



The Bellringer

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Youth Mission Trip News

Mission Trip Youth recently gathered at church for a planning meeting. There are a possible thirteen youth and three leaders who are interested in participating this year. The group's goal is to attend the *Servant's Heart Mission Trip in West Virginia from July 17 to July 25th*. In order to achieve that goal, much planning and fundraising needs to be done.

The group looks forward to team building and working together on the following fundraising activities:

Jewelry Sale March 29 2pm-4pm

Applebee's Breakfast April 4

Car Wash May 9

Spaghetti Supper May 16

Meat Sale Month of May

We will be publicizing the details of these events in the coming weeks. Please mark your calendars and help support us in our mission to help residents in Barbour County.

Thank you for continuing to support our trip by sharing your empty cans and bottles. They can be placed in the barrel in the conference room for recycling by members of our group. Here is the list of those responsible for redeeming them over the next few months:

March	Matt and Sara
April	Kelsey B.
May	Clare
June	Morgan
July	Evan
August	Jeannette

We are very thankful for the church's support of our trip. Our next meeting will take place on March 22 after the worship service. We will be making plans for



First Baptist Church of Mansfield

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

A couple of weeks ago I had an opportunity to attend a legislative breakfast at Windham Hospital. I had never been to one so I really did not know what to expect. It was a cold morning so I wore a black overcoat which I love to wear because it is very warm, very comfortable, and used to belong to John Geissler. I was wearing a suit because I had a funeral to do later that morning. When I arrived in the room where the meeting was being held, a very nice greeter pointed me toward a coat closet. When I opened the closet door there were already 10 black coats that looked just like mine, hanging inside, along with several others. As I entered the meeting room I was glad to be wearing a suit because the room was full of people dressed up in suits.

State Representative Don Williams was the guest speaker. The topic was the current state of health care in our country. Needless to say it was not a very uplifting topic. He spent a lot of time discussing the Governor's proposed budget and his belief that there will have to be many more cuts than Gov. Rell has laid out. I was thoroughly discouraged by the time I picked out my coat (which I made sure was the right one) and headed out the door. I had about an hour before the funeral so I thought I would go to McDonalds and treat myself to a sweet ice tea while I looked over the funeral service notes. As I got back in my car looking forward to enjoying my ice tea, I was trying to find my notes and Bible, and hold onto the keys and the tea, and sit down while wearing my long overcoat -- you guessed it. I dumped the whole 32 oz cup of tea in the back seat of my car. So, with Don Williams' discouraging words ringing in my ears, and a large cup of sticky sweet tea dripping on the floor in the backseat of the car, I decide to head to the funeral home. I was very grateful that I did not spill any on myself though.

The service soon started with a version of Amazing Grace sung by LeeAnn Rymes. As I sat there listening to this beautiful song, I looked at the family and saw their tears and great grief. I realized that in that moment, the state of our economy didn't matter, nor did the ice tea spilled in my back seat.

I began as I often do by reading a short passage from Ecclesiastes 3. "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance..." Those words came alive to me in that moment. A few minutes later in the service there was a time to smile and even laugh a little as we remembered and celebrated their loved one.

Life is made up of seasons. God goes with us through all of them. We move from one to the other and then to the next one, just as we move from Winter to Spring, to Summer, to Fall, and back to winter. It's God's design for life.

The tea in the floor of the backseat of my car will someday not be sticky anymore. The economy will someday cycle back around. When discouraging things begin to pile up and your world begins to feel out of control, take a deep breath and remind yourself that God is ultimately in control. This God who is in control loves us like crazy and showed us this love in Jesus Christ. And remember that God is with us through all the seasons of life.



Boards and Committees 2009

Officers (1 year terms)

Moderator – Bill Hocking **(Chairperson)**

Clerk - Susan Figueroa

Treasurer – Meradith McMunn

Assistant Treasurer – Bill Hocking

Financial Secretary - John Riesen

Assistant Financial Secretary - Dana Yanaway

Financial Officer for Missions – Lee Salina Vacant Position (2010)

Board of Christian Education (3 year terms)

Susan Figueroa (2010)* **(Chairperson)**

Joy Erickson (2009)*

Kim Setterberg (2009)

Morgan Baker (2011)

Rose Nilson (2011)

Stacey Fulton (2010)

Board of Trustees (3 year terms)

Laura Austin (2009)*

Prescott Spencer (2011)

Bob Gardiner (2010)

Brian Nilson (2011)

John Riesen (2010) **(Chairperson)**

Nils Setterberg (2009) * Denotes second full term

Board of Deacons (3 year terms)

Bill Hocking (2010)

David Stevens (2010)

Bob Erickson (2011)

Judy Conland (2009)

Terry Yanaway (2010) **(Chairperson)**

Alice Spencer (2009)*

Charles Woody (2011)

Randolph Gilliam (2011)* Frances Nichols (2009)

Nominating Committee (3 year terms)

Dottie Rose Gilliam (2011), Karen Hocking (2009), David Stevens (2010)

Committees and Delegates (1 year terms)

