



The Bellringer

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First Baptist Church of Mansfield

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Church Family Picnic

All who attended the church picnic at Tom Lackman's on Sunday June 19 had a great time. The weather was perfect, and the kids enjoyed swimming in the pond. The adults enjoyed watching the kids swimming in the pond. The food was plentiful and very tasty.

Thanks to Pete Bradshaw for manning the grill and cooking the hot dogs and hamburgers.

There was one special Father's Day game, a water balloon toss which the father's won. After



one round of that it quickly turned into a game of "throw the water balloons at all the fathers", which was also a lot of fun.



Many thanks go to those who helped set up and take down, cook and serve, and also to Nancy and the Flynn family for taking care of many other details. And most of all thanks to Tom Lackman for all of his work in hosting the festivities.

First Baptist Church of Mansfield

- Established 1809 -

A Word from the Pastor

One day last week I came to the church after I dropped Olivia off for school, about 7:45. I pulled into the parking lot, and an 18 wheel tractor trailer truck was sitting in the middle of the parking lot. It filled half of the lot. When I asked the driver if he needed any help he said no, but hoped it was ok to park here for a little bit while he waited for space at UCONN to open up. He was delivering some construction supplies and there was no room to park his rig there. I told him no problem, but that a women's missionary group (Emma Gardener) would be meeting in a few hours and he might have to move at that point. Although I'm sure they would have welcomed him at their meeting, he was gone in about an hour.

Our church parking lot has been used for a lot of other things as well. There is a professor who likes to park her car and ride her bike to campus from here. There was a UCONN freshman from out of state who parked her car here for her first semester one time. Her parents, by the way, made a contribution to the church in response to this favor. I have lost count of the number of times someone has had car problems and used the parking lot to make some repairs, or wait for a tow truck. There have been many days and nights that the winter weather caused people to just park their car and leave it for the time being. Our neighbors have used the space for overflow parking for a birthday or some other party. There was one year when college students next door had a party and several of them slept in their cars in our lot. When we arrived to set up for our annual tag sale the next morning we had to wake them up to tell them to move. I'm sure it was a very good thing they decided not to drive home the night before. We have set up a Jerusalem or Bethlehem "Marketplace" for a vacation Bible school on several occasions. The youth have played many a game of "capture the flag" out there. Tag sales have benefited the ministry

of WAIM, as well as those cleaning out their garages. There have been numerous car washes for camperships and youth mission trips. The museum across the street has used it for overflow, as we have used their space as well.

So even just the parking lot of the church has been used for various ministry purposes, many of which we are not even aware of. I believe ministry is like that when we use our time, energy and gifts to serve God and others. God uses even little things to reach people in ways we don't even intentionally try to.

As you support the ministry of this church with your tithes and offerings know that you have an impact for God and for good on this world in ways far beyond even what you realize. I believe that is how God works. As you support this church with your giving, you are helping to share the love and Gospel of Jesus in many, many ways. Some you know of, and many you don't. Once again the parking lot for example. When someone pulls in because their car broke down, this church can become a haven of rest where they can pull in, use the bathroom, or the telephone, (at least in years not too far past when people did not have cell phones), or even get a drink. And in those moments they realize that they are not all alone in this world. They are touched by an awareness of God's presence.

Jesus says in Mark 9:41 "I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward."

Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of this church. God truly is using the gifts you give through your time, talents and treasure.

Pastor Ken

Annual Spaghetti Supper

Our annual Spaghetti Supper was held on Saturday, May 21. It was quite successful with a steady stream of satisfied guests taking part in the evening. They all said it was delicious.

The proceeds of the supper are being split between the Youth Mission Trip to York, Pennsylvania and the Raise the Roof Fund. We raised a grand total of \$1,395.00.

It was a total group effort with donations for the supper coming from members, friends and our community businesses. We want to take this opportunity to especially thank Mountain Dairy, Big Y and Price Rite for their generous donations.

From the cooks to the cleanup crew, there was a great group of workers. We were excited to have some new faces helping out and having a good time with us.

Thank you all and let's do it again next year!

Flower Committee

Flowers always brighten up our Sunday worship service. Thank you to all that have generously provided flowers this season.

If you would like to place flowers in memory of a loved one or for a special occasion on a particular Sunday, please sign up on the flower chart located in the hallway of the Christian Education building.

Thank you

Your flower Committee Alice Spencer, Lena Barry and Faith Austin.



White Wash

A great big thank you goes out to Nils Setterberg and Prescott Spencer for their time and effort in painting the church this summer.

