed it, turkey! There will be a free-will offering, benefits will all be donated to the church's general fund. Thank you for your support and I hope to see you on September 27th! God Bless, Ally Austin



Digging fence holes with Clare Flynn and examining the dirt. When we played hide and seek in the Chapel. Clare and I found a black piano cover and we called it our invisibility cloak and hid under it. It was pretty epic. One night it poured and Kelsey B -H and I went out and danced in the rain.

Jenette Kloss

Sharing time with the people. The locals and other groups. Chapel time, our day off. Experiencing new things that I would not otherwise have done. Grew very close to our group.

Warren Austin

The Radical Servants

Jeremiah 1:6-7

⁶Then said I, Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am only a youth.

⁷But the Lord said to me, Say not, I am only a youth; for you shall go to all to whom I shall send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Brian and I got a chance to visit Arizona with our three kids and although it was fun I am glad to be back in CT. With the coming back was also the start of a new school year. So now that everyone is back at school this is also the start of a new season with the youth group.

Our youth group, right before summer began with voting on a new name. So I am glad to say that "The Radical Servants" will be holding their first meeting on September 12th from 7-9 at the church. The Radical Servants are anyone grades 8-12.

I look forward to getting to see all the ones that joined us last year and am praying for some new friends to start as well. I know that this year is going to be great and that God is moving in this group.

The other nights that we set aside for are October 10, November 21, and December 12. All at the same time and place.

Looking forward to some wild activities and getting to know the Lord in a more personal way. Working together and seeing what the Lord has in store for each and every one of us.

See you there!

"Miss Rose"

First Baptist Church Gives Thanks for 200 Years

CELEBRATING WHAT WE WERE, WHAT WE ARE, AND WHAT WE MAY BECOME . . .

Two hundred years ago Baptists in Mansfield decided to join together and build a house of worship at the top of Spring Hill. The original meeting house was larger than the present church sanctuary, with a balcony and a large east-facing window behind the pulpit, but no heat or water. The building was completed in 1808 and the church was organized and formally recognized by the Hartford Baptist Association on October 16, 1809, with 37 members — 11 “brethren” and 26 “sisters.”

During these two centuries many events and shared experiences have bound us together. The lives of Baptists and others in this region have been strengthened and enriched by the efforts of this congregation. Church members have reached out into the community, the state, the nation, and the world.

During the coming months we plan to commemorate our church heritage as we also look to the future. Church boards and committees have been asked to contribute ideas and participants for our celebration. Our 200th anniversary events and activities will include:

- A kickoff event, installing an outdoor banner announcing our bicentennial celebration on **October 26, 2008**.
- Heritage Moments during Sunday worship services every month.
- An oral history project, collecting and sharing the memories of some of our older members and friends.
- A multi-volume church photo album.
- Presentations on Baptist history by visiting speakers.
- A community hymn sing, in historical costumes.
- Other musical events.
- The climactic celebration the weekend of

October 16-18, 2009.

MEMENTOS OF OUR 200TH ANNIVERSARY NOW IN PREPARATION ARE:

- A First Baptist Church Recipe Book from the Ladies Aid.
- A Church Chronology.
- A History of our Church.

We welcome information and photos from every period. Please think about how you can share in this project and contact a member of the Heritage Committee. Remember, history is yesterday.

Our anniversary celebration is for all ages. Let's get together to praise God for the blessings of our first 200 years on Spring Hill, and pray for guidance in the many years to come.

The Heritage Committee

Nancy Flynn, Meradith McMunn, Bill McMunn

Address Updates

Thelma Buckley

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(315) 399-4404

SSG Charles Larkins

TF AVCRAD
Camp AriFjan Kuwait
APO AE 09366

Prvt Second Class Parker Jr. Dan

HSC 46 ECB
(Heavy) (WCW WTO)
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Mary Jo Chisler

2006 Franklin Street
Melbourne, FL 32901
(860) 428-5174 (Cell Phone)
(321) 733-0102 (Home)

Erin Flynn

4800 University Drive
Apt. 7D
Durham, NC 27707

What Does CCC Mean?

Recently a 75th Anniversary Celebration of just such an organization took place, the Civilian Conservation Corp! Harold Matern was a member and can answer any and all questions concerning this group.

During the Great Depression years (1929 through World War II) Harold was a growing young boy. In 1932, 18 years old, single, not in school and out of work, he was asked to join the CCC! This he did willingly. It was then that President Roosevelt had signed the Emergency Conservation Act which created the CCC. This was a tremendous boost to the young men and boys at that time trying to help themselves earn a living wage.