Music Committee: Grace Riesen, Allison Erickson, Frances Nichols, Denise Keane, Bill McMunn **(Chairperson)**, Bibi Mama

Emma Gardiner Representative: Dottie Rose Gilliam, Betty Geissler

Flower Committee: Martha Davis, Faith Austin, Sarah Hocking

Missions Committee: Doug Whittemore, Joy Erickson, Denise Keane, Germaine Mama

Communications Committee: Kim Setterberg, Lena Barry, Carol Bigl, Bill McMunn

Financial Examining Committee: David Stevens, Walter Palmer

Heritage Committee: Ethel Larkin, Bill McMunn, Meradith McMunn, Nancy Flynn

Ushering Committee: Ed Austin, Bob Erickson, Morgan Baker, Martha Davis, Lee Salina, Hazel Rubins, Guy Myette, Del-
lon Myette

Memorial Gifts Committee: Betty Geissler, Robert Gardiner, Patty Geissler

Pastoral Relations Committee (selected by the Pastor): Bill McMunn, Charles Woody, Allyson Austin

Social Committee: Stacey Fulton **(Co-Chair)**, Karen Watson, Alice Spencer, Karen Hocking, Jill Stedman-Myette **(Co-Chair)**

Stewardship Committee: Peter Bradshaw, Karen Watson

Delegates to ABCCONN: Laura Austin, Lee Salina

Delegates to Northeast Association: Bob Bauer, Sue Bauer

Delegates to WAIM: Charles Woody, Denise Keane, Ron Baker (ex-officio)

Annual Business Meeting Minutes

FBCM ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 25, 2008

Meeting Convened at 12:50 with 31 members present.

Thanks were given to the Social Committee and to all who provided for our delicious lunch of Lasagnas and desserts.

Opening Worship: Lee Salina, Moderator "Chosen to Serve"

Reports: Were not individually read, as they were available ahead of time in the Annual Report. Comments and questions were requested and comments noted below.

Officers:

Pastor's report addition: Frank Wells' baptism was performed in 2008

Clerk's report addition: Kathy Stevens gave notice in March 2008 of her new membership at Hampton

Congregational.

Financial Secretary, Financial Officer for Missions, Treasurer: Revised budget handed out to replace page in

The Annual Report.

Boards: No comments or changes.

Trustees, Deacons, Christian Education

Standing Committees: No comments or changes.

Nominating - report handed out separately

Music

Financial Examining

Ushering

Communications

Flower

Missions

Memorial Gifts

Pastoral Relations

Stewardship

Church Heritage

Social

Other Committees and Groups: No comments or changes.

Missional Church Project

Safe Church Committee

Ladies Aid Society – Treasurer's report handed out separately

Emma Gardiner Missionary Society

ABCCONN Delegates

Northeast Association Delegates

Annual Business Meeting Minutes continued

Windham Area Interfaith Ministry Delegates
Pierce Memorial Baptist Home
Youth Choir
ACCONN History Committee
Computer
Sound System

Unfinished Business from Previous Meetings:

None

New Business:

Motion from Bill Hocking for the Nominating Committee to accept new slate of officers, boards and committees with changes as noted:

Board of Christian Ed: Susan Figueroa (2010)*, add asterisk, is second full term

Board of Deacons: add Judy Conland to serve 1 year to fill term ending 2009

Change name of History Committee to Heritage Committee, add Nancy Flynn

Ushering Committee, add Guy and Dellon Myette

Memorial Gifts Committee, add Patty Geissler

Pastoral Relations Committee, add Allyson Austin

Social Committee, add Jill Stedman-Myette

Delegates to ABCCONN, add Lee Salina

Motion was seconded and carried by show of hands.

Presentation of Revised Budget, Meradith McMunn.

Some discussion during which a **Motion** was made by Laura Austin to remove from the Missions Program the line item for donation to CT Baptist Homes, Inc. per the fact that the Home has been financially successful and as a non-profit organization has no need for the donation at this time. **Motion seconded by Meradith McMunn and carried by show of hands.**

After further discussion it was requested that the Missions Committee review the Program lines and bring suggestions for revision to the Spring Meeting as to what Missions would be best served by continued support from the FBCM.

After further discussion, **Motion made by Meradith McMunn to accept revised budget as changed above, motion seconded by Laura Austin and carried by show of hands.**

Ethel Larkin gave glowing commentary on her recent visit to Pierce Baptist Home and Creamery Brook, noting that FBCM support has been well spent. The facilities are beautiful and all necessary services and facilities are available to residents.

Minutes were read by Susan Figueroa, **Motion to accept as read made by Lee Salina, seconded and carried by show of hands.**

Motion made to adjourn meeting made by Lee Salina, seconded, carried by "Aye's."

Camp Wightman



It is time to get ready for Camp. Christian camping in an outdoor setting takes the experience of the natural world a step further. It makes the connection for campers between the creation and the creator – a creator who not only made the world, but also made each person and calls them to a life of faithfulness and service. It is also a great value with the FBCM trying to give all of our Youth the experience of this enjoyable ministry!