But here's a story that perhaps you have not heard. Soon after Nils and Prescott started painting they realized that they had not bought enough paint so they decided that in order to make the paint last they would thin it down a little bit. This seemed to work very well until that big rain storm we had a few weeks ago. (I'm sure you remember that rain storm) The next day they came to finish the job and the grass and the parking lot were all white, but the church wasn't. That storm washed all the thinned paint right off the building. When I showed up that morning Nils and Prescott were standing around wondering what to do now. It was at about that time that

we heard this voice come from out of the clouds, and it said..."Re – paint...and Thin no more"

OK, so I have adapted a story that came from Prescott. I took the liberty of adding their names. Not to worry...there was never any "thinning" going on while they were painting.

And we are very grateful to Nils and Prescott. Great Job!



Raise the Roof Campaign

There was a different buzz in the sanctuary during our Strawberry Supper on Saturday, June 11th. Tables, with blue velvet cloths, were set up around the room, displaying various items. Supper visitors were strolling around silently bidding on the twenty seven items that were on display. We held our first Silent Auction in conjunction with the supper and it was a big success. Thanks to



the generosity of members, friends and the business community, all of the items were donated. The auction realized a profit of \$1,277.00!

The auction items were big and small, pretty, useful and fun! They ranged from Bean Pots to UConn Basketball tickets. It was a fun way to help raise additional funds to Raise the Roof. Stay tuned.....We may try it again in the future.

A traditional FBCM Strawberry Shortcake Supper hosted by the Ladies Aid was held in conjunction with Silent Auction. Baked ham and beans were served along with Potato Salad, Coleslaw and fresh rolls. New members and friends all worked hard together to serve 175 people in the conference room plus 21 take-outs. When all the dishes were done and put away we able to see a profit of \$1,892.00 for the Raise the Roof Fund!

We still have a long way to go and the Raise



the Roof Committee is working hard to keep funds coming into the FBCM Roof Fund. The committee is planning on participating in the **Festival on the Green** to be held in front of E. O. Smith High School on **Sunday, September 25th** from noon to 5:00 p.m. We are planning on selling "Shingle Sugar Cookies" and hope to come up with another fun event to keep our Roof Raising efforts in the minds of the community. If you have an idea you would like to share or if you would like to help out on September 25th please see Nancy Flynn, Patty Geissler, Tricia Baker or Ed Austin.

Board of Deacons

On June 19, 2011, we had a lovely church picnic that was graciously hosted by Tom Lackman at the Red Devon Farm. The pond was wet, warm and inviting and enjoyed by many children. The food and conversation was wonder and ice cream sundaes topped off the afternoon. A water balloon toss turned into a water balloon skirmish against Pastor Ron. Thank you Tom for being so generous in hosting on a lovely Sunday afternoon!

Handmade Veteran's Day cards were made, signed by the congregation and sent out current and retired veterans!

Thank you to all of those volunteers that have visited Harold Mattern. He really looks forward to catching up with his church family. If anyone is interested in being a visitor, please contact our Church Secretary, Lisa Licata at office@fbcmansfieldct.com.

A Mission Letter: Choosing Jesus

Having just returned from a medical mission in Peru, I scan over the weeks spent there for what were the most satisfying moments, such as the surgery that went well. There was the man with 3 stones in his kidney and a couple patients with kidney tumors. And numerous men and women seen in the clinic for various problems. They all seemed to leave the hospital with smiles on their faces, even when I felt I could not do much for them. But how are their lives changed?

As a satisfying moment, nothing compares when someone chooses to believe and submit to the lordship of Jesus Christ. The most reliable sign that someone might be close to this is when they express a realization of a burden of wrong doing. There was a reason that John the Baptist paved the way for Christ by stressing the need to repent, as did Christ Himself.

It is a good thing that at least once a year at Easter, we are reminded of what a monumental work God did by coming down from Heaven and dying on a cross for us. Many people come and go, even at a mission hospital, and never realize the personal significance of this event. What makes the difference is finally seeing our own personal need, which is not only a one time occurrence. A missionary once

told me that when he worships he likes to start by remembering the significance of his own sinfulness, and then build from there to the fullness of all that Christ did. Singing praise is always more meaningful after mourning for what we were without God and for how we still fall short.

