

The Bellringer

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We Raised the ROOF!

Our congregation gathered together on Sunday, February 12th to celebrate the successful completion of our Raise the Roof Campaign. Thirty of us gathered in the conference room after church to share an amazing array of delicious pot luck lunch items. We relaxed and socialized while we ate. It was a very happy occasion - to think that the necessary funds to pay for our new roof had been raised in less than a year.

After our meal, Nancy Flynn, chair of the raise the Roof Committee, shared a timeline and photos of Raise the Roof activities and how the fund had grown to meet our goal. Members, friends, businesses and members of the Roof Raising Committee were recognized for

their contributions to the campaign.

March 18th was a sunny, warm and beautiful Sunday. After worship we all gathered on the front lawn to watch members of the Raise the Roof Committee



paint the remainder of the church roof and the thermometer on our Raise the Roof sign. We sang and clapped and each had an opportunity to take a small gold shingle as a symbol of a job well done and answered prayer. What an accomplishment! It is wonderful to have a new and sturdy roof over our sanctuary. We are truly thankful for all the support we received in this endeavor. God is Good all the time and all the time God is Good!!



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First Baptist Church of Mansfield
- Established 1809 -
A Word from the Pastor

I recently read an article on line that was titled "The 10 Most Beautiful Sunrises in the World". I checked out the pictures, and "They" are right in that these are beautiful sunrises. But, I'm not completely sold that they are the most beautiful sunrises in the world. Of course you would expect places like Fiji, and Hawaii, and Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania to have beautiful sunrises. Just the names themselves conjure up beautiful, exotic images of oceans and palm trees. Some of the other places were Peru, Cambodia, Egypt, England, Norway, Mexico, and the Grand Canyon. The only places on that list where I personally have seen sunrises (or maybe sunsets) are Mexico and the Grand Canyon. I think you could add a thousand other places to that list, however then it would not be the top 10, but rather the top 1010, and who would have time to look at all of those?

I have seen beautiful sunrises in places like Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Philippi, West Virginia, Hartford, Connecticut, and Storrs too, but who would put them on the list of the top 10 **in the world**? Well, I would. In fact just in the last week I saw several beautiful sunrises, ones just as pretty as the pictures from Fiji or Tanzania, and they were right in my back yard. If you stand in just the right spot behind the far shed in our yard, and look to the left of the UCONN barn next door, you might think you are standing in Fiji or Norway as the sun rises. OK so it is easier to imagine Norway on the cold mornings than it is Fiji on the warm ones, but it is still incredibly beautiful. Sometimes I really do wish I were standing in Egypt or Peru, but if I can stop myself for even a few moments and think thankful thoughts, count my blessings, and just be grateful, I can appreciate the beauty of the moment in the place

where I find myself, wherever that may be.

Every sunrise is truly a gift. Remember Psalm 118:24..."This is the day...this is the day...this is the day that the Lord has made, that our Lord has made; let us rejoice...we will rejoice, and be glad in it...and be glad in it." The next sunrise or sunset you see, wherever you might be, give thanks to God.

While I was visiting with my sister on the phone the other night we discussed her plans to come visit us over Easter this year. She asked what we do for Easter and I told her we always start the day with the sunrise service on the front lawn of the church. She said, "O, well maybe we can join you for that, I have never gone to a church service at sunrise before. It sounds kind of neat." She is right. In fact it is more than neat; it is a very unique spiritual experience, even if the clouds hide the sun that morning. If you have never attended, come out and join us. Sunrise is at 6:18 this year, so we will start a little bit before then. Our church is hosting the breakfast this year and the Board of Christian Ed. is organizing that. We will not have Sunday School on that day, and Easter Worship will start at 10:45. The Thursday before Easter we will have a Maundy Thursday Worship starting at 7:00PM.

May God bless you this Holy Easter season.



Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons started the New Year by welcoming three new members to the board. Denise Keane, Bill Hocking and David Stevens joined Tricia Baker, Jennifer Bradshaw, Judy Conland, Bob Erickson, Patty Geissler and Terry Yanaway in serving the church as deacons. The group is joined by Pastor Ron Baker and meets the Tuesday night of each month before communion Sunday.

We each have members and friends of the church who are assigned to us as a flock. We will love, care and pray for the folks in our flock and are available for anyone who has a concern or need. The list of Deacon's and their flocks will be posted on the bulletin board in the Christian Education wing.