Join us for a special Sunday March 15th to celebrate Camp. Enjoy Snacks and hear stories about Camp. Please wear camp clothes that Sunday.

We will be awarding camperships for students to attend Camp Wightman. Applications are Due May 17, 2009 to any member of the Board of Christian Education.

Register on Line @ <http://www.campwightman.org/>

"God at Your Wits' End"

Hope for Wherever You Are

By Marilyn Meberg



Spring START DATE: March 15, 22, 29 and April 5th

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?

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.

Joy Erickson will facilitate this Woman's Bible Study with the companion DVD to this bible Study! New Women welcome for our last 4 weeks.

Time: Sundays from 5:30 – 7:00 PM at the Church – Conference Room or Office depending on our numbers

Dates: March 15, 22, 29 and April 5th.

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 boobjoy_erickson@sbcglobal.net

SPRING DATES: March 15, 22, 29 and April 5th

Christian Ed—Vacation Bible School/Sunday School News

Step Back in History

VBS July 7 – 9, 2009

6:00 – 8:30 PM



Imagine...

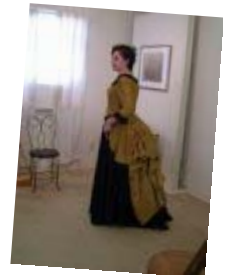
- ...a child hearing about God's love for the first time.
- ...kids and families worshipping in powerful ways.
- ...families praying for each other.
- ...adults and teens modeling Jesus' love to children.
- ...children and families serving each other.

We will transform our Church to its beginnings. Please come explore the First Baptist Church of Mansfield from the 1800's. Come as a family and enjoy the food, games, songs and missions from our past. This will be a *Vacation in Time*.

As we plan and prepare for a "Step Back in History", our team would cherish your prayers. Pray that God would give us wisdom in planning. Pray for the right staff members to join our team. And pray that God would begin working in the hearts of the children and families who will come to "Step Back in History".

To have the best adventure possible, we need lots of volunteers who can give some time, energy, and love to the kids and families who will attend. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Conference Room.

See or call Susan Figueroa 456-3753 or Joy Erickson 429-5524 to be a part of this Family Adventure.



Sunday School News



The Sunday School will be taking an break for Easter. There will be no Sunday School or Youth Choir on April 12th. Please join us for the Sun Rise Service and then for Worship at 10:45 AM Easter Morning.

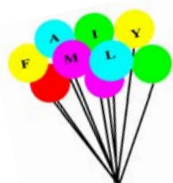


UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Family Fun Night
First Baptist Church of Mansfield

Friday March 27, 2009
(Snow date Friday April 3, 2009)

6:00 PM Potluck

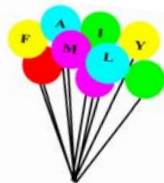


Bring a dish to share. Beverage and dessert provided.

7:00 PM "Entertainment"

Mission Theme: Thailand and Myanmar

Everyone welcome ~ Bring a friend!



The Sunday school will be putting together Hygiene kits for Church World Services. We will be sending these to people in places that have been affected by natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty. We will be collecting donations starting April 1st, and will be continuing our collection through May 23rd. On Memorial Day, the Sunday School will be putting the Hygiene kits together. We need several different items to put in the kits, which include: hand towels, washcloths, wide toothed combs, nail clippers, individual bars of soap, tooth brushes only (no toothpaste) and band aids. We will be letting you know where you can put your donations soon. If you have any questions, you can either see Pastor Ron or Morgan Baker.

March 15: Camp Wightman Sunday—Stay for coffee hour and enjoy camp treats! Be sure to pick up your campership request form and get it back to Joy Erickson as soon as possible. Hurray for Camp!



May 17th—Campership forms due!!

July 7,8,9— Vacation Bible School! Join us at 6:15—8:30 each evening for our village in Mansfield, CT. 1809: "Where God Starts a Church"! We will travel back to the early 1800s and discover how our church began. Anyone interested in assisting the journey? Please see Susan Figueroa.



March 20: Youth Lock-in

~~May 24: Sunday School Mission Sunday—~~
~~Hygiene Kits for Church world Service.~~

This Sunday the Sunday School will meet in the Fellowship hall to assemble badly needed Hygiene Kits for Church World Service. Morgan Baker and Pastor Ron's Jr. High School Sunday School Class will organize requesting and collecting donations to fill these bags with the items needed. We will also review titles for the Church Library and talk about next year's mission.

Hygiene Kits for Church world Service.

July 19-26—Youth Mission
Trip to West Virginia

The **WAIM Saturday** work schedule joins the First Baptist Church of Mansfield with the ~~First Baptist Church of Willimantic in work on~~ **Saturday, May 2nd.** The work time is from **9am—12pm** at the WAIM building on Main Street in Willimantic. Your help is needed for sorting clothing and other items so that clients can see what is available.