And singing praise for a sinless Christ, who did accomplish what we are incapable of and then rose to continue His work interceding for us and empowering us with His Spirit, is a powerful climax. Is it loving in the name of tolerance to leave someone in the grip of a religion of evil spirits and animistic beliefs that so weigh down the third world globally? Or even to leave someone in the grip of any other world religion, since without Christ we are left to our own devices and limitations ("All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way" Isaiah 53:6)? When I see the face of a poor farmer in Peru light up because he now believes and understands, I know what I believe to be true. That is the moment of true satisfaction. And it is for these things and for the mercy God has rained down on us through His Son that I sing God's praises

Doug Whittemore, member of Missions Committee

20th Annual Steeple Chase—in honor of Ed Austin

The 20th annual Steeple Chase Bike Tour will be held on **Saturday August 13th at 7 AM**. There will be routes of various distances...20 , 35, 50 , 62.5 , and 100 miles. It will begin at a new location, the ECSU Athletic Complex on Mansfield City Rd. There are lots of ways to be involved if you don't want to ride.

One way is to help out at the rest stop in front of David Stevens' house on Bassetts Bridge Rd.

The special thing about this year's event is that's it is being held in honor of Ed Austin. Ed has poured his heart and energy into WAIM and its ministry for years, and especially this particular event.

Great job Ed, and thank you.

Vacation Bible School



The First Baptist Church of Mansfield invites all children in pre-kindergarten through grade 7 to get cookin' at "Shake It Up Café: Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe" Vacation Bible School. As kids move around the kitchen, they will discover the ingredients for living their faith. Kids will participate in Spork Sports, snack at the Takeout Treatery, get crafty at the Tangy and Tart Arts, play at the Foodology Factory, and sing Wok and Roll Hits. These five nights of fun and exploration start Monday, July 25, and end Friday, July 29. Each evening begins at 6:00 p.m. and ends at 8:30 p.m. at the church, located at 350 West State Street (the corner of State and Lemon Streets) in Media.

The recipe at Shake It Up Café includes heaping helpings of Bible fun and special servings of hands-on mission work, food science and great music. Kids *can* make and *are* making a difference in our world: That's the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School. Scheduled events include sorting items for the soup kitchen & collecting items for tornado victims, and much more!

Call Joy Erickson for more information – 429-5524

Visit You Tube for a preview VBS 2011 –
Shake It Up Café - Preview Video - Cokesbury Vacation Bible School <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tQ5s3EdYHA>

Special Youth Group "Shake it Up Café" July 15th & 22nd 6 PM – 8:30PM

Come learn God's Recipe for you at your own level.

Be leaders for our "Shake it Up Café" VBS July 25 – 29, 2011 at FBCM

Explore Kitchen Science and how it relates to God's recipe in your lives.

Youth entering grades 8 – 12 please join us for these two very special Fridays. They will include FOOD – Eating, making and experimenting with it! Games – to modify to your level! Rock music – help us come up with some motions that will work for you! Hands on missions – make it real.

For more Information Contact Joy Erickson 429-5524 or Tricia Baker 429-0673

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation...
2 Corinthians 5:17a

Board of Trustees

The Trustees held a Spring Work Day on Saturday, April 16th with 28 pairs of "Helping Hands". The saying "many hands make light work" certainly was demonstrated. There were 16 cub scouts and their parents from Pack 61, Troop 56 helping and with more than 12 Church Family members present. We were able to give the Church Kitchen a very thorough cleaning, removing everything from the cabinets and washing them inside and outside. The usual cleaning of the chandelier globes was done along with vacuuming the pew cushions and washing the pews and window sills in the Sanctuary. The Conference Room was sparkling clean by the end of the morning, the baseboards were cleaned and scuffs and smudges were removed. Outside Nils Setterberg kept the group hard at work shoveling gravel back from the winter plowing, sweeping the sand from the parking lot and general cleaning and picking up of debris from the winter. Bob and Sue Bauer spruced up the stone

bench area and put a finishing touch on the outside grounds.

The end of May the dynamic team of Setterberg & Spencer donned their painting gear and grabbed their brushes to paint the exterior of the

church. As time and weather permits these two dedicated workers can be found outside, up a ladder or on their knees with a bucket of paint, working their way around the church building. Be sure to give them both a big Thank You for all the hours they put in keeping our Church Home looking neat and tidy and making all the many small but very necessary repairs that keep things working in the Church.



Ladies Aid Society

The Ladies Aid had a joint meeting with members of the Social Committee on May 5th. It was a small group but we shared ideas and information and reviewed upcoming events.