As a spiritual growth opportunity, we decided to participate in a group book read. We have begun reading *Velvet Elvis* by Rob Bell. We will incorporate time at each of our meetings to discuss our reading and share thoughts, opinions and questions.

Spotlight on our New Member

Charlotte Hebert met with the Board to discuss church membership and was extended the Right Hand of Fellowship during the service on February 4th. Charlotte met Pastor Ron, and became acquainted with our church, when he officiated at the funeral service of Charlotte's husband in May of 2011. Charlotte and her family were very pleased with the service and were impressed with our Pastor. She thought that she would like to come to our church. She attended on a few Sundays and then jumped right in to lend a helping hand at our Roof Raising Strawberry Supper. We are very pleased to have her as a member of our congregation.

Charlotte was born in Fall River, MA and grew up in neighboring Somerset. She has two children and three step children who have combined to make her the very proud grandmother of seven. Her grandchildren range in age from seventeen to four year old twins. Charlotte loves to spend time with her family. She enjoys hosting meals at her home for the family in CT and Skype's with her granddaughter in CA. She frequently visits

her ninety -three year old mom, who resides in MA.

Charlotte works part time at a local real estate agency. She likes to read and is a regular visitor to her local library. She also enjoys gardening and was a sewer.

Charlotte has quickly become involved in the life of our church by becoming a member of the Flower Committee, supervising the church nursery, and participating in the Ladies Aid. She has a strong faith, has a kind and friendly spirit and is always willing to help.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Charlotte into our church family.

Noah's Pudding

Every fall, Pastor Ron hosts a UCONN World Religions class. The students (usually foreign) come to our church on a weekday and spend an hour learning about our faith traditions and asking questions. Last year, Pastor Ron met two Muslim women who were especially friendly and appreciative of his time. Sometime after the class met with him, Feyza and Tuba called Pastor Ron and invited him to attend a celebration at the Turkish Cultural Center in E. Hartford to share what they called "NOAH'S PUD-DING". He was unable to attend, so they asked if they could come to our church and bring Noah's Pudding to share with us!

So on February 26, a group of 5 Muslim women came to our church right after our Morning Worship. About 30 people from our congregation

stayed to welcome them and enjoy this Muslim dish. It is called Noah's pudding because in their tradition, when Noah and his family stepped off the Ark, they took whatever they could find growing or had on hand and put it together into a celebratory dish. Though it probably wasn't exactly like what we were given, the principle of mixing many different kinds of food that wouldn't normally be eaten together (dried peas, len-



tils, rice, raisins, nuts, beans, dried fruit, etc.) was the same. They mixed them with plenty of sugar and made a pudding type dish that is eaten cold. The Muslim tradition is that this dish must be shared with others (usually neighbors).

We had a very lovely hour of fellowship with these women (and two men who came later) as they explained the origin of this custom. They then were very gracious and answered many, many questions about their faith and culture. It was such a wonderful experience and most of us were very pleasantly surprised to find the "Pudding" quite delicious!! After most people had gone, I was standing talking with our guests. I realized they were looking longingly at the puddings that were left. I encouraged them to have some. They were a bit sheepish at first but with some nods, gave each other permission to take some. Their eyes shone as they admitted how much they love and look forward to it each year. They had been quite patient in waiting until we had all had what we wanted before taking some themselves. This wonderful interfaith experience showed that we really have many things in common. What a wonderful gift to us!

Meal Makers

There are so many ways to minister to others. We are pleased with the opportunities available here at FBCM to make a difference in someone's life as we live out our faith. One opportunity you may not be aware of is the MEAL MAKER LIST. This is a list of people who are willing to be called when we have a family/person among us who is either sick, had a death in the family, or has experienced some other difficulty and is in need of a little comfort. One way we do that is by providing meals. Sometimes it is a one-time thing, and sometimes we may provide meals for several days.

The Deacons coordinate this ministry and are looking for people who are willing to be called when someone has a need for a meal. Those on the list have expressed only their willingness to be called with the freedom to say no, should it be bad timing for any reason. There is no commitment aside from being willing to consider helping if you are able. Sometimes people will work together to provide a meal (i.e. "Hey, how about if I provide a casserole and you make/provide a cake! (or a salad, or bread or...?) Things don't

have to be homemade - just provided with love. We have a system for getting the food delivered so that doesn't even have to be a problem.

