



The Bellringer

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DECEMBER 2009 AND JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

First Baptist Church of Mansfield

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200th Anniversary Celebration

On Sunday, October 18th, members and friends enjoyed a full day of celebration of the Church's 200th Anniversary. At the morning worship service, Pastor Ron Baker asked us to reflect on the Church's long history and look ahead to our continuing service to the Lord on Spring Hill and around the world. Jim Meek brought congratulations from AB-CONN. The adult choir sang "Free Grace" by Jeremiah Ingalls (1804), an anthem that could have been sung by the early 19th century founders of the Church.

After a delicious lunch prepared by the Ladies Aid and the Social Committee we continued the celebration with a special program of reminiscences. Letters, photos, and Powerpoint presentations from all the living former pastors were delivered. The afternoon session started with a greeting from Jim Meek, Vice-President of ABCCONN (the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut). Next, Rev. Cal Lord, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Norwich and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Piercecare (the Pierce Memorial Baptist Home and Creamery Brook Retirement Community) brought greetings and congratulations from Pierce.



Bill McMunn, acting as master of ceremonies, read a letter from Rev. Dr. William L. "Bill" Malcolmson, pastor from 1962 to 1965, our earliest living former pastor. Dr. Malcolmson is now retired but still active in teaching in Washington State. Rev. Franklin Murdock (pastor 1965-72) attended both the morning and afternoon sessions with his extended family, wife Marge, children, and grandchildren.



• *200th Anniversary Celebration* continued

Dispensing with his prepared remarks, Frank regaled the audience with stories and parables from his days on Spring Hill. Ed Austin read the text of a Powerpoint presentation with many pictures from Rev. Vernon "Pete" Hood (pastor 1974-78). Meradith McMunn read a letter from Rev. Dr. Lawrence "Larry" Whitlock (pastor 1980-87), accompanied by photos taken by Larry and Lin Whitlock during their time in Mansfield. Doug Whittemore read a letter from Rev. William J. "Bill" Keane (pastor 1988-97). Bill Keane is now the senior pastor at the First Baptist Church of Branford, Connecticut. Ginny Shepardson read a warm letter of reminiscences from Thelma Buckley, widow of Donald "Doc" Buckley (interim pastor 1997-98). Our present pastor Ron Baker and his wife Tricia concluded with reflections on their decade of service here.

Historical recollections were then invited from those in attendance. Ethel Larkin, Bob Gardiner, Dottie Rose and Randy Gilliam, and Doug Whittemore shared their memories with us.

At the conclusion of this time of remembering, we adjourned to the Conference Room to enjoy a 200th Anniversary Birthday Cake (see photo). The new 200th Anniversary tote bags, in two sizes and colors, were introduced for purchase at this event. The tote bags will continue to be available from the Ladies Aid, which uses the proceeds from the sale for projects that benefit the Church. The Ladies Aid is also preparing a 200th Anniversary cookbook.



After enjoying the birthday cake, members and friends went across Route 195 to see the 200th Anniversary Exhibit at the Mansfield Historical Society Museum, open one final time for this event.

A booklet containing all the pastors' letters and a video disk recording of the day of celebration are being prepared and will be available later for those who were unable to attend, as a souvenir of the 200th Anniversary Celebration, and for the Church's archive of historical records. During the year the Heritage Committee has begun to interview and record members and friends to collect information for an oral history of the Church. Work is also continuing on a chronology of events in the history of the Church. All this research will ultimately be used for writing a book-length history of the First Baptist Church.

Many thanks from the Heritage Committee to the Mansfield Historical Society, the Ladies Aid, all the pastors, and all the members and friends of the Church who worked so hard to make this culminating event such a success.