Ladies Aid Society

There was a very enjoyable and productive meeting held at the church on February 5th. We shared a pot luck dinner and held a business meeting. Elected officers for the coming year are:

Patty Geissler – President
Jill Steadman-Myette – Vice President
Laura Austin – Treasurer
Nancy Flynn – Secretary

A company has been selected to publish our upcoming Anniversary Cookbook. We have been soliciting and collecting your favorite recipes for some time now. There is still room for more recipes so get them in as soon as possible to Nancy or Jill. This is a very exciting and delicious project for us.

We discussed many possible activities and fundraisers for 2009. We will be offering Apple Crisp and Cheesecake Sunday sales. We voted to have another Butter Braid Sale in the fall. There was also discussion about having a Rada Knife fundraiser and perhaps offering anniversary tote bags for sale.

The group unanimously voted to make a \$200 donation to the Church Women United Scholarship Fund and have a beveled edge protective cover made for the conference table in the church office. We can report that thanks to Alice and Prescott Spencer the cover has been successfully purchased and installed on our very nice wood conference table. We are also looking into many other possi-

ble projects including sanctuary carpet cleaning, new conference room chairs and upgrades for the men's lavatory. There is preliminary discussion on having an Anniversary Strawberry Shortcake Supper in June too!

The fellowship and energy of our last meeting was so positive that we said that we should get together more often. We will meet again on Friday, March 20 to share information and continue planning projects and our year's activities. We would be happy to have you join us on

Emma Gardiner Missionary Society (EGMS—ABWM)

The activities of this group for the springtime are our regular programs on the first Tuesday of the month as follows and White Cross requests.

March 3, 2009—Frances Nichols will present a program entitled: "Break the Chains: Slavery in the 20th Century" a work session for White Cross is planned for 1p.m. prior to the program.

April 3, 2009, Ginny Shepardson will present the program, "Bread of Life" - Also, the continuation of a work session is planned for 1 p.m. for White Cross Bandage requests.

May 5, 2009, is our annual salad

luncheon. Our guests will be ABWM women from the area churches in our association. We look forward to this fellowship and sharing. A brief program will be offered related to the historical records shared from the first secretary's minutes of the women's circle of the FBC of Mansfield, October 29, 1924—Ethel Larkin will be the presenter.

All women of the church are cordially invited to the meetings, work sessions for White Cross requests, and the Spring luncheon.

ABW Ministries

The Mission Caravan and Annual Meeting of the Northeast Association of ABW will be held in the Stafford Baptist Church on **Sunday, March 29, 2009, at 6 p.m.** We begin with a potluck supper at this time and are asked to bring a main dish, salad or dessert dish to share!

The guest speaker, John Weiss, from the International Institute of Connecticut who will speak to human trafficking through Project Rescue.

We will car pool to this event. Please phone Lena Barry at 429-4431.

Perception Program

Perception Program, Inc. is a private, non-profit agency based in Willimantic that serves Northeastern CT. PPI's goal is to provide quality support and treatment to individuals addicted to alcohol and/or drugs including those with mental health problems, offenders, and to those who are living with HIV/AIDS. Since incorporating in 1970, they have offered outpatient, outreach, residential and education/prevention and case management services. One of their seventeen programs, Perception House, is a residential co-

occurring treatment facility directed by Denise Keane of FBC.

PPI's one major fundraiser is the Steeple Chase, which is held each August in collaboration with W.A.I.M. A much smaller, but still important, fundraiser is the collection of receipts from shoppers of Shaw's supermarket. An envelope can be found on the bulletin board in the conference room for anyone who wishes to donate their receipts from Shaw's. Noth-

ing needs to be written on the receipt, and the receipt can be for any amount. PPI receives 1% of the total amount on the receipts it collects and returns to the supermarket. Please consider this very easy and important ministry. Thank-you.

Soup Kitchen

In January, church members contributed nearly 45 items with a value of approximately \$92..

In February, some 65 items were contributed with an approximate value of \$120.

In total, over \$200 of food items have been contributed in the first two months of 2009.

Our Nursery

We are thankful to welcome Kimberly Robbins and Julia Altshul as new Nursery staff. Kimberly will be in the nursery through the Sunday School hour and Julia will join her for the Worship Service time. Both girls attend college locally and have several years of child care experience. Please stop by to welcome them and thank them for this ministry to our Church family. Although we do have paid staff we need to update our volunteer list in the event of any absences. Please see

Susan Figueroa if you are High School age or above and are willing to be a Nursery Volunteer.

Our Church Library

Our Sunday School Mission through the Spring of 2009 is our Church Library. What better source for Christian reading material could there be? Our plans include new resources, more youth friendly selections, a database of titles, and a weekly display in the fellowship hall.

If you are interested in assisting we need help choosing new titles, evaluating existing material for current use, and arranging the room. Please see the books displays each week in the Fellowship Hall and Speak to Susan Figueroa. Many thanks to Mrs. Lee Salina who donated a

lovely bookcase and to Mr. Prescott Spencer who made new shelf supports for it as well as assembling a new bookcase recently purchased with our Sunday School Funds!

Church Family News

Congratulations to Peter, Rebecca and Ella Geissler on the arrival of Ava Elizabeth on January 27th. She weighed 6lbs 11oz and was 21inches long. Ava's proud grandparents are Larry and Janet Geissler and her proud great grandmother is Betty Geissler. She is a beautiful little girl!