Recently Harold told his story: "I was eighteen years old when I joined and left for Camp Graves in Union, CT. (Now the Nipmuck State Forest) where we worked thinning the forest! Next to Camp Fernow in Eastford (now Natchaug State Forest) where I was trained on the job to do surveying work! Next to Camp Robinson, East Hartland (now Tunxis State Forest) where I did forest research, planted trees and attended night classes! On to Camp Buck in Portland (now Meshomasic State Forest) where I helped cut trees into logs which were sent to saw mills to be cut into planks which were used in

State Parks and Forests to build buildings and bridges! On to Camp Hadley in Madison (now Cockaponset State Forest) where I did research projects! I returned to Camp Fernow in Eastford and after serving a total of 6 1/2 years was discharged. In 1941 Harold entered the U.S. Army.

What did he learn while he served, "hardwork, respect and discipline"!

Much later, a National Conservation Corp Alumni was formed from all over the United States. The local Chapter 170 remains active located in Stafford Springs. Harold served as President and continues to remain active. A museum is located on Route 190 in Stafford. One of the Alumni is quoted, "I went in a boy and came out as a man"!

Harold was unable to attend the 75th celebration held in Chatfield Hollow State Park in Killingworth, but was honored as a faithful member of the CCC Alumni! He is quoted as saying recently, "It was good physical work, good hard work, but we were well feed and well cared for"!

For your dedicated service with the Civilian Conservation Corp we, your church family congratulate you good and faithful servant Harold.

First Baptist College Student Addresses

Tom Erickson—Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
1511 Hutton St.
Troy, NY 12180

Laura Flynn—Butler University
714 Berkley Road
Indianapolis, IN 46208

John Kloss—University of New Haven
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Beth Hocking—University of Pittsburgh
302 Forbes-Craig Apartments
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Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Kristin Geissler—University of Connecticut
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Alyssa Geissler—University of Connecticut
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Faridath Mama—University of Connecticut
313A Wilson
Storrs, CT 06269

Priyanka Nakka—Wellesley College
email address: pnakka@wellesley.edu



*Come to the weekend
World Mission
Conference
and be surprised...*

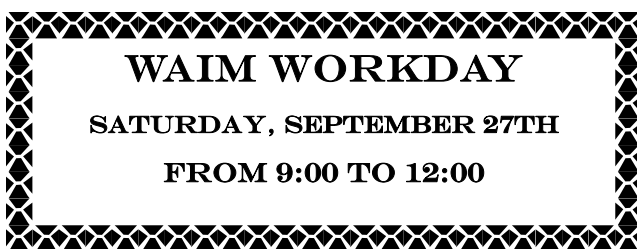
Friday, September 19 – Sunday, September 21

Second Baptist Church
100 North Main St.
Suffield, Connecticut

On September 19-21, 2008, Connecticut will play host to the ABCUSA World Mission Conference. The conference will be held at the 2nd Baptist Church of Suffield and will be an opportunity for us to celebrate American Baptist missions, to meet missionaries, and to hear the stories of the Good News of the Gospel being spread by American Baptists and undergirded by our United Mission support. Please mark the date in your calendar and plan to attend. We will be joined by American Baptists from many other places. In fact, as many as 400 people are expected and a great celebration is anticipated.

**For more information and to register go to
www.worldmissionconference.org**

If you cannot access the internet,
please call 800-222-3872 ext. 2176
and we will mail you the registration form.



Obituary

Rev. Dr. H. Donald Buckley

July 23, 2008

Rev. Dr. H. Donald Buckley, 78, of Albrightsville, passed away July 23 at the Good Shepherd Specialty Hospital-Lehigh Valley Muhlenburg in Bethlehem.

He was the loving husband of Thelma C. (Weiderhold) Buckley. They had been married 58 years.

He was born in Philadelphia on Nov. 25, 1929, the son of the late Clifford and Anna (Cox) Buckley.

He was ordained as an American Baptist Minister in 1955. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran, having served as the Chaplain in Denver, Colo., until discharged in February 1959. He also served as the pastor at the First Baptist Church of Covert and Ovid Center in New York and the First Baptist Church of Greene, N.Y.

He was a counselor and dean at Mohawk Valley College in Utica, N.Y., and the State University College of Oneonta in Oneonta, N.Y. He also was a professor and dean at Cumberland County College in Vineland, N.J.

After his retirement from Cumberland County College, he served as interim pastor at the First Baptist Church of Greenfield, Mass., First Baptist Church of Norwich, N.Y., First Baptist Church of Wildwood, N.J., University Baptist and Brethren Church in State College, First Baptist Church of Manilus, N.Y., and First Baptist Church of Damariscotta, Maine.

He was a member of the Slatington First Baptist Church in Slatington.