Have you had a seat in the Conference Room lately? What a pleasure it is to take a seat in one of our new chairs! We were able to purchase forty grey frame folding chairs with burgundy cushion seats and backs, along with a storage rack on wheels. We have used the chairs at the Shepardson Party, various meetings and for the public supper. They look very nice and are extremely comfortable. The storage rack fits nicely in the room and makes setting up the room with chairs much

easier. We will continue to keep some of the brown plastic chairs in the Conference Room for use at more rough and tumble activities or when we think it might get a little messy. Thanks in advance for helping us take good care of our new chairs and for using them responsibly!

We are making progress in our goal of replacing the Narthex carpeting in the church. After consideration and comparison, we have chosen a good quality, industrial carpet that matches the colors in the Sanctuary. The carpet will soon be ordered and then we can arrange for an installation date.

Church Women United - Valiant Woman Award 2011

The following introduction was given for Lena when she was given this award at May Friendship Day, 2011. We are so proud to be blessed with Lena!!

Lena Barry has blessed more people in her life than the night sky has stars. In the 8th chapter of 2nd Corinthians, Paul commends the people at Corinth for excelling in everything – “in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the grace of giving.” This is a description of Lena Barry's life.

Lena and her handsome husband Phil, have four children, Doug, David, Dan and Patty (I don't know what happened to the 4th “D” but I personally think Patricia was an excellent name choice!) Their 9 grandchildren live mostly here in Connecticut – except for 3 renegades who live in California. Lena's legacy is greater than raising wonderful children, however, and those of us who are blessed to know her can testify to that.

Younger generations have always been important to Lena, even those that aren't Barrys. For many years she attended Camp Wightman's Grandparent's Camp, always taking one or two “grandchildren” with her. Once or twice they were even related to her!

Church Women United has been a part of Lena's life for many years. One of her passions has been the Scholarship Committee. Having been a nurse herself, Lena finds joy in the work of this committee, finding young women who are working toward becoming LPN's and blessing them with scholarships.

For many years, Lena served on the Board of Directors of Pierce Home, a facility started by American Baptists in CT which provides Assisted Living and nursing care for its residents. She also participated in a chaplaincy training program and spent many hours each week ministering to folks at Pierce Home.

In memory of her mother and her sister, Lena has, for many years, hosted the annual reception for the DAR Good Citizen Award Ceremony. She provides

the refreshments and many other touches which make the affair an elegant and lovely tribute to those being honored.

The American Cancer Society is another recipient of Lena's loving heart and energetic spirit. She takes on their daffodil drive in March, announcing the event, taking orders, picking up and delivering flowers, and personally giving daffodils to several cancer survivors she knows.

Lena is also a regular volunteer at WAIM work days and at the Covenant Soup Kitchen. She has been known to bring her grandchildren to help with the work at these important agencies, passing on her love of serving others to another generation of Barrys.

As a long time member of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield, Lena has served in nearly every possible capacity, FAR too many to enumerate here. Let it be enough said that Lena excels in the grace of giving of herself. For an unknown number of years she has taken responsibility for the White Cross program each year. She receives a list of needs from one of our sponsored agencies, then communicates and inspires people to give the requested items such as underwear, socks, dolls, toys, and school supplies. Once all the donations are in, Lena personally delivers everything to (most recently) Providence Neighborhood Ministries.

There are other ways she serves as well. You may not know that at FBCM, Lena is famous for her citrus punch, which she sacrificially provides for nearly every important event. Her theatrical talents are the stuff of legend, as she is always up for a part in the many dramas which punctuate the worship and fellowship at FBCM. She has even been known to lead a UCONN cheer or two – pom poms included! Lena also keeps an eye on the pastor, making sure he has a regular supply of chocolate to keep him fed in body and spirit.

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Award Recipients

Olivia Baker has recently received several awards in recognition of her volunteer efforts on behalf of WAIM and the fuel assistance fund. The first one was a citation from the State of Connecticut and Denise Merrill. The second one was the United Way Volunteer of the year award which she shared with

And the third one was the first annual Youth in Action award given out by Liberty Bank. The Volunteer of the year and Youth in Action awards both came with monetary gifts to WAIM. The picture is Olivia with Victoria Nimrowski, the director of WAIM.



Henry Bigl was recently announced a county winner for the 2011 CHET Dream Big! competition, sponsored by the State of Connecticut Treasurer's Office, TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing Inc. and CHET.

The CHET Dream Big competition was open to Connecticut students in grades Kindergarten (K) through five (5) and Henry was a winner in the 4th & 5th grade division.