If you are interested in being on the "MEAL MAKER LIST" please let Tricia Baker or one of the Deacons know. **There is also a SIGN UP SHEET on the Bulletin Board in the Conference Room.**

Upcoming Events:

The **Wednesday Bible Study** has resumed. You are invited to a study of Proverbs in the church office on Wednesdays from 1pm to 2pm.

Join us for a **Fellowship Pot Luck Lunch** on Sunday, April 1. No meeting, no agenda....just a time to visit and enjoy each other's company. Bring a dish to share; an old family favorite or a new recipe you would like to try. If you would like to attend, please sign up on the Conference Room bulletin board.

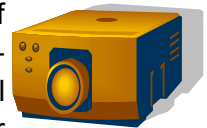
Maundy Thursday Service will begin at 7 pm on April 5th.

The sun will rise at 6:18 am on **Easter Sunday**. Join us for the early service, which will be followed by breakfast at our church.

Video Projector Committee

Progress report from the Projector Committee

In addition to completing the installation of the screen, the Projector Committee has completed an extensive review of possible projectors and decided on the one we feel best meets the needs of our church. It has been ordered and the committee is now focusing on the mounting system. We expect that by the next newsletter the projector will be completely installed and fully functional.



Ron Baker, Morgan Baker, Robert Erickson and John Riesen

Board of Trustees

The Trustees elected the following officers for 2012: Chair – John Riesen, Secretary – Karen Hocking, Stewardship Representative – Dana Yanaway, Safety Committee Representative – Nancy Flynn. We are pleased to report that because of some large yearend donations the church was able to meet its 2011 general expenses. We have also raised enough to pay for the roof! (see the article on that elsewhere in this newsletter)

The Town of Mansfield has begun annual inspections of the church by the Fire Marshall as required by the State. While we have done voluntary inspections before, our first mandatory inspection

was in February. The church did well, and all physical concerns found have been addressed. However, the church will now need to have the hot water heater inspected annually (about \$150) and our fire alarm also inspected annually (We are in the process of finding a firm to inspect the alarm.)

Spring workday is scheduled for Saturday **March 31st 8:30 AM - Noon**. Please plan on coming and helping spruce up the Church in preparation for Easter. There is both indoor and outdoor work that needs to be done as well as jobs to fit every skill level.

**Spring workday
Saturday
March 31st
8:30 AM - Noon**

Ladies Aid Society

The Ladies Aid started the year off with a meeting on February 17th. An election of officers was held and the officers from last year will continue to serve. They are Patty Geissler-President, Jill Steadman-Myette-Vice President, Laura Austin-Treasurer, and Nancy Flynn-Secretary.

We are happy to report that our annual Food Service Inspection by the Department of Public Health was passed. We will need to have repairs done to our dishwasher, but other than that it was a near perfect report. Thank you all for helping us to keep our kitchen clean and in good shape. Please continue to label your refrigerator items, take home any leftovers, put kitchen utensils away in the drawers in the same direction and leave the kitchen as clean as or cleaner than you found it. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

We met again for lunch and a business meeting on March 18th. We passed a motion to replace the Pastor's office chair and pay for half the fee for an annual inspection of the gas water heater if it is necessary. With donations, and at the latest count, a \$500 dollar profit from the Thirty One sale, have the necessary funding to make a refrigerator purchase and are in the process of trying to find just the right appliance for our needs.

The group decided to continue the Rada knife sale throughout the year. Jill Stedman-Myette will provide the information necessary to place orders. We will also produce Church Lady Cookies and participate in the Town of Mansfield Festival on the Green in September.

Our next meeting, at a yet to be determined date, will be a working meeting to clean and organize the kitchen cabinets.

Message of Grace

One aspect of doing medical missions that is particularly satisfying to me is seeing the whole process of delivering grace in action. It is efficient for the most part because of its clarity. Patients come with specific problems, and they recognize their need. The mission embraces them with welcoming arms and a promise to care for them in a spirit of love. The healthcare providers demonstrate some element of self sacrifice in helping them, if only traveling a distance to offer their expertise (as in my case) or, more significantly, spending years of their lives in a foreign land and culture. Having displayed grace on a human level, God's far more perfect grace is explained and the way to receive this free gift is pointed out by any and everyone.