In addition to his loving wife, Thelma, he is survived by three children, Donna Movsoich and her husband, the Rev. David Movsoich, of Syracuse, N.Y.; Darlene Gilligan and her husband, J. Joseph, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Dean Buckley and his wife, Jane, of Quakertown; one sister, Dortha Vasquez of Oregon; nine grandchildren and three great-

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, at Slatington, with the Rev. James LeVan and Rev. David Movsovich officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the National Wildlife Federation, 11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston, VA 20190, or Habitat of Humanity, 31 Oak Ave., Suite 100, Chalfont, PA 18914, or to the church of one's choice.

Church Family News

Hi to all the Baptist Fellowship,

Well were do I start? Yes I know, I hope this finds all in good health and good spirits. Kuwait is a very warm place that feels good to my bones.

Well for the life of me, I never thought I would be serving the army this far away from home, some 7,630 miles. The land over here much different then home. It is very dry here, temperatures above 120-135 degrees Fahrenheit during the day light hours and in the low 100's at night.

We soldiers are living in a camp about the size of Windham County and it is a desert for sure. I ride a bike that was given to me to get around from place to place. Riding the bike, gives me time and freedom and to be with God one on one, you know that moment of peace we sometime ask for.

I find it some what nice here, but if you ask me, I am always looking for good in everything in life. I myself call this place I am living in "my country club of the desert" and it's what I feel.

I know it could be a lot worse for when I'm riding my bike I see some of the remains of the equipment that soldiers have been in when they have been attacked. It always brings a prayer to mind and for all their safety. We are in a green zone which is very safe but no matter what my guard is always up.

Summer Services

We had six fantastic early morning services this summer! We might have been a small group but the Bible says that where two or more are gathered in His name there He will be. Thanks again goes out to Ally Austin who joined us with her beautiful piano playing, Dellon Myette on drums and in leading vocally Brian Nilson, Rose Nilson and Laura Austin and of course all that came to the service. Praise be to the Lord!

The people can see as far as they can and then some, for the trees, there is not a one. It is all sand and powder like you use for your feet but tan rather than brown. Well, the rest washes off in the shower, I remember my Mom saying you could grow potatoes behind my ear's. Well, if I'm not careful it may be the whole garden. When the wind blows the sun is a white ball in the sky and you can hardly see.

It would be like a white out in the winter with lots of heat and tan and brown snow.

Thanks for the note I got from the BYF group. It is always so nice to see that the Baptist Young Fellowship Group is still going strong. I'm not much of a computer person as the darn thing is always in charge and it doesn't let me get two words in edge wise. But I have always gotten what I needed from a trusty pen or pencil and paper.

Love to all the people of the First Baptist Church family.

Charles Larkins

P.S. I've seen cattle herders, sheep herders, and herders of all kinds but it is a sight to see when you see camels waking across a desert and the little one's running and walking to keep up. I think when you see the herder yourself, the only way I can say it, is that he is truly in God's Country.

Church Family News

Did you notice how relaxed, rested and energized Betty Geissler looks! She very much enjoyed a recent trip to Bremerton, WA to visit with her daughter Jean and family. Betty had the pleasure of staying with Jean and her husband Dick and got to see all her grandson's and their families. One of the highlights of the trip was meeting her newest great-grand child, Aaron Ostrander, for the first time.

Kristin Geissler was selected as a UConn Alumni Association Scholarship award recipient. She will be recognized at a reception at the Alumni Center during UConn's Family Weekend. Congratulations Kristin!

The Austin family are proud to announce — THAT — on June 19th—born to Tony and Danielle (Austin) Muller — and welcomed by big sister, 15 month old Naomie — Twin Boys, Anthony, 6lbs. 8oz., and Blake, 6lbs. 10oz.!

*"And he who gives a child a teat
Makes joy-bells ring in Heaven's street,
But he who gives a child a home
Builds places in Kingdom Come,
And she who gives a baby birth
Brings Savior Christ again to Earth."*

By John Masefield

Congratulations to Meradith McMunn for receiving the Mary Tucker Thorp Professorship for outstanding scholarship, teaching, and service.

Congratulations to Terry Yanaway on the completion of her doctorate in Audiology. Terry enrolled in the Arizona School of Health Sciences program offered by A.T. Stills University two years ago and completed her studies in June of 2008. She and her family

traveled to Arizona at the beginning of August to attend the graduation ceremony. Unfortunately, shortly after they arrived in Arizona, Sierra fell and broke her ankle. Armed with plenty of ice and a new set of crutches the Yanaway's visited with some of Terry's friends from High School and made a trip into Northern Arizona to see the Grand Canyon, Flagstaff and Sedona.

