



The Bellringer

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First Baptist Church of Mansfield

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Dr. Doug Whittemore will be serving on a medical mission trip in Bomet, Kenya from October 9th through November 5th. He will be working at Tenwek Hospital. Tenwek is a 300 bed hospital with a wide range of surgical, medical, maternity and pediatric services. Tenwek hospital is one of the largest mission hospitals in Africa and is located 225 miles Northwest of Nairobi and 5 miles East of Bomet. Tenwek provides primary health care to 600,000 Kipsigis people within a 32 kilometer radius and serves as a referral center for a much larger region. Support services include a laboratory, diagnostic imaging, a pharmacy and physical therapy. The hospital has a nursing school and its community health program serves as a model throughout the developing world.

Although English and Swahili are the official languages of Kenya, Swahili and local tribal dialects are spoken most of the time. Tenwek's front gate speaks for mission hospitals everywhere by boldly proclaiming to all, "We treat, Jesus heals."

It is important for our Congregation to support Dr. Doug Whittemore during his mission trip. Here are a few ways in which we can help him. We can pray for him on a daily basis. We can encourage him by keeping in touch with him through cards, letters and emails.

Doug can be reached through email at tenwekguests@tenwek.com (please put Doug's first and last name in the subject field so that he can identify that the email is for him since this is a general website. Also, cards and letters can be sent to the following address: Tenwek Hospital, Bomet, Kenya.

We can honor him as he goes to spread the Gospel. Also, we can support him with financial gifts as he is sacrificing financially to bring physical and spiritual healing to many.



First Baptist Church of Mansfield

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

This past Sunday as the sermon time approached I felt Spirit led to try something different and opened up a dialogue about the economic crisis our country and world is facing. We hear a lot on the news about bankruptcies, and layoffs, and stock market drops, and money figures so large that we can not comprehend them. I wanted to hear from our church family about how the crisis is personally affecting them. Here are some of the things I heard. People in our congregation do know others who have lost their jobs, some are family members and others are friends. We do know some who are looking for jobs but having a very difficult time of it. There are a few college students who are concerned about entering the current job market after they graduate this year. I heard there is a "job freeze" in place at UCONN. There is also a "Travel freeze" for some professors and programs at the University, and at least one program has folded due to this. There is one who is concerned that her father's company may not make it and at the very least his retirement will be affected. That issue of people having to now postpone retirement indefinitely was also raised by another person. Someone mentioned feeling badly about people losing their homes, but no one said that anyone they knew had been foreclosed. The price of gas has forced several to cut back on travel. This has affected the home schooling community too. Other families have had to cut back spending in other areas such as entertainment and eating out as well. Some are concerned about the rising cost of food. Some fear that charities like WAIM, the Soup Kitchen, the Walk for Warmth, and the Relay for Life will suffer. It was mentioned that the third quarter giving to our church is way down compared to years past. We were also reminded that we should not miss the blessings God sends our way even in these difficult times.

The Newsweek magazine just arrived on my desk this morning and the cover is a striking bright yellow color without a picture, only three words; The Bright Side. I like it. I have not read the article yet so I do not know exactly what bright side they are talking about, but I know that we are a people of faith and with faith there IS a bright side. With God there is always a bright side. Even when we can only see the shadows that are created by the bright side, there is still a bright side.

Paul Tillich was a German Theologian who was exiled to America after World War II. He wrote The Shaking of the Foundations three years after the war. In it he reminds us to

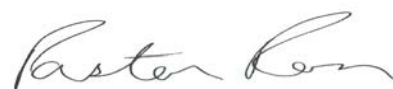
"focus appropriate attention on two orders; one human – the order of history, and the other divine – the order of the eternal. Products of both we are met with two possible directions, two choices that confront us just as they have confronted all people throughout every period of history. After the foundations of this place and all places begin to crumble, only two alternatives remain, despair, which is the certainty of eternal destruction, or faith which is the certainty of eternal salvation."

During this economic crisis it may feel like foundations have been shaken; and they have been. But our faith placed in God is grounded on a foundation mightier than any earthly foundation that has ever existed.

"From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge..." Psalm 62 : 2 – 3

That rock is not only a solid place, but a bright place too.

Standing with you on the Rock.



Board of Trustees

The Trustees would like to share some concerning news about the Church finances. The average giving for the past month and the weekly budgeted amount have been printed in the bulletin each week. These figures are difficult to interpret because the giving to the Church tends to fluctuate from month to month and is generally higher at the beginning and the end of the year. There is a definite shortfall in the Church's income compared to expenses. The giving to the general fund for the first three quarters of 2008 is \$10,000 less than for the first three quarters of 2007. Please keep the Church in your prayers as we deal with this significant shortfall.