At one mission hospital in Peru, the gospel story was told on a screen in the waiting room area in the form of the Jesus movie, sometimes with cartoon characters which held the attention of both children and adults. The straight forward nature of it all is refreshing, even though there is an intellectual side of me that desires something more complex. But why would God make it difficult to find where to go to receive something He is giving freely? There are deep truths in scripture that require serious study, but where to go to find His grace is not one of them. It is no accident that the church has often flourished in areas where medical missions were planted. I am working at one such site now in Siguatepeque, Honduras.

It only makes sense that there should be a direction to finding such grace. It is free, but it wasn't cheap (for God). And when an organization offers a free service, it advises us how to go about getting it—a free handout doesn't just show up in your bank account. In the same way, we must come to Jesus. He says very clearly "Follow ME". The early church saw themselves as The Way, not just another religion, or a way, or one way among many.

As His followers of 2012, let us be sure that we are being so clear to a world that is as desper-

ate as ever for God's message of grace. There is no greater priority in our lives than pursuing God and being clear in our understanding of our own personal need for grace. This will fuel our desire to point out the way to Jesus to others.

Doug Whittemore

It's Pasta Time on Spring Hill

The annual **Spaghetti Supper** is coming! Please join us as we plan and put on another delicious spaghetti supper fundraiser. We hope to raise needed



funds for this summer's **Youth Mission Trip** to West Virginia. You are all invited to help us by providing donations of food items or volunteering to help out with the supper. We also welcome folks to attend the supper! Please invite your friends, neighbors, and family too.

The supper will be held on **Saturday, May 12** from **5-7 pm** at the church. It will feature spaghetti and meatballs, tossed salad, Italian bread and assorted desserts. The cost will be \$8 for adults and \$4 for children.

Signup sheets for donations will be available in the conference room soon. If you can volunteer to prepare, serve, or help with clean up, please speak with Morgan Baker, Patty Geisler or Pastor Ron.

Thanks for your support!

Emma Gardiner Missionary Society—American Baptist Women's Ministries

On Tuesday, February 7th, a program of inspirational passages on the Twenty Third Psalm led by Ginny Shepardson, was held at the home of Lena Barry, and on March 6th, Ellie Trainor presented a program on White Cross at the church.

Looking Ahead:

Sunday, March 25, 2012. 3:00 PM American Baptist Women's Ministries SPRING CELEBRATION

Connecticut Baptist Homes
292 Thorpe Ave, Meriden, CT 06450

Tuesday, April 3rd – Senior Social at 12 noon.
Come enjoy a soup and sandwich luncheon followed by a presentation by David Baker from People's Bank who will speak on identity theft and online security. Emma Gardiner Missionary Society will attend this get-together in

place of their regular April meeting.

Saturday, April 28, 2012 – ABCCONN's Annual Gathering

Tuesday May 1st

Karen Allen, Director of Community and Family Outreach at the "Hole in the Wall Camp" in Ashford will be our guest at the church on Tuesday May 1st at 1:30 PM. She will be doing a presentation showing photos of the camp and admission procedure to the camp. Tea and dessert will be served. All are welcome.

May 18-25 2012 World Mission Conference, Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake Wisconsin.

Nearly 30 International Missionaries will be on hand to lead workshops and talk one-on-one. Registration is now open and those interested are encouraged to sign up early. Bus transportation is available from Massachusetts.

American Baptist Women's Ministries Scholarship

The American Baptist Women's Ministries of Connecticut is reaching out to our American Baptist Women by offering scholarship assistance for their Christian-based education through the Edith M. Northrup Scholarship Fund. Like other scholarship applications this, too, is competitive. The amount of the grant varies from year to year. Among the application guidelines – the applicant must be a woman who is active in her American Baptist Church, must state a financial need and demonstrate scholastic achievement.

For further information or to request an application, please contact Grace F. Riesen, Scholarship Chairman Grace.Riesen@charter.net

Saturday, June 2, 2012 – Women's Conference

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center
303 Tunxis Road, West Hartford

Tuesday June 5, 12 noon. Potluck salad luncheon

July 21-27 National Women's Conference, Nashville, Tennessee

Saturday, September 29, 2012 Women's Retreat at Camp Wightman

Betty Geissler and Grace Riesen,
Co-Presidents





Table for Five ... Thousand!, a fun musical by Tom S. Long and Allen Pote was presented on Sunday January 15, 2012 at morning worship. This musical is the account of Jesus feeding the five thousand. It is the only miracle – apart from the resurrection – that is reported in all four gospels. In the gospel of John, one young boy with five loaves of bread and two fish is willing to share. The result of his action is an event so startling, members of the crowd wanted to proclaim Jesus as King. Jesus says “I am the Bread of Life. Those who come to me will never go hungry.”

