

The Bellringer



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JUNE, JULY AND
AUGUST 2008

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Church Family Picnic

Our Church Family Picnic was held Sunday, June 8 at the Boy Scout Camp in Ashford, CT.

We celebrated with the Baker Family and the Fulton Family at the baptisms of Olivia Baker and Ethan Fulton.

There was swimming and Frisbee playing and much running about. Great fun was had by all!



Many thanks to the Social Committee for organizing the food and thanks to all who brought pot luck salads. Everything was delicious and most containers were returned empty! Special thanks to the gentlemen who slaved over the hot grill on the hot day to cook hot dogs and hamburgers for us.



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First Baptist Church of Mansfield
Established 1809 -

A Word from the Pastor

June 8th, 2008 is a day that I will remember for the rest of my life. It was very, very hot, especially for early June. It felt the way a summer day is supposed to feel. It was Christian Education Sunday. There was a lot of activity that morning in Worship because there were many different people doing various things in the service. There was recognition and gratitude to be given out for different things.

I preached on images of Jesus that are found in the Gospel of John. There are images like the Lamb of God, the Door, the Light, the Vine and Branches, and the Bread of Life. I see these as daily reminders of Jesus, and ways to remember that he is with us in our everyday lives. But the sermon is not what I will remember from that day.

After Worship we had our church picnic at June Norcross Boy Scout Camp. The food was wonderful as usual. I had a hamburger and a hotdog, and a little bit of ice cream. We were all looking for a little bit of shade.

Then came the time for the baptisms which is what I will remember for the rest of my life. There are a lot of things I enjoy doing as a pastor but of all of them, I feel like my greatest privilege is to be part of the baptism of a brother or sister in Christ. These are moments when it feels like heaven and earth come in contact with one another and in the place and time where this happens, something sacred is created. It is a holy moment, sometimes referred to as a *thin place*. This is my vision of baptism. It is not

just the people in the water who are part of this holy experience, but all the witnesses gathered are participants as well. The people gathered that day were not just witnessing with their eyes, but were joined in heart and spirit. What a wonderful, once in a lifetime experience it was for me to baptize Ethan Fulton and my daughter, Olivia Baker. I am thankful to have my church family here at the First Baptist Church of Mansfield to share in this with me.

I really enjoy listening to rain, sitting beside a running stream or river, or on the sand beside the ocean and listening to the rhythm of the waves. We know that a person can live much longer without food than without water. Water is vital for life. It is a symbol of life. The symbol of water is important to our faith. We see it is the waters of baptism, and in our everyday lives. In

John 7: 38 Jesus announced, *"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."*

May you see the reflection of Jesus in the water you use everyday, and in the water you enjoy on your summer vacation. In that, may you experience a *thin place*, where heaven and earth come together.



Trustee News

A small but diligent group of 16 people came out for Spring Work Day 2008. The church was inspected from the bell tower to the basement. The grounds were raked and spruced up to everyone's satisfaction. Rooms were scrubbed and put in order and a little reorganization took place.



A special thank you to Guy Myette who repaired the asphalt in front of the entrance to the Christian Education building and also spent his afternoon repairing the skirting around the church building.

Thank you to the Social Committee

for providing delicious coffee cakes and coffee for the work crew. The fall work day is set for Saturday, September 6, 2008.

The Board of Trustees has started to look into replacing the cedar shakes on the sanctuary roof. We are reviewing the application for a Historic Restoration Fund Grant from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism for funding this substantial project. If you have any ideas or interest in working on this project please speak to a Trustee.



The Board will meet this summer on July 13th, August 10th and on September 14th. The Trustees on Lock Up for the summer months are:

June – Bob Gardiner

July – John Riesen

August – Meradith McMunn

September – Nils Setterberg

Board of Christian Ed News

On June 8th we celebrated our Sunday School Teachers and Youth who participated in the Worship Service. Our Primary Class were Greeters, our Junior High class Ushered. From our High School class, Evan Fulton read the Call to Worship and Samantha Figueroa read the Responsive Reading.

We recognized College Graduate, Ally Austin, High School Graduates, Lindsey Kloss, Alyssa Geissler and Priyanka Nakka, and Eighth Grade Graduates, Morgan Baker, James Kloss and Nathesha Nakka.



Our Teachers were recognized with a round of grateful applause for their support of our Christian Education Efforts and were each presented with a flowering plant: Adult Class: Doug Whittemore and John Riesen; Parenting Class: Tricia Baker; High School Class: Susan Figueroa; Junior High Class: Bob Erickson; Primary Class: Joy Erickson.

Each child attending Worship Service received a small flowering plant.

Vacation Bible School **July 8-10th at 6:15—8:30 PM**

A Market in Egypt,

Where God Keeps His Promises!

Shalom! Our three day Vacation Bible School program is well into its planning stages, and all are welcome!

We are continuing the village format that encourages family participation and can be enjoyed by all ages. Don a costume or just a headdress and join the fun!

We will be following the Hebrews in Egypt through daily life and the time of plagues when Moses faced the Pharaoh with the demand from God to "Let my people go!"

Participants will be grouped in Hebrew tribes and will visit the temple, the marketplace and the construction site. There will be Egyptian shopkeepers and guards and exciting events where characters out of the Bible will talk about what is happening in Egypt.