The Trustees have been working on

preparing two grant applications, one to the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism for Historic Restoration Fund Grant and the second to the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation for an Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grant. If we are successful in being awarded these grants they will be used to fund the restoration to the south wall of the sanctuary and the sanctuary roof.

Lock up responsibilities are as follows:

Trustees on Lock-Up

October—Nancy Flynn

November—Laura Austin

December—Bob Gardiner

January—John Riesen

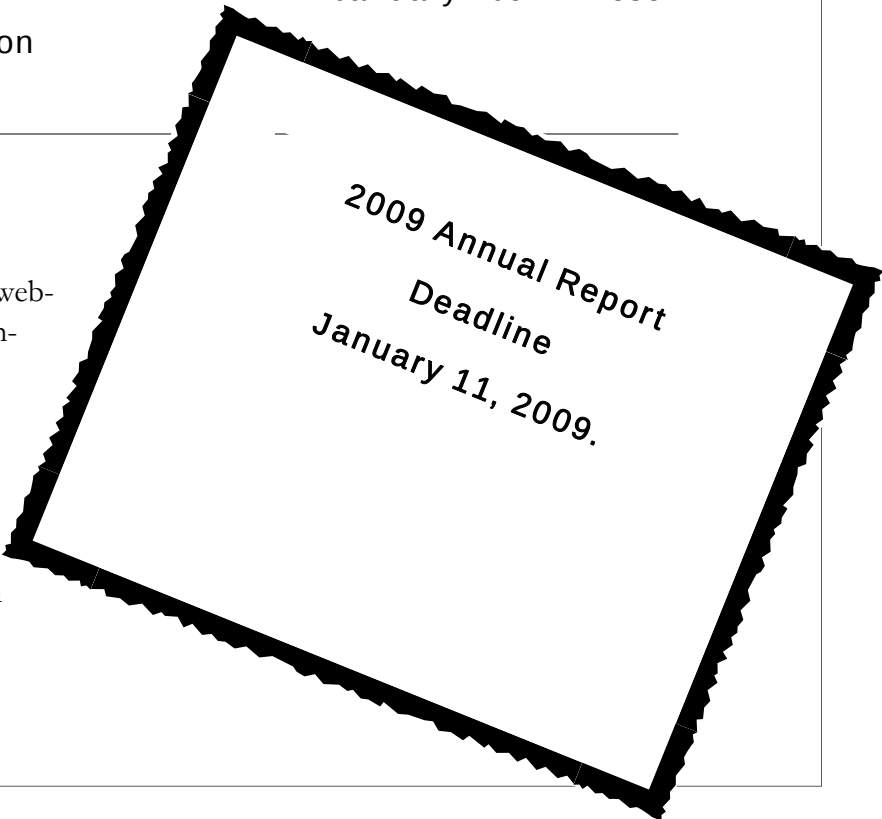
Communications Committee

Do you have some fresh ideas for the church website? Please contact the Communications Committee with your suggestions.

Email us at: bellringer@fbcmansfieldct.com

BELLRINGER Deadlines for 2008

Dec/Jan/Feb Issue ————— November 30th



2009 Annual Report
Deadline
January 11, 2009.

Church Women United

The Greater Willimantic United of Church Women United Sponsors The World Community Day Interfaith Service/Celebration.

Sunday, November 2, 2008
4:00 p.m.

Temple Bnai Israel
345 Jackson Street, Willimantic

Participate from the Jewish, Islamic and Christian tradition and faiths call us to Prayer at 4:00 p.m. An interfaith panel moderated by Father Larry LaPointe, campus Minister at Eastern Ct. State University, will include Sister Mary Jude from

Hispanic Inglesia del Sagrado Corazon Church, Louise Wright from the Storrs Congregational Church, Lina Stass, Syrian graduate student at the Hartford Seminary and Rabbi Jeremy Schwartz of Temple Bnai Israel.

Family and friends are welcomed to join church Women United in this celebration of faith.

Northeast Association of American Baptist Churches

The Northeast Association of American Baptist Churches held their Annual Meeting at First Baptist on September 28th, 3:00 p.m. This was an afternoon of fellowship which included roll call of churches and reports, election of officers and site for next year's meeting, special music from the women's choir of First Baptist, guest speaker Richard Cossette who works with International Students coming to this country for college and a great light supper prepared by our Ladies Aid.