A Note from Judy Allbee:

I am writing to you today to inform you that the ABCCONN personnel committee has received a letter of resignation from the Rev. Kevin Butler, Director of Camping and Conferences and Communications effective October 31, 2008. We are in the process of calling an individual who will cover the fall retreat season to allow Kevin to focus his attention in September and October to planning the 2009 camping season and budget. Kevin will stay on in the background after October continuing to monitor and update the ABCCONN website. He will be available to your churches after that date as an outside technology consultant. As these days go by, we will let you know more about the opportunity for your congregations. Kevin has served in this position for 9 years and he has brought the camp to a new level using his God given skills and gifts. We will miss him but pray God's richest blessing upon his ministry.

The personnel committee is already at work and will soon add some camping department members to become a search committee to find God's person to take camp to the next level. Please pray for Kevin and for the ABCCONN personnel committee as we discern where and how God is leading us next.

So stand up and give Him the Praise!

September 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Deacons	4	5	6 Church Work Day
7 Rally Day Newsletter Deadline	8	9	10	11 Adult Choir 7:30 Stewardship Seminar 7-9	12	13
14 Trustees	15	16	17	18	19 World Mission Conf. Suffield	20
21 Ladies Aid Apple Crisp Sale Soup Kitchen	22	23	24	25	26	27 WAIM Workday
28 NE Assoc. Annual Mtg. Budget Items Due	29	30				

Deacon: - Frances Nichols
Trustee: - Nils Setterberg

October 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 Trustees	6	7 EGMS 2:00	8	9	10	11 Girl Scout Health Expo. 8:30-3:00
12 Butterbraid Sale Newsletter Deadline	13	14	15	16	17	18 Discipleship Fair
19 Soup Kitchen	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Quarterly Business Meeting	27	28	29 Deacons	30	31	

Deacon: - Pete Bradshaw
Trustee: - Nancy Flynn

SEPTEMBER Birthdays

Sept. 1—Farida Mama
Sept. 3—William Hocking
Sept. 4—Frances Nichols
Sept. 4—Maggie Watson
Sept. 6—Meredith Lindsey
Sept. 8—Kristen Donato
Sept. 8—Kolby Haggan
Sept. 8—David Hooper
Sept. 10—Ed Austin
Sept. 10—Rebecca Figueroa
Sept. 12—Justin Donato
Sept. 13—Lena Barry
Sept. 15—Lynn Gardiner
Sept. 19—Randy Gilliam
Sept. 19—Dellon Myette
Sept. 21—Carol Burnham
Sept. 24—Jan Barry
Sept. 26—Grace Riesen
Sept. 29—Mary Jo Jay
Chisler
Sept. 30—Patty Geissler



OCTOBER Birthdays

Oct. 2—Amanda Figueroa
Oct. 2—Samantha Figueroa
Oct. 4—Daniel Parker
Oct. 14—Walter Palmer, Jr.
Oct. 15—Richard Sherman
Oct. 19—Richard Burnham
Oct. 22—Laura Austin
Oct. 22—Jessica Figueroa



Dates to Remember

Sept. 7—Rally Day

Sept. 11—Stewardship Seminar 7-9 FBCM

Sept. 14—Trustee's Meeting

Sept. 19-20—World Mission Conference Suffield

Sept. 21—Ladies Aid Apple Crisp Sale

Sept. 21—Soup Kitchen Collection

Sept. 27—WAIM Workday

Sept. 28—NE Association Annual Mtg. 3-7

Sept. 28—Budget Item Due to Trustees

Oct. 5—Trustees Meeting

Oct. 7—EGMS 2:00

Oct. 11—Girl Scout Health Expo 8:30-3:00

Oct. 12—Butterbraid Sale Begins

Oct. 12—Oct / Nov Newsletter Deadline

Oct. 12—Columbus Day

Oct. 18—Discipleship Fair

Oct. 19—Soup Kitchen Collection

Oct. 26—Quarterly Meeting

Oct. 29—Deacons Meeting

Nov. 2—Butterbraid Sale Ends

Nov. 9—Trustees Meeting

Nov. 15—Butterbraid Pickup

Nov. 16—Walk for Warmth

Nov. 16—Soup Kitchen Collection

Nov. 30—Advent Event

Nov. 30—Winter Newsletter Deadline



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MANSFIELD

945 Storrs Road, Storrs, CT 06268

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.fbcmansfieldct.com

Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.

Church School—9:30 a.m.

Youth Choir Rehearsal, Sun. 9:00 a.m.

Adult Choir Rehearsal, Thur. 7:30 p.m.



An American Baptist Church