The county winners were each awarded \$250 in a CHET collage savings account that was presented during an awards ceremony on May 18, 2011 at Rentschler Field in East Hartford, CT.



(Continued from page 8)

All of these things notwithstanding, Lena is best known for her tenacity in relationships. For instance, several years ago a young family from Ghana attended our church while studying at UCONN. The young mother, a nursing student, was so thankful when Lena would regularly go over to play with the preschooler or hold the baby so their mother could study and do other things young moms need to do. Although the family has moved to Ohio, Lena still keeps in touch and is a loving presence in their lives. This is not the only family for whom she does this. She is widely known for the cards she so faithfully sends to any and all. When the question comes up about how someone is doing who may have moved away or just hasn't been seen in awhile, the conversation always ends with, "Let's ask Lena. She will know."

The quiet joy with which Lena lives her life is evident in everything she does. Again in the words of the Apostle Paul: because she "excels in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the grace of giving" we honor and celebrate the extraordinary life of Lena Barry. She is truly a Valliant Woman. "Thanks be to God, for God's indescribable gift!"

Save the Date for...

Another Evening with Friends

Friday, September 30, 2011

At Central Baptist Church, Hartford

"Friends of ABCCONN" "Changing People's Lives"

ABC – USA Biennial in Puerto Rico

I am very, very grateful to my church family for giving me the opportunity to attend the ABC – USA Biennial in Puerto Rico June 24 – 26. It was a wonderful experience. I came away from my time with the broader ABC family very encouraged by our unity of faith and mission. The diversity of the worship and fellowship opportunities were also a wonderful blessing. This was especially the case in the Puerto Rican culture.

A highlight for me was attending the Puerto Rican Baptist Church of Palmer on Sunday morning. A school bus without air conditioning picked 18 of us up at the convention center and drove us 45 minutes outside of San Juan. The service lasted about two and a half hours and was all in Spanish. The pastor preached for an hour and a half. They had a translation system where they gave us ear phones and had a translator for us, but I found that a challenge to use. Afterward they gave us lunch and we were able to visit with many of the church members.

Morgan and I ran into each other maybe once a day. He was very busy with the youth delegate program. We were staying in the same hotel, but he had a second floor room with an ocean side view, and I had a ninth floor room with a street side view.

On Sunday afternoon I was walking the street by the hotel when I came across a Jazz concert in a park. There must have been maybe five hundred people sitting in lawn chairs and having a good time. It was beside the ocean and was a warm evening. I sat and enjoyed it myself for an hour until it was time to head to the convention center for the closing worship. That closing worship was so much more than just a good time. The music was great, and the preacher, an African American pastor from a thousand member church in Philadelphia, was truly inspiring. There were over two thousand people worshipping together that night. The two events seemed on the surface to be very much the same. There



was good music and good time with friends and family. But there was so much more to the worship service that made the other one seem hollow to me. That is the difference that God makes in our lives. Our relationship with God through Jesus gives our lives meaning, and purpose, and depth.

My time in Puerto Rico was a “good time”, but it was so much more and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to experience it. Thank you.

Pastor Ron

We had four graduates to celebrate with this year on Christian Ed Sunday.

- Beth Hocking graduated from the University of Pittsburgh. For the summer Beth will be home in Somers.
- Farida Mama graduated from UCONN and is currently living in Boston.
- Bibi Mama is graduated from E.O. Smith high school and will be attending Howard University in Washington D.C. in the fall.
- Evan Fulton also graduated from Smith and will be attending UCONN in the fall.

ABC – USA Biennial - Regional Youth Representative

I was chosen as one of two Youth Delegates from the state of Connecticut to this year's Biennial which was held in Puerto Rico. It was a wonderful experience, one that I will never forget. I was in a group of 28 youth delegates, also known as RYR's (Regional Youth Representatives). In the beginning I didn't know any of them, but by the end I had made many very good friends. We got to know each other and spent quite a bit of time together. We ate meals together, we went sightseeing together, and we worshiped together. We really did almost everything together, which only made the experience that much more meaningful.

At the Biennial we were voting on several things, some of which are more complicated than others. We voted on the usual, a new president, vice president, and budget advisor. But we also were amending the Bylaws. This was to help cut cost of running ABCUSA, and allow for more money to go to mission work instead of paying for people to get together and meet. It is very expensive to get all of the members of the board of directors and the people needed to make decisions together in one place to vote on something. The amendments were to make the number of people on the boards smaller, which would cut costs. They were also editing the Bylaws, so that next time they wouldn't have to spend so much time and money printing out so much paper for everyone. This is because everyone needed a hard copy to read over and approve the proposed changes.