The new officers are:

Moderator: Rev. Robert Beckwith

Vice Moderator: Laura Austin

Secretary: Christie Bourquin

Treasurer: Hazel Froehlich

During the business meeting a motion was made to donate \$1,000 as soon as possible to ABCONN. This motion was passed enthusiastically.

Ladies Aid Society

It was with great pleasure that we hosted the dinner after the Northeast Association meeting that was held at our church on September 28th. When the request for help went out, so many of you responded! We served a very delicious meal of hearty soups, and sandwiches with apple crisp for dessert. A big thank you to you all and especially Charles, Lee, Lena, Faith, Ginny, Alyssa, Nancy, Tricia, Jill, Ed, Patty, Nancy, Sam, Bob, and Ellie.

Our annual **Butter Braid Sale** began on October 12th. We are selling Butter Braids and Classic Cookie Dough Breaks in many delicious flavors. Individual order forms are available if you would like to invite neighbors, friends and co-workers to make purchases. If you would like to order for yourself you may sign up for your items on the church form on the conference room bulletin

board. The delivery date is set for Saturday, November 15th at 9:30 am. We appreciate your assistance with this sale as this has become one of our most important fund raisers. Please speak with Patty if you have any questions.

Recipes, recipes, recipes....we have been asking you to share your favorites for quite some time now. The deadline for submissions is now quickly approaching. If you have a special food that you like to make and folks like to eat, please share the recipe with us. We would love to hear where the recipe came from, why it is special, or something about the person who made it so deliciously.

Please share two, or three or four or more recipes with Nancy Flynn or Jill Stedman-Myette by Sunday, September, 9th.

Dear Members and Friends:

The call to give comes regularly in church life: annual stewardship drives, special holiday events, youth mission trips and local projects. Each giving opportunity challenges us anew to comprehend the importance of our participation, and to see past numbers and amounts to the practice of praise inherent in the act of giving.

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,” says the writer of Hebrews to the community of faith. The call was personal, a reminder that our *actions* as Christians speak more loudly than our words and worship services. God desires our participation in the lives of others, an expectation made even more pointedly by Jesus when he tells his followers, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matt 25:40, NRSV)

Of course, the ‘least of these’ don’t just live in our community anymore. As our world grows smaller, our lives intersect with so many more lives than they once did — and God’s call to share what we have encompasses more people. The people fleeing violence in Sudan, suffering from AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, reeling from devastation in Indonesia, starving in poverty in India — we are called to make a difference in these lives, too. One Great Hour of Sharing makes

that possible.

One Great Hour of Sharing

- helps rebuild communities ravaged by natural disasters;
- creates sustainable sources of income for rural villages;
- provides micro-credit to women to start poverty-escaping businesses;
- teaches trades and job skills;
- offers children a chance to survive past the age of 5 and go to school,
- and much more.

Doing good and sharing what we have gladdens the heart of God, who promises that those who respond, “shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.” (Isa 58:11, NRSV) We will be participating in One Great Hour of Sharing and dedicating our offering October 26, 2008. Help our congregation experience the joy of showing and sharing God’s love — offering a hand to that stranger in need, and making a difference in the lives of God’s children around the world.

Sincerely,

The Missions Committee



The Radical Servants

The Radical Servants youth group met on Friday for Praise the Lord night. We had a fantastic time eating pumpkin whoopee pies and meatballs, playing human Foosball with glow in the dark sticks and a quick game outside for capture the flag glow in the dark style. We had a great time praying with one another and singing some songs together.

Our contest involving dressing something biblical was very creative I can not say how thrilled I was with the work that went into the costumes. I will be updating the pictures on the board for all to see, they are something definitely not to miss. Again congratulations to the first prize winner, Sam Figueroa, being the Burning bush.

Until the next time,

Rose Nilson



Sunday School News

The Sunday School Will be taking a Christmas break for Christmas.



There will be **no Sunday School December 28th.** We will *resume Sunday School on January 3, 2009.*

Do You Love to Read?

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

Thanks so much - Karen Hocking

Advent Event Sunday November 30th



The Advent will take place on November 30th following the morning worship. Everyone should bring a sandwich with beverages and desert provided. We will be making crafts for the family, our tree and something special for those folks we visit while caroling later in the season. Come and decorate cookies, make crafts, sing carols and welcome in the Advent season. We will help make decorations and last minutes touches for our Christmas Musical, fill boxes with snacks and warm wishes for our college students and decorated a tree in the conference room. Please join us for

Save the date!

The musical “**Radio J-O-Y**” will be presented during morning Worship on **Sunday, December 7th**. (snow date Friday, December, 19th) This delightful Christmas musical retells the nativity story through songs and stories of those who shared in the glorious event of Christ’s birth.