First Baptist Church of Mansfield

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

I was walking through Wal Mart the other day when I came upon the music department and saw a CD that had in the title something about “The Sounds of Christmas”. The CD had familiar Christmas songs on it; some of them were religious and others were not. I guess it is tradition that makes these certain songs the sounds of Christmas. I wonder what sounds there were on that night Jesus was born. As we know he was born in a barn of sorts, and there must have been some animals around, making animal sounds. There were no CD players, or TV’s or radios playing any music or movies. The shepherds were out tending their flocks by night so there must have been more animal noises, and probably some conversation, or laughter, or maybe snoring - **until the angels appeared.**

Here is a trivia question for you, ‘Does the Bible mention any singing when the angel and other heavenly host appeared to the shepherds?’ The answer is no. Luke 2 in the NIV translation puts it this way,

“An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people...” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest and peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

I guess it is possible that they sang their praises, but we don’t know for sure what that all sounded like, or what the sounds of that first Christmas night were.

As I continued through WalMart I came across a display for candles. Guess what the display said about these candles. It said “The scent of the holidays.” None of the candles had the name ‘Barn Smell’, or ‘Manger scent”, or ‘Sheep odor’ on them. There were names like ‘Bayberry wreath’, and ‘Mistletoe’, and ‘Peppermint stick’. I really would not want a ‘Barn odor’ candle for my house anyways.

And what comes to mind when you think of the “Sights of the season”? Of course there are Christmas decorations on homes and in the stores. Colorful lights on trees, and wreaths on doors. It’s like we are decorating because there is some celebrity or even royalty coming to visit our area. I remember the time Prince Charles came to visit Pittsburgh when I lived there and the city had a “light up” night when they left all the lights in all of the buildings on throughout the city. It was quite striking to see all the lights on at night like that.

There is no celebrity or royalty greater than Jesus, and he is coming. In fact, he is here. That is worth celebrating with sights and sounds and even smells.

Christmas is when God came near so that we can understand God better. God is in Jesus, God is Jesus and when we wonder what God is like, we look at Jesus. Yet, there is still mystery about God. God is Holy, God is “other” than we are. Mary asked the first question of Christmas in Luke 1:34, “How will this be?”

It is my prayer that you will experience God in a familiar way, in the familiar traditions and sights and sounds and smells of our Christmas celebrations. I hope you will experience God as you reflect upon that tender, humble baby. I also pray that you will experience the mystery of God. This God who came in the form of that baby is infinite, and omnipotent. This God whom the shepherds saw with their own eyes, and Mary held with her own arms is the one who created the universe. If that is not mystery I don’t know what is.

Merry, familiar, yet mysterious Christmas.

Paster Ron

Time Capsule / Tote Bags / Board of Deacons

Time Capsule

The Heritage Committee is proposing to all the boards, committees, and members that we collect materials for a Time Capsule, to be sealed until the Church's 250th Anniversary in 2059. Possible items include documents, photographs, and small objects that represent the church and its activities and programs in the early 21st century. These objects will tell our story to our descendants and help them understand what it was like to live and worship in the world

of 2009. Our goal is to have a list of potential submissions by the Annual Meeting in January and to collect and prepare this material in time for a ceremony of closing the capsule at the Spring Meeting in April



200th Anniversary Tote Bags
In celebration of our 200th Anniversary the Ladies Aid is selling canvas tote bags with a screen print of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield

Contact Nancy Flynn or
Patty Geissler to get your
bag



The book tote has an open main compartment that makes it easy to haul heavy items, like books. Carry a little, carry a lot...this tote can take it. In Forest Green.
The book tote is 100% cotton 12 oz. canvas.

Size: 10.5" x 14" x 5"
Price: \$10.00

The zipped book tote offers more security when you travel. It will keep all your belongings private. In Royal Blue.

The zipped tote is 100% cotton 12 oz. canvas.

Size: 17.5" x 15" x 4.5"

Price: \$15.00



The Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons are updating the Prayer Chain. We think it is an important mission of the church. If you wish to be a part of this, let us know. In recognition of the computer age we live in we want to offer notification by phone OR email. Call or email our church secretary to let her know if you wish to be a link in the chain and if you want to be notified by phone or email.