The worship services were fantastic; the speakers were very motivational and inspirational. To quote one of the people who spoke at a worship service, "We are here [at the biennial] to recharge our Baptist Batteries." Mine were definitely "recharged" It

helped to remind me a little bit about how our church is just one of many, and even though we all do things differently, we can still act as one. We can still support each other even though we may be on the other side of the country. This also goes to show that we are not alone; I talked with several people who said that they have to sell their church building due to expenses. Other churches are having problems too, not just financial but also other problems. We aren't the only church that is struggling to find a way to accommodate the desire for a more contemporary worship service, with the more traditional ways we currently have.

Overall the Biennial was a fantastic experience and I thank all those who made it possible for me to go. It changed my life, and I hope to take the experiences that I had and apply them to my life back here. The lessons I have learned have helped to strengthen my resolve as a Christian, and my resolve to go out and do good in this world; and as they say in Puerto Rico, Tener un buen día. Have a good day.

Morgan Baker



Recent Weddings

Congratulations go out to Alison (Erickson) and Alex Pettigrew who were married on May 7th in a Medieval wedding festival celebration in a forest in Goshen Massachusetts.

Congratulations to John and Meghan Kloss who were married in Meghans home town of Central Valley, New York on May 28.

Live Green

As good stewards of God's creation, we must endeavor to be responsible with our wonderful world. *Live Green!* Is the updated version of REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE! Here at FBCM we take this to heart and once a year we have our annual tag sale. Our goals are to have as many people as possible benefit from this project. So...who will benefit this year?

All those who clean out a closet or shed or attic benefit because it has been proven that reducing the clutter and chaos of our lives has multiple health benefits. It feels good to look at a pile, or box or bin of once treasured items and decide: "It's got to go!" It gives a real sense of control over one's life. Everyone should try it!

The church benefits because the fellowship that we experience during the event is good for the health of the church! Once we get the tables set up and all the treasures arranged, we visit each other's tables and see what the offerings are this year! It also brings people to the church who might not have any other opportunity or reason to come! They get to see what a fun crowd we are!

WAIM benefits because everyone gives a suggested 10% or more of their profits to WAIM! Last year we raised \$500!

How does it work? If you would like to be part of the fun, call Tricia Baker to reserve a table. There is no charge for a space/table. We start setting up around 7 a.m. and advertise the sale for 8 a.m. to 12 Noon. (At 12:00 we clean up and get out, so there is still plenty of the day to enjoy!) Around 9 a.m. Pastor Ron usually makes a Dunkin' Donut run and gets sustenance for everyone.

Lots of treasures have been passed on at this event. Olivia Baker once purchased a lovely coral-colored bead necklace that she then wore in a series of family portraits. Every time she looks at those pictures she remembers the fun she had at the tag sale AND remembers the Geissler family she loves. One year, Emily Bigl scored a couple of bean bag chairs for her room in the perfect color!! Henry Bigl scored a set of mother and baby plastic giraffes for his (then) jungle themed bedroom. What fun!!

Fun and profit – you can't argue with that combination. For instance, for many years, Morgan and Olivia Baker have made over \$100 from their table? What could YOU do with an extra \$100? This is definitely a win-win church activity. If you didn't participate last year, maybe 2011 is your year! It will be on **LABOR DAY WEEKEND** (Sat) again. Keep it in mind. LIVE GREEN!!

Nursery Volunteers Needed

We NEED volunteers to assist in the church nursery!! We have 2 babies now (yea!!) and we need to have a second caregiver whenever there is a child under age 2 (or a non-walker) in with 3 or more older children. For instance, we often have 2-3 preschool aged children and 1 baby. When the 2nd baby is brought in, OR if there are more than 3 older children, we need a 2nd caregiver.

Usually we only need the volunteer after the Children's Sermon time through the end of the service. The paid staff person will do ALL the on-the-floor work, diaper changing, and any other labor intensive tasks.

The volunteer is there for safety and insurance in case of an emergency. Most often, the volunteer can sit in

the rocking chair and hold a baby, read to preschoolers or just be there to watch and enjoy the energy and fun. The paid staff person will do ALL the "work".

We are asking people to sign up to take an occasional turn at being available to participate in this ministry. What we would like is to have a schedule (like the Responsive Reader schedule) of people "On Call" for Baby Watch. Each person would know ahead of time what Sunday they will be "On Call". During that Sunday, they will be given instructions about when to go to the Nursery. If you have questions, please see Tricia Baker. If you are willing to give it a try, please see the sign up on the bulletin board in the Conference Room.