Radio studio “J-O-Y” sets the stage where a local youth choir and their Pastor present the Christmas story while being interviewed by disc jockey celebrity “Dee Jay”.

Throughout the on-air show, characters from the Christmas story share how their lives were touched by the Savior’s birth while entertaining radio reporters intersperse breaking news stories that coincidentally mirror the events of the very first Christmas!

White Cross

Tis that time of the year when the Emma Gardiner Missionary Society needs your help as they promote their request giving for overland mission!

This year our supplies will once again be going to the South Providence Neighborhood Ministries.

Please keep an eye out for the large White Cross which will be displayed in the conference room beginning on **Sunday, October 19th**. Individual crosses will note what is needed. Donations can be placed on a table in the Conference Room and should be there by **November 23, 2008**.

Thank you for these gifts!

The Emma Gardiner Ladies

Fall Business Meeting
Sunday, October 26, 2008

Obituary

Cole, Ruth Ann Stoddard

September 30, 2008

Ruth Ann Stoddard Cole, devoted wife of Robert P. Cole of Madison died September 30, 2008. Born in Holyoke, MA on April 30, 1937, daughter of Elizabeth Stoddard of Southington, and the late Leon Stoddard. She was the loving mother of Edward Cole of Phoenixville, PA, David Cole of Prince George, VA, Timothy Cole of Westbrook, and Jonathan Cole of Columbia, MO. She is also survived by her siblings, Marian Stoddard of Sonoita, AZ, Katherine Altamus of Southington, David Stoddard of Richmond, ME and Melissa Lafko of Orlando, FL, and five grandchildren. She was predeceased by her brother, Leon Stoddard. She graduated from Hall High School in West Hartford, and attended the Holyoke Hospital School of Nursing. She worked as a rural carrier for the US Postal Service. She was a committed Christian, and a 13 year breast cancer survivor.

A Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday, October 7, at 10 a.m. in the Guilford Funeral Home, 115 Church Street, Guilford. Interment will be in Fairview Cemetery, West Hartford. Donations in Ruth's memory may be made to Gideons International, PO Box 4011, Madison, CT 06443; Middlesex Hospice, 28 Crescent St, Middletown, CT 06457 or CT Hospice, 100 Double Beach Rd, Branford, CT 06405. www.GuilfordFuneralHome.com

Church Family News

Hi to everyone,

I have received some wonderful letters that I will try and write back to all of you wonderful people. I would like to start by thanking each and every one of you for corresponding with me here in Kuwait. It is so nice to hear from every one, to share your lives with me while I am here.

Here in Kuwait it is very different then home, I am glad I did not ring my axe with me, for there is not a tree to be seen. It is very hot here, when we got here three months ago it was a cool 135 degrees F not some thing I was used to by any means. As time passes it is cooling down a little. The desert is what it is sand, dry, and full of all kinds of life. Nature can put creatures every whereas in the world and they will find a way to live.

It is about two miles to where I work and the work day is twelve hours long seven days a week. Sometimes when the boss kicks us out early, once in a great while, you go as fast as your legs take you and a thank you as you go threw the door. You do your job the best you can and feel good that the missions are getting done.

I guess for most, they really hate this place, I will try and do my best to not go there with them. I get out and ride on a bicycle, that one of the civilians let me have; it really helps to give me wind down time and also the freedom to be by myself. Here at camp ARI-FAN we have any and all here. In different zones there are different shops coffee, subway, starbucks, hardys, baskets and robins 31 flavors. I really try to make the best of it. For it is what we have, more then I ever dreamed of. I also can walk just about any place I please that is if time permits.

Well once more I wish to thank you all for

thinking of the one that is away from home. I can't tell you how it feels when the mail is called out and you hear your name!!!

Respectfully,

Love to all the Baptist Family

Charles Larkins

Congratulations Doctor Raouf Mama and his family! He has been named the recipient of the 2008 Multicultural Children's Publication Award by the National Association for Multicultural Education. We congratulate him on his award winning book, "Why Monkeys Live in Trees and Other Stories From Benin". He will receive the honor at NAME's National conference in New Orleans on **November 15th**. We know his family is proud of his accomplishments and so are we as his church family.

Raouf's other books are "Why Goats Smell Bad and Other Stories from Benin", "The Bare Foot Book of Tropical Tales" and "Pearls of Wisdom!"

There is a unique way to support Doug on his mission trip thanks to David Stevens and Wendy's. From now until December 1st, if you purchase a \$5 pack of Wendy's gift certificates, \$2 will be donated towards Doug's mission. You may purchase as many as you want, and for each \$5 you spend, \$2 will be donated. Please see Pastor Ron or David for details.