Mission Trip Youth Group

It is that time of year when we begin to think about the mission trip that the youth will be taking next summer. We have had two recent organizational meetings to discuss the who, what, where and how of next year's trip. There is great interest in the upcoming trip and there may be up to 13 youth and 2 adults participating.

After considering destinations for this year's trip, it was decided to once again attend Servant's Heart in West Virginia from July 18-24th. It seems to be the best situation for the group in terms of dates of the trip, overall cost, payment deadlines and most of all having the opportunity to help out families with work projects, which has been very meaningful to our youth in past years.

The funding for the trip will come from individual participants and upcoming fundraisers. The youth who are planning to go have been challenged to individually raise as much of the \$360.00 per person charge as possible. How much money can be saved by forgoing a trip to the movies or making do with an old pair of jeans....Can you save some of your earnings from work and put it toward your trip....would your family be willing to donate funds toward your trip as your birthday present or Christmas gift this year????

Starting in January there will be fundraisers which we hope the church family will help us with. So far we are planning:

Fundraising Breakfast at Applebee's in January
Valentine Silpada Jewelry Sale in January

Public Dinner-An EO Smith Senior Project of some of the participating youth-in February
Spaghetti Supper in April or May

Stay tuned for details!

We continue to appreciate your support of our on-going bottle and can drive. The schedule of responsible youth is as follows:

November	David and Kelsey B.
December	David and Kelsey B.
January	Evan and Ethan
February	Jenette
March	Clare
April	Morgan
May	Dellon
June	Kelsey H.
July	Adrienne

Warriors for Christ

Warriors for Christ is off to a great start! We have chosen a this name, we have also had our first fundraiser. Warriors for Christ meets every Friday night at First Baptist Church of Mansfield from 6:30-9:00 grades 6-12.

We have had about 12-14 teens consistently coming and I am very excited to see it growing! The energy and excitement is also encouraging and a joy! Pastor Ron asked the kids on Sunday morning recently what things made their hearts lead for joy or what they

were thankful for and to write it down. I am so thankful for this group on Fridays it makes my heart lead with joy!

There will not be youth group on **December 25** due to holiday celebration! We will resume on January 1, 2010. We also have a donation box for anyone that would like to help out with a donation.

Thank you all for your love and support! God is a good God and He is good all the time!

Love,
Rose Nilson

Concert to Benefit Youth Programs on October 3rd



We had some terrific performances from Guy Myette, Frances Nichols, Jessica Figueroa, Ally Austin and Grace Riesen, and Rick LaMarre and Abby LaMarre. We raised over \$80 for our youth programs and plan to do another concert with more preparation and promotion! Keep your ears open for announcements in the Spring!

WAIM

walk for warmth 2009



The Walk For Warmth is WAIM's annual fundraiser for the Fuel Fund. This is the only fundraiser WAIM holds to meet this need each year. What-

ever is raised at this event is the amount available to help families in need. This year's Walk was held Sunday, Nov. 29th, hosted by Temple B'nai Israel in Willimantic.

The Interfaith Thanksgiving Service which traditionally precedes the Walk, was enjoyed by a crowd so big that there was not even enough standing room! It was a beautiful service that included a drama by Pastor Ron and Tricia Baker and a dance to "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother" by Olivia Baker and Arielle Schwartz, daughter of Rabbi Jeremy Schwartz.

WALK FOR WARMTH



The Walk began immediately after the Service. Hundreds of people made the 2 mile trek en masse around Willimantic, returning to the Temple for refreshments and fellowship.

The Fuel Fund assists people who find themselves unable to pay for heating fuel or utilities.

On average, it takes around \$350 to assist 1 household (but could be more). This year's Walk raised a total of \$22,000. Walkers from FBCM raised over \$2000! Eleven year old Olivia Baker's passionate re-

quests for sponsors raised over \$1700! Because of the caring people at FBCM, many families will be warmer and safer throughout this winter. It is not too late to contribute to the Fuel Fund. Donations can be sent in to WAIM directly or given to Tricia Baker or Ed Austin.