Many thanks to the cast and crew for making this production a great success!

♪ Music Notes ♪

The Youth Choir meets regularly on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM in the music room. Any young person from first grade and up is welcome to join us. Besides singing at morning worship services, the choir participated in the fun musical “*Table for Five ... Thousand!*” on Sunday January 15, and is now getting ready to sing at the Hartford/Springfield chapter of Choristers Guild’s Festival of Singing Children in Springfield, Massachusetts on Saturday March 24, 2012.

Grace Riesen
Youth Choir Director



Church Family Fun Night

Everyone had a great time at our Church Family Fun Night on Friday March 9, 2012. Our geographical mission theme for the evening was South Africa. The evening began with a delicious potluck supper at 6:00 PM. Thanks to members of the Social Committee for helping with this supper. Our fantastic entertainment began at 7:00 PM with Bob Erickson as Master of Ceremonies. There were a total of



fifteen different acts – everything from singing, dancing, instrumental numbers of trumpet, dulcimer, and piano to jokes, Camp Wightman information, skits, mission moments, a Power-Point presentation of the Youth Mission Trip and even a puppet show. What a fun, fun evening! Thank you one and all.



IM announces 200th Anniversary Celebration and New Three-Year Theme

Starting this year, American Baptist International Ministries (IM) will begin celebrating 200 years of global mission. "This is a remarkable occasion for IM. Not many mission agencies have been able to reach this milestone. We are indeed grateful for God's leading and guidance during our 200-year history," commented Reid Trulson, executive director. "We are honoring the past while moving forward into the future."

IM's overarching theme for the next three years is **Mission to the Third Power** or **Mission3**. U.S. and Puerto Rico churches, friends, missionaries, donors, ABC regional staff, volunteers and missionary partnership network members will begin seeing this theme on all IM materials starting in 2012. "We're excited about **Mission to the Third Power** because it recognizes our missiology rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ," commented Trulson.

IM's 3-year bicentennial theme, **Mission3**, is a shorthand way of expressing the following core ideas:

1. IM's entrance into its third century of mission
2. The mission of our Triune God
3. IM's three-fold understanding of making disciples: helping people **come** to Christ, **grow** in Christ and **change** their worlds with Christ
4. Three years of bicentennial celebrations, starting in 2012
5. Three mission foci: evangelism; health & healing; anti-human trafficking

IM will kick off the three-year anniversary with a huge 7-day World Mission Conference (WMC) May 18 -25, 2012. After a six-year hiatus, the weeklong WMC is coming back to the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, WI. The 2012 conference, which will include a 3-day call retreat, focuses on discerning God's call to Christian service and how to make that call a reality. The theme for 2012 is **Hear the Call**. For more information about the conference, [click here](#).

The "Call Retreat" portion of the WMC will be an experience designed to help individuals consider and discern God's call to ministry in an international and cross-cultural setting, or right here in the U.S. in pastoral leadership of a local church, or missional engagement in local church communities. "International Ministries is

moving into an era of renewed, proactive efforts to cultivate missionary candidates and match them with the invitations and opportunities from our international partners," notes IM director of recruitment, Rev. Jim Bell. "We are looking forward to meeting and interacting with persons whom God might be calling to step out in faith into new ventures of service."

Moving forward into 2013, IM will be providing information about significant celebrations in Myanmar (Burma). Baptists in Myanmar are inviting American Baptists to their country to share in bicentennial celebrations. 200 years ago in 1813, American Baptist missionaries Adoniram and Ann Judson arrived in Burma as the first Protestant missionaries from North America. They translated scripture, led people to faith and helped establish churches, schools and medical work in Burma. The Judsons mission and work inspired many Americans to hear the call to support mission and to become missionaries. Their ministry 200 years ago was an early part of the remarkable movement of people throughout S.E. Asia becoming followers of Jesus.