American Baptist Women's Ministries of Connecticut Hartford Association

November 16, 2008 at 3PM

House Warming Party for Karen Refugees

Central Baptist Church

457 Main Street, Hartford, CT

Bring a friendly smile and a tray of cookies.

- Dishes, kitchen utensils, serving spoons, measuring cups and spoons, timers, pots and pans, rice cookers, can openers
- Sheets, blankets, pillows, pillow cases, towels
- Laundry basket, detergent, bath soap, shampoo

Rev. Linda Lea Snyder will be showing slides from her sabbatical trip to Burma, followed by singing and light refreshments.



"A WHOLE NEW DAY"

Speaker—*Rev. Paula Alexander*

FALL RETREAT

American Baptist Women's Ministries of Connecticut

Saturday, November 8, 2008

Camp Wightman, Griswold, CT

Be filled with the spirit as we delve deeper into wholeness with the divine, centered in a personal relationship with God.

New this year! Bring your gently used hard cover and paperback books for a FREE book swap. Trade in those books you love (but will never get around to reading again) - and take home new favorites.

If you would like to help shower Karen refugees with household goods but can't make it to the Sunday, November 16 event at Central Baptist Church (Hartford) - bring them to Retreat and we will transport them to the party.

REGISTRATION and COFFEE at 8:30am

Program starts at 9am, concludes at 3pm

The cost is \$25

Registration Deadline: October 24, 2008

Contact Edie Castagno 16 Coolidge Street, Hartford, CT 06106 (860) 548-0290

Ladies from the First Baptist Church of Mansfield will carpool on Saturday! Phone Lena Barry at 429-4431.

October 2008

October Birthdays!

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Deacon: - Pete Bradshaw Trustee: - Nancy Flynn			1	2	3	4
5 Church Plan- ning Meeting	6	7 EGMS 2:00	8	9	10	11 Girl Scout Health Expo.
12 Butterbraid Sale Newsletter Deadline	13	14	15	16	17	18 Discipleship Fair
19 Soup Kitchen Pastoral Rel. Comm.	20	21	22	23	24 <i>French Dinner 5-9pm</i>	25
26 Quarterly Business Mtg Women's Bible Study 5:30-7:30 Camp Wight- man Farewell	27	28	29 Deacons 7:30	30	31	

November 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Deacon: - Bill Hocking Trustee: - Laura Austin						1
2 <i>Butterbraid ends WBS 5:30-7:30 Christian Ed Mtg</i>	3	4 <i>EGMS 2:00</i>	5 <i>Adult Choir 7:30</i>	6	7	8
9 <i>Trustees WBS 5:30-7:30</i>	10	11	12 <i>Adult Choir 7:30</i>	13	14 <i>Mansfield Historical Soci- ety Prog 6-9:30</i>	15 <i>Butterbraid pickup</i>
16 <i>Soup Kitchen Collection WBS 5:30-7:30 Walk for Warmth</i>	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 <i>Youth Choir Musical Rehearsal</i>
30 <i>Winter Newsletter Deadline Advent Event</i>						



November Birthdays

November 2—Peg Barlow
 November 4—Karleen Donato
 November 8—Brian Nilson
 November 9—Ashley Hooper
 November 10—Andrew Noznick
 November 10—Kyle Whitehead
 November 11—Hazel Rubins
 November 12—Kyra Whitehead
 November 13—Clare Flynn
 November 15—Dottie Rose Gilliam
 November 15—Allyson Austin
 November 18—Prescott Spencer
 November 20—Jordan Gardiner
 November 20—Matthew Hocking
 November 20—Sarah Hocking
 November 26—Becky Austin



Dates to Remember

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Oct. 26—Quarterly Meeting | Nov. 16—Walk for Warmth |
| Oct. 26—Women's Bible Study | Nov. 16—Soup Kitchen Collection |
| Oct. 26—Camp Wightman Farewell | Nov. 16—Women's Bible Study |
| Oct. 29—Deacons Meeting | Nov. 29—Youth Choir Musical Rehearsal |
| Nov. 2—Butterbraid Sale Ends | Nov. 30—Advent Event |
| Nov. 2—Christian Ed Meeting | Nov. 30—Winter Newsletter Deadline |
| Nov. 4—EGMS | |
| Nov. 5—Adult Choir | |
| Nov. 9—Trustees Meeting | |
| Nov. 9—Women's Bible Study | |
| Nov. 12—Adult Choir | |
| Nov. 14—Mansfield Historical Society Program | |
| Nov. 15—Butterbraid Pickup | |



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