Have you noticed the heavenly aromas coming from the church kitchen on Sunday mornings?

That's muffin ministry!

A group of volunteers has been making three dozen muffins each Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour for the last 8 weeks. The ingredients are all donated.

A special thank you to Pastor Ron who then delivers the muffins to an area charity. Muffins have been sent to the Covenant Soup

kitchen, WAIM volunteers and Holy Family Shelter. Feel free to drop by during Sunday School for some conversation or to lend a hand. No need to plan ahead. If you have a few minutes, just stop in.

Thank you to Laura Austin, Tricia Baker, Denise Hauman, Jen Bradshaw, Judy Conland, Dana Yanaway, Denise Keane and anyone I have forgotten.

If you have a great muffin recipe or

would like to donate ingredients please speak to Terry Yanaway.

Re-



member, many hands make life work!

Ladies Aid Society

What a busy fall we have had! There was a very enjoyable and productive pot luck supper meeting in September. We have been a part of many church functions, conducted many fundraisers and have generated good ideas for how to help the First Baptist Church of Mansfield further its mission on Spring Hill.

Some of the activities that we have played a part in include having the carpets in the sanctuary and the Pastor's office cleaned, sponsoring the luncheon at our Church's culminating anniversary event, making a donation to the Church Women United LPN scholarship and providing funding to the church holiday decorating committee. We were also honored to prepare and serve a light lunch reception after the memorial service for Althea Ward. Althea was a lovely and special lady who once served as President of the Ladies Aid Society.

The annual Butter Braid Sale was a success once again. One hundred and eleven braid and cookie dough products were sold. The top seller this year was Nancy Flynn and the top selling product this year was the Raspberry Butter Braid. Our profit from sales was \$467.31. Our total profit, with donations, was \$534.31. Thank you all for supporting this endeavor and enjoy your pastry.

Tricia Baker and Jill Stedman-Myette spent a recent Friday night busily baking at church. The following Sunday we were all treated to a cheese-cake sale. Chocolate and pumpkin

were the delicious flavors that they prepared. They sold out all their slices and the Ladies Aid earned a profit of \$127.50.

The Rada Knife sale is winding down. We use Rada paring knives in our kitchen and Patty says that she cannot function in her kitchen without them. The products are reasonable in price and would make very nice Christmas presents. There are catalogs available in the Conference Room. Please speak with Jill if you have questions or would like to place an order. The deadline for orders will be December 6th.

We also still have the anniversary tote bags for sale; a large, blue zippered bag for \$15.00 and a smaller green bag for \$10.00. Both bags have a very nice picture of our church on them. They are on display in the conference room and they may be purchased from Nancy or Patty.

The purpose of all these fundraisers is to be able to assist with projects or needs within the church. Some of the projects on our wish list include: new chairs and storage racks for chairs in the conference room, men's lavatory refurbishing, replacing the carpeting in the narthex and perhaps replacing the dorsal in the sanctuary.

We continue to work on our anniversary cookbook. We thank those of you who heard our cry for MORE RECIPES and sent

more. We have just about what we need to proceed and are in the process of entering them. Our hope is for the finished, delicious product to be available in the spring. If you still have recipes to share please see Nancy, Jill or Patty.

A few notes on keeping our kitchen clean and in good shape for those who use it: Thank you to Nils Setterberg and Lena Barry for taking the extra time and bending of the knees to clean out the bottom cabinets in the kitchen. A reminder to all to label and date food items and store them in tightly covered containers. Please be responsible for cleaning up after your activity, please clean the kitchen cloths and return them to the kitchen and if you use equipment please return it to its proper spot. Thank you!

Our next meeting will be **Friday, January 8, 2010**. Please join us at the church for a pot luck supper beginning at **5:30pm** to be followed by the business meeting.

Thank you to all who help with our endeavors....We couldn't do it without you!