Communications Committee—Directory News

The Communications Committee is excited to announce the release of the new online church directory. We have been working to try to ensure that the directory contains correct info but have realized that by nature, the directory is constantly evolving and it will never be “done”. We are now turning to you, the members and friends of the church to help verify content. Please check for the accuracy of your family’s information as well as that of others you know. Because the directory is online, we will be able to make changes very easily. You can submit a change of address, phone number, e-mail and even submit a new photo anytime! The directory also has the ability to display birthdays (year optional) and designate individuals as members or non-members of the church.

You will be receiving an e-mail over the next few days with a link to the directory in PDF format. For security purposes the directory will be password protected but the password will NOT be given in the e-

mail message. You can obtain the password at church or by calling the church office. A password protected link to the PDF will also be posted on the church website.

Those who would like a printed copy can either print the directory themselves or request a printed copy and we will be happy to make one for you. We recommend that those who would like a printed copy wait until the end of August after the initial round of edits and corrections has been made.

To report additions, corrections or deletions, please e-mail directory@fbcmansfieldct.com or speak to any one of the Communications Committee members (Carol, Nancy, Susan or Bill).

Thank you for your patience and support during this transition!

Help Save the **BELLRINGER!!!!**

The life of the church newsletter is at stake. The newsletter takes time, effort and money to produce and the contributions of articles over the last few years have been on a steady decline.

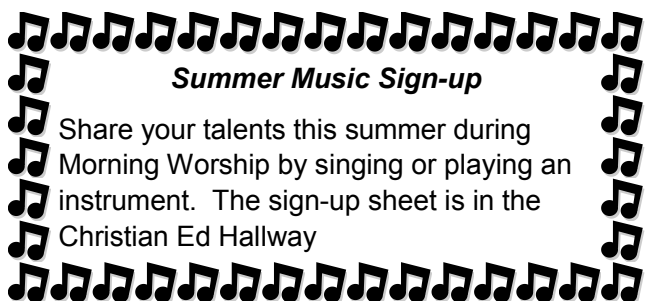
If you value the newsletter PLEASE make contributions!! It would be helpful if every **Board** and **Committee** designated a member to be responsible for submitting information to the newsletter. Please report your newsletter designate to the Communications Committee (Carol, Nancy, Susan or Bill) so that we know the proper person to contact for reminders and information. The newsletter has already been reduced from 6 to 4 issues annually and we're very close to reducing it to twice per year if we don't get more content. We have a very active, involved church and there is a lot going on that members and friends would love to read about. It's YOUR newsletter, and without YOUR input it cannot survive. PLEASE HELP!!!

Thanks to you the Connecticut Baptist Homes Stamp Program is fruitful!

This past month we made a delivery to the Stamp Dealer and \$400.50 has been added to the Connecticut Baptist Homes Sunday Chaplain Fund.

Your support is appreciated. Keep up the good work.

For our donations of stamps there is a basket on the table in the entrance of the sanctuary. Please continue to cut stamps.



Summer Music Sign-up

Share your talents this summer during Morning Worship by singing or playing an instrument. The sign-up sheet is in the Christian Ed Hallway

Youth Group

Youth Group is still meeting! The next meeting is Friday, July 15th, from 6:30 to 8:30. Everyone from entering 8th grade through high school is invited!!

Caption Contest—Just for Fun



"Rumor has it that the Pastor on Spring Hill preaches a rip, roaring, bear of a sermon every Sunday!"

"That Pastor can be a bear sometimes."

"For God so loved the world,' even bears...Amen"

"Why Pastor Ron, what big teeth you have!"

"Got honey"

"Teach those Bear Necessities!"

This sermon is unBearable"

"Pastor Ron was Bearly noticed during the sermon"

"No one dares goof off in this church"

"Sorry everyone I forgot to shave this morning"

"Please put your tithes, offerings and honey in the basket"

"I came to 'bear' witness"

"Send more missionaries! The last ones were delicious!"

Get Well Betty! Betty recently had successful hip replacement surgery at St. Francis Hospital. We will keep you updated on her progress. She would be very happy to be remembered in your prayers and to receive cards during her recovery.

UPCOMING SOUP KITCHEN DATES

Join us at the Covenant Soup Kitchen on **Friday, July 15th** and **Friday, August 19th** from 4:00-6:30 p.m. If you are unable to help please consider baking a dessert.