On **April 17-18th**, Kristin Geissler will be participating in the UConn Relay for Life on the UConn campus with her team **Huskies for Hope**. The team goal this year is to raise \$2,000.00 for the American Cancer Society. Funds raised from the event are used by the American Cancer Society for cancer research and to provide support and services for cancer patients and their families. If anyone is interested in making a donation to this great cause, they can do so via credit card online at the web site below, checks made out to the American Cancer Society or cash can be handed to Kristin or Patty Geissler. http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLFY09NE?px=3606538&pg=personal&fr_id=16267

Also, for those who live locally, there will be a Friendly's night on March 23rd from 5-8pm at the Friendly's across from E.O. Smith High School, a percentage of your bill will go directly to the UConn Relay for Life. Your support of Kristin's team and the American Cancer Society would be much appreciated!

Muse Gallery Showcases "Connecticut Artists: East Meets West"

Richard E. Davis of Mansfield works in abstract impressionism/expressionism/mixed media. His work, along with other artists, will be exhibited now through March 31st. Muse Le Belle Artiste Gallery is located at 1141 Main Street, Coventry, in the former Methodist Church.

Obituary



Dorothy Allene (Gardiner) Lackman, 82, of Ashford, wife of Thomas Lackman, passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by her loving family. She was born May 13, 1926 in Willimantic, the daughter of Robert and Dorothy (Jenner) Gardiner, grew up on Maple Hill Farm in Mansfield and has lived in Ashford most of her life. After the birth of her children, she entered and graduated from Eastern CT State University and taught kindergarten in Eastford and then ran the Pompey Hollow Nursery School in Ashford. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Mansfield and a former member of the Warrenton Baptist Church in Ashford. Dorothy was actively involved in her community serving on the Ashford Board of Education and the Ashford Senior Center and Housing Committee. She loved life and enjoyed traveling abroad having visited Egypt, Australia, New Zealand and many trips to Switzerland to visit her daughter. Dorothy enjoyed quilting, heirloom sewing, rug hooking, smocking, knitting and baking as hobbies. In addition to her husband of 62 year, she is survived by five children, Susan Danahy and her husband Tom of Arlington, MA, Deborah Walthert and her husband Bruno of Santa Margarita, CA, Edward Lackman and his wife Irene of Willington, Stephen Lackman and his wife Liz of Willington and Storrs, Nancy Flynn and her husband Lawrence of Storrs; ten grandchildren, Audrey Walthert of San Francisco, CA, Michael Lackman of East Hampton, Kate Lackman Rodriguez of Storrs, Ryan, Tyler, Kristen and Hillary Lackman, all of Storrs, Erin Flynn of Durham, NC, Laura and Clare Flynn both of Storrs, a great granddaughter, Olivia Rodriguez, a sister, Shirley Corcoran of Mansfield Center, a Brother, Robert Gardiner of Willimantic, many nieces and nephews. Her family will receive friends at the Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St., Rte. 195, Willimantic on Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Funeral services will be held Monday at 11:00 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Mansfield, 945 Storrs Road, Rte. 195, Mansfield. Burial will follow in Spring Hill Cemetery, Mansfield. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the First Baptist Church of Mansfield or to W.A.I.M., Windham Area Interfaith Ministry, P.O. Box 221, Willimantic, CT 06226. Please visit www.potterfuneralhome.com for online memorial guest book.

Heritage Committee

Roger Williams Re-enactment

April 19th

As a part of the 200th Anniversary Celebration of the Church, the Heritage Committee has arranged for actor Bill Hutchinson to portray Roger Williams, the founder of the Baptist movement in America. The re-enactment will be presented at the church on Sunday morning, April 19th, at 10:45 a.m. during the regular worship service. After the service, refreshments will be served and Hutchinson will continue the story of Roger Williams and the early Baptists in a question and answer session. The church has invited Mansfield Historical Society members and friends to attend this event.

Hutchinson, Professor Emeritus and former Head of the Theatre Department at Rhode Island College, is well known for his "Legends of Living History" dramatizations of Thomas Jefferson, Edgar Allen Poe, Henry David Thoreau, Clarence Darrow, Moses Brown, Oscar Wilde, Anglican Bishop George Berkeley, and others. The Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities called on Hutchinson for his Roger Williams portrayal in its Legacy Series which sent actors into the schools to make historical figures come alive in the class-



room. Hutchinson added native American actors from the Narragansett tribe in traditional dress to an expanded version of the Roger Williams story for Rhode Island's 350th Anniversary, and he uses some Narragansett words in his solo performance.

Roger Williams was born in London and educated for the ministry at Cambridge University. He broke away from the Church of England because he could not agree with its policies on faith and church governance. In 1630 he and

his wife Mary sailed for the Massachusetts Bay Colony in search of religious liberty. He served briefly as pastor at churches in Plymouth and Salem, but his views soon brought him into conflict with the authorities, and so, with the support of twelve "loving friends and neighbors" he acquired land from the native Americans and established what is now Providence. As a student Williams showed an early gift for language learning, acquiring facility in Greek, Dutch, and French. He gave Dutch lessons to the poet John Milton in exchange for lessons in Hebrew. Wil-

liams' sensitivity to foreign languages probably helped him acquire land for his new settlement.