Patty Geissler

Musical—100 % Chance of Rain



Youth Choir Notes

100% Chance of Rain, a Jazz Cantata for Young Singers, was presented to a full house during morning worship on Sunday, November 15th. Originally published in 1972, 100% Chance of Rain has been Choristers Guild's all-time best-selling musical through the years. This is the wonderful story of Noah and the flood, and the appearance of a rainbow symbolizing God's promise that never again would a flood destroy the earth.

Many hours of rehearsing and preparation went into the presentation of this musical, but it was well worth the time and effort. A great time was had by all.

The cast of Characters is as follows:

NOAH—Morgan Baker

NOAH'S WIFE—Samantha Figueroa

SHEM- NOAH'S SON—Henry Bigl

HAM- NOAH'S SON—Raman Mama

HAM'S WIFE—Olivia Baker

JAPHETH- NOAH'S SON—Rahim Mama

JAPHETH'S WIFE—Rebecca Figueroa

H-P-S DELIVERY MAN (Heavenly Parcel Service)—Pastor Ron Baker

TOWNSPEOPLE—Laura Austin, Susan Figueroa, Joy Erickson, Peter Bradshaw, Karen Hocking, Melissa Rood

BUTTERFLIES—Sarah Hines, Ashley

Hooper

ELEPHANT—Matthew Houman

FIREFLY—Rachel Houman

GRASSHOPPERS—Emily Bigl, Maggie Watson

OWL—William Rood

TURTLE—Bruce Bradshaw

Director: Grace Riesen

Instrumentalist:

Brianna Coolbeth, Piano

Bibi Mama, Flute

Guy Myette, Trumpet

Dellon Myette, Percussion

Choreographers: Melissa Rood and Grace Riesen

Signing: Tricia Baker

Costumes: Susan Figueroa

Props: John and Grace Riesen, Nils Setterberg, Bob Bauer

Recording / Video: John Riesen

Photographer: Carol Bigl

Publicity: Lena Barry

Stage Crew: Morgan Baker and Pastor Ron Baker

Program: Lisa Licata



Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this great event. Well Done!!

Love,

Mrs. Grace Riesen

(860) 429-7569

Grace.riesen@sbcglobal.net

Musical—100 % Chance of Rain



100 % 
Chance of
Rain



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

EGMS-ABWM

HUMAN RIGHTS CELEBRATION
 An Interfaith Service
Sunday, January 24, 2010
 (snow date: January 31)

4:00 p.m. Program, followed
 by refreshments

***"Living the Challenge:
 Differently Enabled, Uniquely
 Called"***

First United Methodist Church
 29 Puddin Lane, Mansfield Ctr

Emphasis is on health and economic justice for those individuals who are faced with inadequate polices and support programs. If our churches are handicapped accessible, but no one says "hello" to those who are differently enabled, what does that say about us as a church?



GREATER WILLIMANTIC

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 5, 2010

Douglas Manor for Nursing & Rehabilitation

9:45 a.m. **Gathering**

10:15 a.m. **Program**

(This year there will be only one program which will be at Douglas Manor instead of a morning program and an evening one.)

EGMS-ABWM

The EGMS-ABWM has begun a full year of activity and studies. Our study theme is "Women Destined for God's Purpose" and this scripture theme is Psalm 138:8.

Requests from missionaries for various needs are our "WHITE CROSS" quota. This Christmas quota is large and will go to the South Providence Neighborhood Ministries. We invite our church family to help

us meet these WHITE CROSS requests. We thank you for choosing items on the White Cross requests. Other requests will be roller bandages, and specific items to be met in the hospital purchase plan in months to come.

The monthly meetings of the EGMS-ABWM are at 2pm in the church. All women of the church are invited. December 1st meeting will be a celebra-

tion of "Christmas in Song" to be presented by Grace Riesen.

February 2nd will be Bible Study #1 "Pruning with a Purpose" presented by Ginny Shepardson.