In June 21-23, 2013, American Baptists in the U.S. and Puerto Rico will gather in Overland Park, KS for the ABC Biennial meeting. IM will bring its global missionary focus to the Biennial, celebrating the missionary service of Adoniram and Ann Judson under the theme of **Mission3: Embrace the Cause!**

The year 2014 will include a grand finale: all the American Baptist missionaries will be brought back to the U.S. for a national bicentennial World Mission Conference to celebrate IM's founding 200 years earlier in 1814 as the "General Missionary Convention of the Baptist Denomination in the United States of America, for Foreign Missions" and to launch us into our "third century" of global mission. The conference will be held July 19-26 at the Green Lake Conference Center in WI. The theme for 2014 will be: **Mission3: Rise to the Challenge!**

For more information, or to use your financial resources to contribute to the bicentennial events, please email david.worth@abc-usa.org.

Christian Ed—Coming.....EVENTS!



The Sunday School will be taking an break for Easter. There will be **no Sunday School or Youth Choir on April 8th**. Please join us for the **Sun Rise Service at 6:10 AM** followed by breakfast at FBCM. The Board of Christian Education will be sponsoring the breakfast. **Worship at 10:45 AM Easter Morning.**

Join Us for **Family Game Night April 20th 6 – 10 PM.** Pizza and beverages will be served. Please bring a board game and some snacks to share.



Please Join Us for a Car Wash and Bake Sale on **June 2nd** to help support our Camperships and Youth Mission Trip! This has been a fun Tradition for us! Your Support is greatly appreciated!



Christian Education Sunday will be Held on the **Last Day of Sunday School June 3rd**! We will recognize our students and their accomplishments and milestones during our Worship service June 3rd, please come and help us celebrate!

On June 10th we start our summer hours.



We will again be offering Camperships to our Church Family. Forms will be available in Church and are due back **May 13th** to any Christian Ed. Board member.

Vacation Bible School

Are you ready to "Go Deep with God"? That's the theme of this year's VBS. Mark your calendar now for July 10 – 13th! Kids will plunge into Bible stories of people with deep faith and learn to trust a God whose love is bigger than the sea! Kids will be challenged to discover what it means to have a "deep faith" Have fun with bible stories, great music, science, games and a lively Octopus!

Want to volunteer? We have opportunities throughout the week for a variety of roles, including crew leaders (Grade 6 and up) and storytellers, plus people to help out with crafts, recreation, music and snacks! Set-up day is July 9th with VBS running 4 days – July 10th – 13th. Watch for a video preview soon!

Want more information? Want to sign up to volunteer? We'll fill you in on all of the details, talk to Joy Erickson or Laura Austin.



Night at the Neighbors

On Saturday, March 10, a group from our church family descended upon our neighbors at THE ALTNAVEIGH INN. We are so fortunate to share Spring Hill with this beautiful Inn and we decided to treat ourselves to a night out!! 21 of us filled the center room of the res-



taurant which had been made very cozy just for us. Chef and owner Doug Parks had put together a special menu (again just for us!) including a choice of appetizers or salad, choice of entree: (a delicious steak, a cornish game hen or a wonderful salmon roulade) and a fantastic chocolate desert. What a great time we had eating such elegant food in such an elegant setting, with (of course) extremely elegant company! First Baptist Church has been blessed by the generosity Doug and Gail Parks have always shown. They are excellent neighbors and we want to support them in return. We presented them with a framed GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD as a way of putting our gratitude into words. It was a lovely, relaxed evening and we do plan to do it again - perhaps sometime this summer. We not only loved the delicious food, the warm, inviting atmosphere, and the opportunity to be together, but we LOVED not having to clean up afterward! This was definitely an event to remember.

Flower Committee

The Flower Committee will be purchasing Easter plants to display in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. At the direction of the Deacons, the plants will be shared with members and friends after the service. If you would like to donate toward the purchase of these plants in honor or memory of a loved one, you may complete this form at:

(http://www.fbcmansfieldct.com/pdf/12_Easter_Flower_Notice.pdf)

and give it to Lena Barry, Sue Bauer, Patty Geissler or Charlotte Hebert. The names of our loved ones will be listed in the bulletin on Easter. We would suggest a contribution of \$4.00 per name. **All requests must be received by Sunday, March 25th.**

As spring arrives and flowers and trees begin to blossom we ask you to remember that there are many opportunities to share flowers in the sanctuary each Sunday. There is a flower sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Christian Education hallway.