This program will appeal to young and old alike, and we look forward to a full sanctuary for the presentation and a lively discussion afterwards.

Historical Society Museum Exhibit Opens May 31st

For the opening of the Mansfield Historical Society Museum (across Route 195 from the church) on May 31st, the Heritage Committee and museum staff will mount a wide-ranging retrospective exhibit on the First Baptist Church and its involvement in the Mansfield community. Located on Spring Hill at the geographic center of the town, the church has played a major role in Mansfield's history, and its members have made prominent contributions to local government, business, industry, culture, and society. The exhibit, designed to complement a series of 200th Anniversary events at the church, will include many artifacts, photographs, documents, and narratives of church members and friends through the years.

Members and friends of both the Church and the Historical Society are invited to a coffee hour at the Church after morning worship on the opening day May 31st, followed by a tour of the exhibit at the Historical Society Museum.

Heritage Committee Continued

Foot Warmers in Church in the 1830s

A Remembrance by Rev. Henry Bromley

[Excerpt from the “Historical Discourse, Delivered on the Fiftieth Anniversary of His Settlement,” by Rev. Henry Bromley, in Mansfield, Connecticut, June 5, 1887. Rev. Bromley was the sixth pastor of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield, serving here from 1837 to 1843. Our church was his first pastorate, and he was ordained here in 1838. He went on to become a missionary to Brooklyn, New York, returning to preach this anniversary sermon in 1887, twelve years after the present church building was erected.]

“The year 1808 witnessed the building and completion of a house of worship upon the site of this church which we occupy today. . . .

“There was no appliance for warming the building, it being expected that worshipers would provide foot stoves and carry with them at their discretion. The winters in those old times were long and cold as winters sometimes now are. A box stove for the meeting house was suggested by some comfort-seeking aspiring member. A stove in a meeting house! There would be danger of fire! Already the too careless use of foot stoves, carried to church by the sisters, had created alarm, and some had suggested the manufacture and use of husk overshoes. No, if the members had not religion enough to keep them warm during the morning and afternoon service they had better repent and pray God that ‘the thought of their hearts be forgiven them,’ quoting the couplet they probably thought, if they did not sing, ‘Brethren, if your hearts be warm, ice and snow can do no harm.’ . . .”

— O —

Rev. Bromley refers to the following hymn, written by Rev. John Leland one cold day in Massachusetts, while listening to a sermon by another pastor preparatory to the outdoor baptism of five people:

Christians, if your hearts be warm,
Ice and snow can do no harm;
If by Jesus you are prized,
Rise, believe, and be baptized.

Jesus drank the gall for you,
Bore the curse of sinners due;
Children, prove your love to him,
Never fear the frozen stream.

Never shun the Saviour’s cross,
All on earth is worthless dross;
If the Saviour’s love you feel,
Let the world behold your zeal.

Fire is good to warm the soul,
Water purifies the foul; —
Fire and water both agree —
Winter soldiers never flee.

Every season of the year,
Let your worship be sincere;
When the storm forbids you roam,
Serve your gracious God at home.

Read his gracious word by day,
Ever watching, always pray;
Think upon his law by night; —
This will give you great delight.



Heritage Committee continued

WHENZIT?

Here are two Reed and Barton silverplate containers, one a communion chalice, the other with several possible uses. If you can remember either or both being used at the First Baptist Church of Mansfield, please tell one of the Heritage Committee members when and how it was used. Times need not be too specific, e.g. the 1940s, 1950s etc. would be close enough.



The Heritage Committee



The Radical Servant's Youth Group

The Radical Servants youth group meeting was a blast! A trip for sixteen of us to Nomads Quest Adventures was donated to us from Brian's step father and his mother, Drs. Mark Pollack and Carmen Santos. We had an awesome time rock climbing and eating pizza. Some of us then played a game of neon mini golf and others ventured off into the video arcade section. All and all we had a fantastic blessed night.

We will be having our lock in on March 20, meeting at 7:00 P.M. at the church. It will be a night of fun and games as well as worship to the Lord. Dinner together at some point and breakfast in the morning. We welcome you to join us 8-12 grades.

Also you can now check out the church website that not only has new pictures thanks to Carol but also a page for the Radical Servants youth group that her and I have been working on together.

Looking forward to our lock in, any questions on it you can always ask me, Pastor Ron or Brian Nilson. Also we are excited about our new look in the senior high Sunday school room.

In the Lord's presence is great joy!
Blessings in the name of the Lord,

Rose Nilson
Youth group leader

Flower Committee



*T*he Flower Committee will be purchasing Easter plants to be displayed in our Sanctuary on April 12, 2009. The Board of Deacons will prepare a list of members and friends who will receive these lovely plants. If you wish to remember a loved one, please complete the following form and give it along with your donation (\$4.00 for each name) to either Faith Austin or Martha Davis. Please do not put this information or your contribution in the offering plate. **All written requests must be received by Sunday, March 22, 2009.** All names will be included in the Easter

Bulletin and read during the morning Worship Service.