All New England States

At the Courtyard by Marriott in Billerica MA

Friday night – Sunday Noon – February 26-28, 2010

This Year's Theme



Trinette is the former President of ABC-USA, current president of the American Baptist Historical Society, and is an adjunct faculty with Central Baptist Seminary's Milwaukee Center, and in Urban Ministry at Cardinal Stritch University

Retreat speaker
Dr. Trinette



Worship with
Hornrette Washington

Water Aerobics, Personal Exploration, Discussion Groups, Bible Study, Creative Expression Activity, Creative Writing, Games & Fellowship!

Make sure you get your registrations in right away because space is limited!

Register me to attend! \$20 per person - additional \$15pp late fee if not postmarked by Feb. 1st.

Name _____ Address _____
City/State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Cell _____
Email _____ Church _____

Please indicate your room-mate's name(s) and send your registrations together: _____

Make check payable to: ABW Ministries VNH and mail with this form to: Dona Blais, registrar, 314 Riverdale Ave., Manchester, NH 03103 (603-668-2562 or dblais@manchesternh.gov)

Registration limited - Registration deadline: February 1st

**ALL accommodations AND meal reservations need to be made directly with hotel:
Courtyard by Marriott at 978-670-7500 (ask for the all New England states retreat rate)**

Rates for women: \$135 pp/do – 2 nights' lodging & 3 meals on Saturday; Sunday breakfast buffet available for additional \$10.95

\$56 pp – 3 Saturday meals for commuters (not staying at the hotel)

Rates for girls:

\$30 pp – 3 Saturday meals & Free lodging when rooming with an adult

~ For any accommodation or meal questions, please contact the hotel directly at 978-670-7500 ~

Church News



Meredith Lindsey being sworn in on the Town Council! Unfortunately, Denise Keane was absent at the time of the group picture.



Bill McMunn Named Windham Town Historian

Bill McMunn has been named one of two Town Historians of the Town of Windham, along with Jamie Eves. Jamie will take responsibility for the Willimantic district and Bill for the rest of Windham including the villages of North and South Windham and Windham Center. Bill and Jamie talked with Wayne Norman on the WILI Morning Show on December 11th. A recording is available at <http://www.wili.com/am/index.htm>

A NOTE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

We service our Church by worshipping, praying and working together for families, friends, and brothers and sisters in Christ and those who need us. Serving the Lord IS joyous and therefore we have selected **GIVING JOYFULLY** for this year's stewardship season. We began collecting pledges on Sunday November 22, 2009. The pledge card includes a place for you and your family to make a financial commitment to our Church and also has a place for you and your family to indicate whether you would like to be contacted about sharing your time and talents. Pledge cards were mailed in November, and if you did not receive one, you can pick one up at Church this Sunday (extra copies are on the table near the front door) or see Karen Watson. If you were unable to submit your pledge card on November 22, you may hand deliver it to John Riesen, our financial secretary or mail it to him at 42 Farmstead Road, Storrs, CT 06268-2013. God Bless our Church Family!

From - The Stewardship Committee

*Christmas Eve
Service will
be held at 7:00 p.m.*



Sunday School will recess for the Holidays—There will be no classes on December 27th or January 3rd. We hope your holidays are Joyous and Peaceful and Safe and God Blessed!

Best Wishes from

Once again we will be supporting
the American Cancer Society's Da-
fodil Days in February
2010. We can make a
difference!



Have you wondered why we are asked to save cancelled postage stamps? The proceeds realized from the sale of these stamps are used (approximately \$600.00 early) to enhance the Chaplaincy programs at the Connecticut Baptist Home in Meriden, CT. It takes 3,000 common stamps to weigh one pound which is worth \$1.00. The foreign and comorative stamps do much better at \$9.00 per pound. Just remember as you save these stamps. The stamp cut-ups Bev and Ron Tooley of Southing request we leave a 1/4" board around each stamp. Keep the stamps coming! The basket for your donations will be on the table at the Church's entrance! God Bless and thank you!



Obituaries

Hampton D. "Bud" Huff



FREEBURG - Hampton D. "Bud" Huff, 77, of Freeburg, passed away at 5:12 .pm. Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009, at the Geisinger Medical Center, Danville.