If you have questions or need assistance, please be in touch with a flower committee member.

Thank you for your support.

Your flower Committee
Lena Barry, Sue Bauer, Patty Geissler and
Sue Bauer

Stamp Collection continues!

The basket is on the table at the church entrance. Remember there should be ¼ inch around the stamps. Last year the collection of stamps here in Connecticut realized \$505.00. Chaplains Worship Fund at Ct Baptist Homes benefits from this project. Keep up donating all your used stamps of any kind.



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MANSFIELD

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, January 29, 2012

Meeting called to order at 12:35 PM with 27 members present.

Opening Prayer was offered by Pastor Ron.

REPORTS: The Annual Report was distributed prior to this meeting for review.

Pastor – Thanks for Pastor Appreciation day. Bible Study to resume during Lent, Pastor is now member of Mansfield's Human Services Advocate Committee, noted Vital Skills workshop and Cool Congregation Challenge at ABCONN, looking at additional Senior Adult Ministry options.

Clerk – Amendment to Special Business Meeting on December 18, 2011 Deacons recommended Charlotte Hebert for membership.

Financial Secretary – John Riesen noted that there is no deficit from 2011 to be carried over into 2012.

Treasurer – Meredith McMunn presented the Treasurer's Report

Financial Officer for Missions – questions regarding unused budgeted items

Executive – No discussion.

Christian Education – No discussion.

Deacons – No discussion.

Trustees – Thanks to all volunteers, no further discuss

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Nominating – Jen Bradshaw amended the Missions Committee to include Morgan Baker and Delegates for the NEASSOC will be Meradith and Bill McMunn. No other discussion.

Music – The need for a Bell Choir Director was noted.

Flower – No discussion.

Communications – Online Directory is available.

Missions – Have not yet done RMMO

Memorial Gifts – No discussion.

Social Committee – No discussion.

Financial Examining – Reviewed in April Meeting only.

Pastoral Relations – No discussion.

Stewardship – Have had successful campaign.

Ushering – No discussion.

Church Heritage – No discussion.

OTHER COMMITTEES AND GROUPS:

ABCONN Delegates – No discussion.

Northeast Association Delegates – No discussion.

ABCONN History Committee – No discussion.

Computer – Thanks for donation of new computer. Wireless connection signal is weak in conference room. No further discussion.

Sound/Video System – Projector still in works.

Ladies Aid Society – No discussion.

Emma Gardiner Missionary Society –

Thanks for donated White Cross supplies, Love Gift boxes are available.

Pierce Memorial Baptist Home – No discussion.

Safe Church Committee – No discussion.

Windham Area Interfaith Ministry Delegates – Tricia Baker is new President. No discussion.

Covenant Soup Kitchen – No discussion.

WAIM Board of Directors Report – No discussion.

Youth Choir – No discussion.

Youth Group Report – Youth group is meeting regularly with 10-15 youth, Thanks to Pastor Ron and Tricia for continuing this effort.

Youth Mission Group Report – Spring Work days being planned, all donations welcome.

Raising the Roof Committee – Potluck scheduled to review and discuss roof project, Thanks to all who worked on and donated to this project.

OLD BUSINESS:

Constitutional Changes – Working on finding the wording on passed amendments. Tabled.

Music Committee amendment to include the Choir Director as an ex-officio member. Tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to accept the Nominating Committee Report: Jen Bradshaw moved to accept the Nominating Committee slate as amended. Morgan Baker – Missions Committee, Meradith and Bill McMunn – Delegates for the NEASSOC. Seconded by Joy Erickson. Motion passed.

Motion to accept new budget for 2012 was made and seconded: The motion carried.

Motion to reinstate Heifer Project to the Missions Program with a budget of \$100.00 was made by Meradith McMunn. Seconded by Jen Bradshaw.

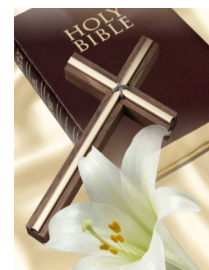
Discussion regarding why Heifer Project had been removed: 1. Sunday School had been donating regularly and 2. it is a secular organization. **Manna Ministries:** Funds were used in 2010 but not used in 2011. Judy Conland amended the Heifer Project Motion to **reduce the Manna Ministry to \$400.00 and add the Heifer Project with \$100.00.** The motion carried.