July
Happy Birthday!



July 1—Andrew Gradiner

July 2—Karen Peters

July 4—Martha Davis

July 7—Dana Yanaway

July 8—Kristin Geissler

July 8—Ellie Trainor

July 15—Kendall Barry

July 16—Joy Erickson

July 18—Erin Flynn

July 19—Jill Stedman-Myette

July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <i>Youth Mission Trip</i>	4 <i>Youth Mission Trip</i>	5 <i>Youth Mission Trip</i>	6 <i>Youth Mission Trip</i>	7 <i>Youth Mission Trip</i>	8 <i>Youth Mission Trip</i>	9
10 <i>Trustees Mtg. 12:30</i>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 <i>VBS Registration</i>	18	19	20 <i>Deacons Mtg. 6pm</i>	21	22	23
24	25 <i>VBS</i>	26 <i>VBS</i>	27 <i>VBS</i>	28 <i>VBS</i>	29 <i>VBS</i>	30
31						



AUGUST
Happy
Birthday!

Aug 1—Kathryn Haggan
Aug 4—Rachel Sherman
Aug 6—Sam Shepardson
Aug 10—Emily Grace Bigl
Aug 15—Laurie Gilman
Aug 17—Elizabeth Hocking
Aug 18—Ethan Fulton
Aug 18—John Riesen
Aug 21—Olivia Baker
Aug 21—Julie Nicholson
Aug 21—Dick Smith
Aug 23—David Stevens
Aug 23—Emily Whitehead
Aug 24—Susan Bauer
Aug 25—Warren Austin

September
Happy
Birthday!



Sept 1—Farida Mama
Sept 3—William Hocking
Sept 4—Frances Nichols
Sept 4—Maggie Watson
Sept 6—Meredith Lindsey
Sept 8—Kolby Haggan
Sept 8—David Hooper
Sept 10—Ed Austin
Sept 10—Rebecca Figueroa
Sept 13—Lena Barry

August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Trustees</i> <i>Mtg. 12:30</i> <i>pm</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 <i>Christian</i> <i>Ed Mtg. 7pm</i>	25 <i>PRC</i>	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Music</i> <i>Comm.</i> <i>Mtg. 6:30</i>	2	3 <i>WAIM</i> <i>Tag Sale 8-12</i>
4	5 <i>Labor Day</i>	6	7	8 <i>Music</i> <i>Comm.</i> <i>Mtg. 6:30</i>	9	10 <i>Fall</i> <i>Work day 8-12</i>
11 <i>Rally Day</i> <i>Newsletter deadline</i> <i>Festival on the Green</i>	12	13	14	15 <i>Music</i> <i>Comm.</i> <i>Mtg. 6:30</i>	16	17
18 <i>Ladies Aid</i> <i>Crisp Sale</i> <i>Trustees Mtg 12:30</i>	19	20	21	22 <i>Music</i> <i>Comm.</i> <i>Mtg. 6:30</i>	23	24 <i>ABW</i> <i>Retreat</i>
25	26	27	28	29 <i>Music</i> <i>Comm.</i> <i>Mtg. 6:30</i> <i>pm Choir</i>	30 <i>Friends</i> <i>ABCONN @</i> <i>Central</i> <i>Baptist</i>	



Dates to Remember

July 3-8 Youth Mission Trip

July 10—Trustees Meeting @ 12:30

July 17—VBS Registration

July 20—Deacons Meeting @ 6pm

July 25-29 Vacation Bible School

August 14—Trustees Meeting @ 12:30

August 24—Christian Ed Meeting @ 7pm

August 25—PRC meeting

Sept. 1—Music Comm mtg @ 6:30 pm

Sept. 3—WAIM Tag sale 8-12

Sept. 8—Music Comm mtg @ 6:30 pm

Sept. 10—Fall Work Day 8-12

Sept. 11—Rally Day

Sept. 11—Newsletter Deadline

Sept. 11—Festival on the green

Sept. 15—Music Comm mtg @ 6:30 pm

Sept. 18—Ladies Aid Crisp Sale

Sept. 18—Trustees Mtg. @ 12:30

Sept. 22—Music Comm mtg @ 6:30 pm

Sept. 24—ABW Retreat

Sept. 29—Music Comm mtg @ 6:30 pm

Sept. 30—Friends of ABCONN at Central Baptist



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MANSFIELD

945 Storrs Road, Storrs, CT 06268

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.fbcmansfieldct.com

Summer Worship Service – 10:00 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