He was born Oct. 25, 1931, in Athens, the only son of the late Hampton U. and Martha (Dunlap) Huff. On May 15, 1954, he married the former Helen Lineaweaver who survives.

Bud was a 1949 graduate of Athens High School. In 1953 he received his bachelors degree from Penn

State University in Agriculture and later earned his masters in education from there in 1961. He also furthered his education at the University of Connecticut. He served his country by joining the Army and was a veteran of the Korean War.

In 1989, he retired after 24 years of service as a professor of reading and study skills, counseling and student services from the University of Connecticut. He then took a position at Susquehanna University for five years after moving to the area in 1990 and was active in the Institute of Life Long Learning to help further the education of Senior Citizens.

He was a past member and trustee of the First Baptist Church, Mansfield, and a current member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Selinsgrove.

Bud served his community in many ways including; a 40 year supporter of the American Red Cross where he instructed classes in CPR, EMT services and First Aid. He was a member of the Mansfield Fire Dept., a member and secretary of Dauntless Hook and Ladder, Selinsgrove, and the Freeburg Fire Dept. where he was treasurer and founding member of the Fire police. Bud was the current president of the Freeburg Boro Council.

He enjoyed outdoor activities such as camping, fishing and gardening. He was an avid reader, stamp collector and traveled with the Elderhostel group on educational trips. He was a great sports fan following UCONN basketball and football, Susquehanna University football and attended his grandchildren's sporting events.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three daughters, Martha E. Huff and husband Richard Koenig of Trappe, Betsy Albright and husband Joe of Landisburg, Kate Meehan of Chester Heights; eight grandchildren, Kristen, Rachel, Julia, Alex, Paige, Tori, Colleen and Neil; son-in-law, Brendan Meehan; sister-in-law, Esther Jenckes; and nieces and nephews, Scosh Robbins, Beth Gutierrez, Kenyon Jenckes and John and Heather Lineaweaver.

He was preceded in death by his brother-in-law and good friend, Scott Jenckes.

Friends and family may call from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 400 N. Market St., Selinsgrove, where the funeral service will begin at 7, with his pastor, the Rev. Dietmar Plajer officiating.

Burial will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday in Tioga Point Cemetery, Athens.

WARD, Althea Frances (Stearns)

Althea Frances (Stearns) Ward, 76, of Mansfield, wife of Clifford O. Ward Jr., passed away Monday, (November 16, 2009) at the Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. She was the daughter of the late Willard J. Stearns and Frances (Crane) Stearns. She grew up as a member of the First Congregational Church of Mansfield and had attended the First Baptist Church of Mansfield for the past 20 years. Althea loved cooking and sewing and being around small children. In addition to her husband of nearly 58 years, she is survived by three children, Linda A. La-Clair of Enfield, NH, Clifford T. "Tom" Ward of Mansfield and Jeffrey A. Ward, also of Mansfield, a brother, Arthur B. Stearns and his wife Kate of Mansfield, two uncles, Stedman Stearns and Theodore Stearns, six grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a son, Kenneth J. Ward, two brothers, Luther Stearns and Willard C. "Bill" Stearns and two uncles, Robert Stearns and Ellsworth Stearns. Her family will receive friends at the Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St., Rte. 195, Willimantic on Friday from 6-8 p.m. Funeral services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Mansfield, 945 Storrs Rd., jct. Rte. 195 and Spring Hill Rd., Mansfield with Rev. Ron Baker officiating. Burial will follow in the Mansfield Center Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the First Baptist Church of Mansfield, 945 Storrs Rd., Storrs, CT 06268.

Advent Event—Peace in our World, Peace in our Hearts

We had a wonderful social lunch time with delicious soups presented by the Social Committee. After lunch we created Polish Stars (some to go in our college care packages), Danish Heart Baskets, Ukranian Spider Webs, South African folded Paper Chains (for our Sanctuary Tree), American Popcorn and Cranberry Garland.