The minutes of this meeting were read.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as read. The motion carried.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting. Meradith McMunn seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Figueroa
Clerk



Easter Services

If you have never attended a sunrise service, come out and join us. **Sunrise** is at **6:18 a.m.** this year, so we will start a little bit before then.

Our church is hosting the breakfast this year and the Board of Christian Ed. is organizing that.

We will not have Sunday School on that day, and **Easter Worship** will start at **10:45 a.m.**

The Thursday before Easter we will have a **Maundy Thursday Worship** starting at **7:00 p.m.**

May God bless you this Holy Easter season.

The American Cancer Society Daffodil Days were successful this year at First Baptist. Many thanks to all who purchased and donated! A total of \$540.00 was collected! Just a note, these flowers are delivered free of charge by FedEx every year right to my doorstep!

Thanks again – Lena



Coming Events in April and May of 2012

April 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Palm Sunday Deacons Family Potluck	2	3 EGMS 2pm	4	5	6	7
8 Easter CE sponsored breakfast	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Trustees Mtg.	16	17	18	19	20 Game Night 6-9pm	21
22	23 CE Mtg 7pm	24	25	26	27	28
29 Spring Business Mtg	30					

May 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 EGMS 1:30pm	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Spaghetti Supper
13 CE Flowers Mother's Day	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Comm. Mtg Trustees Mtg	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		

Coming Events in June of 2012

June 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Youth Car Wash
3 CE Sunday	4	5 EGMS luncheon 12pm	6	7	8	9
10 Newsletter Deadline Church Picnic	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 CE Brd Mtg 7pm	19	20	21	22	23
24 Trustees Mtg.	25	26	27	28	29	30

April Birthdays

April 2—Susan Figueroa
 April 4—Bruce Bradshaw
 April 4—Ronald Nichols
 April 16—Michael Davis
 April 16—Ginny Shepardson
 April 17—Dante Salina
 April 30—Samantha Gardiner

May Birthdays

May 5—Jean Alcorn
 May 8—Bibi Mama
 May 10—Harold Mattern
 May 12—Emma Barry
 May 13—Amanda Keane
 May 15—Alice Spencer
 May 16—Robert Bauer
 May 17—Bill McMunn
 May 21—Nils Setterberg
 May 22—David Kloss
 May 23—Kevin Reas
 May 28—Germaine Mama
 May 30—Shirley Corcoran
 May 31—Barbara Moore

June Birthdays

June 1—Pete Bradshaw
 June 2—Evan Fulton
 June 2—Aishlinn Bradshaw
 June 4—Thomas Lackman
 June 4—Ethel Larkin
 June 7—Lyrica Yanaway
 June 8—James Kloss
 June 10—Karen Hocking
 June 11—Bonnie Buscaglia
 June 11—Millie Larkins
 June 12—Frank Whitehead
 June 15—Meradith McMunn
 June 16—Faith Austin
 June 16—Guy Myette
 June 18—Lee Salina
 June 19—Karen Watson
 June 22—Pastor Ron Baker
 June 23—Quinn Yanaway
 June 25—Wendy Edwards





Dates to Remember

April 1—Palm Sunday
April 1—Deacons—Church Family Potluck
April 3—EGMS 2pm
April 8—Easter Sunday
April 8—CE Sponsored Breakfast
April 8—Sunrise at 6:18 am and Worship at 10:45 am
April 15—Trustees Meeting
April 20—Game Night 6-9pm
April 23—CE Board Mtg 7pm
April 29—Spring Business Meeting
May 1—EGMS at 1:30pm
May 12—Spaghetti Supper
May 13—Mother's Day

May 13—CE flowers
May 15—CE Board Mtg. 7pm
May 20—Communications Mtg.
May 20—Trustees Mtg
May 28—Memorial Day
June 2—Youth Car Wash
June 3—CE Sunday
June 5—EGMS luncheon at 12 noon
June 10—Newsletter Deadline
June 10—Church Picnic
June 18—CE Board Mtg. 7pm
June 24—Trustees Mtg.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MANSFIELD

945 Storrs Road, Storrs, CT 06268

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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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.

Youth Group, Fri. 6:30-9:00 p.m.



An American Baptist Church