Names: _____

Submitted by: _____

The Communications Committee is updating the Church Directory and the Birthday List. The purpose of the directory is to keep members and friends of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield connected. If you will not be in the church building during March 8 – April 12 please fill out the form below and mail it to:

Communications Committee, First Baptist Church of Mansfield, 945 Storrs Road, Storrs, CT 06268

2009 FBCM Directory Update

Last Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

First Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Spouse Name: _____ Email 1: _____

Children _____ Email 2: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Birthdays:

Name: _____ Month ____ Day ____ Name: _____ Month ____ Day ____

Name: _____ Month ____ Day ____ Name: _____ Month ____ Day ____

Would you like to receive Church Family email updates? __ Yes __ No

Do you want to receive the Church Newsletter? __ Yes __ No

Send the Church Newsletter by _____e-mail _____Mail

Do you want your Family information listed in the Directory? __ Yes __ No

The Missions Committee

With Willing Hands

Serve. Sacrifice. Surrender.

“For the love of Christ urges us on...” 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-15

Dear Friends,

We are called by God to a life of holistic stewardship—to *fully serve, sacrifice, and surrender to the One who has given our lives new and eternal meaning*. And yet that relationship becomes profoundly multifaceted in its real-world application as we live for Christ in order to make a difference in our communities and respond to many needs “with willing hands.”

You can help make a difference! Service in Christ’s name is both an opportunity and a challenge. For 176 years National Ministries, ABCUSA has assisted American Baptist congregations as they have confronted and responded to the spiritual and physical needs resident in many communities like ours.

Our church’s contribution to the America for Christ Offering

goes to support Christ-centered ministries that are transforming lives across the United States and Puerto Rico. Our giving directly impacts local activities, projects and ministries such as:

- Evangelism and Church Planting
- Camps and Leadership Development Conferences
- Community Development and Refugee Resettlement
- Scholarships for education and Volunteers In Mission

I believe God is calling us to support local missions in America and Puerto Rico and to join with our sisters and brothers as together we serve, sacrifice, and surrender. Our goal is to contribute \$1,500.00 to the AFC Offering. Please join this wonderful opportunity to reach America for Christ. We will be receiving the America for Christ Offering on March 29th.

For the love of Christ urges us on....

Pastor and The Missions Committee

March 2009

Week of March 15-21st:

March 15: Soup Kitchen Collection, Camp Wightman Sunday, Women's Bible Study 5-6:30

March 17: Adult Choir 7:30-9

March 18: Bible Study 1pm

March 19—Board of Christian Ed Mtg 6:30 pm , Safety Committee Mtg 6:30 pm

March 20—Youth Group Lock-in, Ladies Aid Mtg. 5:45pm

Week of March 22nd—March 28th:

March 22—Mission Trip Meatball Meeting, Women's Bible Study 5-6:30

March 24—Adult Choir 7:30-9

March 25—Bible Study 1pm

March 27—Church Family Fun Night 6pm potluck, 7pm entertainment

Week March 29th—March 31st:

March 29th—America for Christ Offering, ABW Mission Travelcade 6pm, Women's Bible Study 5-6:30

March 31st—Adult Choir 7:30-9pm

Happy Birthday!



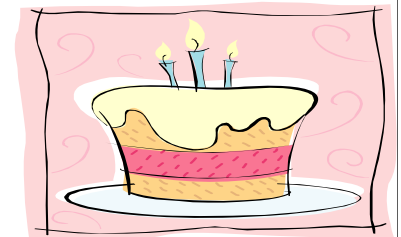
March 6—Caitlyn Setterberg
 March 9—Jennifer Bradshaw
 March 12—Arthur Moore
 March 13—Alyssa Geissler
 March 13—Sierra Yanaway
 March 14—Denise Keane
 March 14—John Kloss
 March 16—Cliff Ward
 March 18—Lawrence Flynn
 March 22—Nikki Barry
 March 27—Colin Whitehead
 March 27—Kieran Yanaway
 March 28—Laura Flynn
 March 29—Stacey Fulton
 March 30—Philip Barry

April 2009

Happy Birthday!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible Study 1pm Deacon's Mtg 7:30	2	3 EGMS 2pm	4
5 Women's Bible Study 5:6-30, Mission Comm. 12:30, Palm Sunday	6	7	8 Bible Study 1pm, Adult Choir 7:30-9pm	9 7pm Maternity Thursday	10 Good Friday	11 Spring Work Day
12 Easter Sunday	13	14	15 Bible Study 1pm	16	17	18
19 Trustees 12:15, Heritage Program, Soup kitchen	20	21	22 Bible Study 1pm	23	24 CE Roofing	25 CE Roofing, ABCONN Annual Mtg.
26 Quarterly Mtg.	27	28	29 Bible Study 1pm, Deacon's Mtg. 7:30	30		

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—Virginia Shepardson
 April 17—Dante Salina
 April 25—Althea Ward
 April 30—Samantha Gardiner



Happy Birthday!