At each table was information on a mission or Missionary working in that country. Thanks to Joy Erickson for finding the book with international Christmas crafts and for making sure we



ages of goodies for our College Students with Christmas cards signed by all to help carry them through their finals cramming!

Finally, Cupcakes piled high with frosting and Christmas candies and decos were consumed for dessert!



had all the supplies required!
We also put together care pack-

Thanks to Lena Barry and Friends (and to Mr. Spencer for picking it up for us on Saturday!) a Christmas Tree was purchased for the Fellowship hall and proudly displays many of our Advent Event projects from years past.

Thanks also to everyone who helped supervise our crafts and clean up afterward. May you all have a Peaceful Christmas Season!

Special Christmas Music December 20th

In the worship service on *Sunday, December 20th*, the Adult Choir will perform Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria*, accompanied by string quartet and continuo. Composed in Venice in the early 1700s, this beautiful and impressive work is one of the jewels of the Christmas music repertory. One musicologist has written the following description:

The opening movements are cheerful, radiant: here the glory of the Lord is revealed on the earth with joy, far from any feeling of agitation, yet sometimes astounding us with unexpected modulations. The complexities of the writing in the setting of 'Et in terra pax' help to give the movement greater substance. The work is distinguished by an intensive recourse to theatrical models, attaining a moment of sheer pathos in the alto aria 'Domine Deus, Agnus Dei', in which Vivaldi seeks to create a dramatic space by placing the soloist at a distance from the chorus, which comments on human fragility ('Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis').

The work concludes with a resounding and inspirational 'Cum sancto spiritu' ("With the Holy Spirit").

Birthdays and Events

December Happy Birthday!

December 2—Will Bigl
 December 2—Chris Salina
 December 5—Jack Gilman
 December 5—Oliver Gilman
 December 5—Laurie Whitehead
 December 6—Betty Geissler
 December 7—Sara Flower
 December 8—Judy Bigl
 December 8—Janice Kopeck
 December 12—Jack Fulton
 December 14—Linda Smith
 December 15—Jeff Bigl



December 16—Hannah Gilman
 December 18—Jodi Donato
 December 20—Rose Nilson
 December 21—Ava Lee Baker
 December 25—Jesus

December 19th—Adult Choir Rhearsal 9:00 am
December 20th Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour
December 20th Christmas Caroling
December 20th Adult Choir perform Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria
December 24th Christmas Eve Service 7pm
December 27th and **January 3rd** no Youth Choir or Sunday School
December 30th Deacons Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

January Happy Birthday!



January 3—Allison Erickson
 January 3—Ann Salina
 January 8—Andrew Gardiner, Sr.
 January 13—Charles Anderson
 January 15—Frank Wells
 January 18—Florence Palmer
 January 19—Doug Whittemore
 January 20—Nancy Flynn
 January 22—Lillian Brookes
 January 25—Angel Figueroa
 January 26—Robin Whittemore
 January 29—Kristen Beaulieu
 January 29—Mark Gagne
 January 30—Bill Keane, Jr.

Happy Birthday! February



February 2—Raouf Mama
 February 6—David Nilson
 February 7—Rich Barry
 February 7—Beverly Hamel
 February 7—Lindsey Kloss
 February 9—Morgan Baker
 February 10—Chelsea Flower
 February 12—Richard Davis
 February 15—Robert Erickson
 February 16—Terry Yanaway
 February 21—Carol Riesen Bigl
 February 23—Thomas Erickson
 February 23—Daniel Parker, Jr.
 February 25—Henry Bigl
 February 27—Gemila Mama

January 17th Deadline for Annual Reports
January 31 Annual Business Meeting



ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE!!
JANUARY 17, 2010



Dates to Remember

December 19—Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am

December 20—Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour

December 20—Christmas Caroling

December 20—Adult Choir Perform Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria

December 24—Christmas Eve Service 7 pm

December 27 and January 3rd no Youth Choir and No Sunday School

January 17—Deadline for Annual Reports

January 31—Annual Business Meeting



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. at 9:00 a.m.

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



An American Baptist Church