May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Camp Wightman, Spring Work Day Festival of Singing Children
3	4	5 EGMS 2pm	6 Bible Study 1pm	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13 Bible Study 1pm	14	15	16
17 12:15 Trustees Mtg, Soup Kitchen, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, Bicentennial B-Day Cake, Music Ministries	18	19	20 Bible Study 1pm	21	22	23
24 SS Mission Project	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 FBCM Exhibit @ Mansfield Historical Opening Day						

May 8—Bibi Mama
 May 8—Priyanka Nakka
 May 10—Kristin Gardiner
 May 10—Harold Mattern
 May 12—Emma Barry
 May 13—Amanda Keane
 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—Germaine Mama
 May 28—Nicole Nilson
 May 30—Shirley Corcoran
 May 30—Lisa Reas
 May 31—Barbara Moore



First Baptist Church of Mansfield
Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

Jewelry Sale

Help us raise funds so we can help others

FEATURING
Silpada Jewelry and
Jeweled Innovations



Sunday, March 29, 2009 from 2:00—4:00 p.m.

945 Storrs Road (Route 195), Storrs, Connecticut

Why we need your support

The Youth Group of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield has traveled to Philippi, West Virginia every summer since 2004. Philippi is in Barbour County, one of the poorest counties in the United States where 22% of the population live below the poverty line.

Our Youth Mission Group volunteers are based at Alderson-Broadus College for the week as they help residents in the Brownston area of Barbour County with home improvement projects. This volunteer and ministry opportunity is a collaborative effort with World Servants.

First Baptist Church of
Mansfield Youth Group



Spaghetti Supper

Saturday, May 16, 2009

5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

At The First Baptist Church of Mansfield

945 Storrs Road—Route 195

All you can eat..... Spaghetti, meatballs, tossed salad, garlic bread, beverages, and a dessert buffet

Adults: \$8.00

Children (Under 12): \$4.00

Take-outs are welcome!



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

Youth Choir Music Notes

Plan on joining us for our upcoming Church Family Fun Night, Friday evening March 27 (snow date Friday April 3). We will begin with a potluck supper at 6:00 PM, followed by “entertainment” at 7:00 PM. Our geographical area of focus this year will be Thailand and Myanmar, which is the American Baptist Woman’s Ministries area of study. If you’d like, bring a potluck dish from one of these countries. Also bring an item of interest to help decorate our tables and even wear clothing from Thailand or Myanmar. Let’s have a fun time together. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Christian Education wing for “entertainment” of the evening. If you play an instrument, dance, sing a song, do a skit or tell a joke ~ we need you!. Sign up soon. Bring a

friend, too.

The Youth Choir will be singing during morning worship Sunday March 15, and also on Easter Sunday, April 12. Please keep in mind the “Festival of Singing Children and Youth” sponsored by the Hartford/Springfield chapter of the Choristers Guild to be held this year on Saturday, May 2nd in nearby Enfield, Connecticut. A public concert is given in the afternoon. Members of our Youth Choir will be participating. Come and give support by your presence.

“Music Ministries Sunday” will be held during morning worship on Sunday, May 17th. Incorporated into this service to help us celebrate our church’s bicentennial will be

highlights of our Church’s Musical heritage over the past two hundred years. For this presentation, the Youth Choir is in need of colonial costumes both for boys and girls and ladies and gentlemen. If you have any such costumes, hats, bonnets, boots, shawls, etc. that you would be willing to lend us, or if you would be willing to sew a costume or two (pattern and fabric provided), please speak to me as soon as possible.

Many thanks, in advance, for your help.

Grace Riesen

Email:

Grace.Riesen@sbcglobal.net

Sub-Committee formed by Trustees

A sub-committee has been formed by the Trustees to investigate replacing the interior narthex doors that lead into the sanctuary. Tom Lackman has requested to use funds donated in memory of his wife, Dorothy Lackman to replace

the doors with hand crafted wooden doors with a decorative glass panel in the center of each door. The sub-committee is currently researching different glass treatments and designs.



Dates to Remember

March 20—Youth Group Lock-in

March 22—Mission Trip Meatball Meeting

March 27—Church Family Fun Night 6pm

March 29—America for Christ Offering

March 29—ABW Mission Travelcade 6pm

March 29—Women's Bible Study 5-6:30 pm

April 3—EGMS 2pm

April 5—Women's Bible Study 5-6:30 pm

April 9—Maundy Thursday

April 10—Good Friday

April 11—Spring Work Day

April 12—Easter Sunday

April 19—Heritage Program

April 24 / 25—CE Roofing

April 25—ABCONN Annual Meeting

April 26—Quarterly Meeting

May 2—Camp Wightman

May 2—Spring Work Day

May 2—Festival of Singing Children

May 17— One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

May 17— Bicentennial Birthday

May 17— Music Ministries

May 24—Sunday School Mission Project

May 31—Exhibit at Mansfield Historical Opening Day



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