Volunteers! If you would like to run or help in a shop, help lead our tribes, guard our perimeter, help set up and take down, or lend tents or pavilions for our shops, please see Susan Figueroa. If you

would like to help on the construction site, please see Joy Erickson. If you would like to portray a Bible character, please see Tricia Baker. If you would like to donate snack foods, please see Stacey Fulton. If you would like to have FUN come and join us!

Volunteers are also needed on **Sunday, July 6th** to help set up our village and on **Sunday, July 7th** to take everything down and put away our village.

We hope to see you there! Shalom!

Camp Wightman

We are very glad that some of our Sunday School Members have decided to attend Camp Wightman this summer. All were awarded Camperships to help with the cost of attendance. We hope that they will grow in their faith as they enjoy the great outdoors and the fellowship of other Christians. At this time we have:



Samantha Figueroa	Drama	August 3- 9
Rebecca Figueroa	Junior Explorers	August 10 - 16
Jessica Figueroa	Music	July 27 - August 2
Amanda Figueroa	Middler 2	July 27 - August 2
Sarah Hocking	Senior Aquatics	July 6 - 12
Matt Hocking	Senior Aquatics	July 6 - 12
Ashley Hooper	Primary 1	June 29 - July2
Sierra Yanaway	Junior Explorers	August 10 - 16
Lyrica Yanaway	Middler 2	July 27 - August 2



Emma Gardiner Missionary Society

This was the first year this group promoted a Church World Service Blanket Sunday! Folks were able to buy a blanket for five dollars in memory or in honor of Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunts and Friends. This gift was donated in their honor for Mother's Day—many thanks to those who donated! We were able to purchase 27 blankets! Blankets create a rainbow of help and hope around the world to those in need.

American Baptist Women's Ministries of Connecticut.



Congratulations to our own **Laura Austin** who was recently elected President of the American Baptist Women's Ministries of Connecticut.



Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for your generosity. As you know, the needs are great, but with your help, so much can be done. Thanks to donors like you, we can provide food, shelter, health care, and clean water to refugees and others forced to flee their homes. With your help, we can also assist impoverished communities as they work to improve their farming techniques, develop reliable sources of safe water, and build a more sustainable future.

Though the evening news is often a grim reminder of the failings of our human family, I remain hopeful because of the courageous men and women we work with in some 80 countries, and because of people like you, who empower us to act on your behalf in our wounded world. May God bless you for your compassionate support.

Faithfully yours,

Rev. John L. McCullough
Executive Director and CEO

Ladies Aid Society

The Ladies Aid happily provided refreshments for a reception that was held to celebrate the opening of the Assisted Living Area at Juniper Hill. Thanks to everyone who donated items and worked hard to make that a success. We received many compliments from those that sponsored and attended the event.

We will be having two **"Dessert Sundays"** this summer. Look for a blueberry and peach crisp sale on **August 23** and an apple crisp sale on **September 21**. We will have individual servings of crisps available after the service as fundraisers.

Please remember to submit your recipes for the church cookbook to Nancy Flynn or Jill Stedman-Myette.

Youth Group Corner

I am very glad to say that we have had a couple really fun Friday nights here at the Church with the youth group. From grades 9-12 our turn out has been small but exciting. Starting with some fun group games such as Capture the flag and crab soccer, we have had to rely on our teams to pick spoons up with tape on our heads to a relay race by blowing cotton balls out of squares. New games are always being thought of.

On the serious side of things, we also have a time of prayer and praising God. We are going to be coming up with a group name soon. We have been meeting at the church once a month on a Friday night from 6:30-9:00 p.m. We will be meeting next on June 20th. I am looking forward to having a great night! Also, one more thing, in the hallway I have started up a youth group board to tell of future activities and to pin up pictures so that you too can see some of the fun times that we are sharing!

The Car Wash



The Car Wash to help raise funds for the Youth Mission Trip and Camp Wightman scholarships was held on May 17, 2008. All of the youth there worked very hard from 9:00 – 12:00 p.m. We had a steady stream of cars. This

year our youth were tall enough and strong enough to work on every type of car. We did appreciate Pastor Ron's height at times with the SUV's. This group raised a little over \$500 that morning toward their trip and had a great time of fellowship while working as well.



Youth Mission Trip Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser

The Youth Group's Spaghetti Supper was a great success. We sold one hundred and fifteen tickets. Thank you to



everyone who donated their time and money to help us. We raised a grand total of \$1,854.00 and we could not have done it without the support of the church family. All the ingredients for the supper were donated. Big Y and Shaws grocery stores both made donations of gift certificates. Most all of the youth who will be going on the trip helped out the day of the supper. We are excited to be going on the trip this summer, and we hope to help make a difference in West Virginia.



Safety Committee

The Safety Committee has begun its work by addressing programs and facilities that affect children in our church. We are currently writing staffing policies, both for paid staff and for volunteers using research done on Safe Church Guidelines from other churches and Best Church Practices. Recently a fire drill was held during the Sunday School hour, which went very smoothly.

The Safety Committee meets during the first week of each month. Anyone with a question, concern, comment or cookies for our meeting feel free to give any one of us a call. Recently a church member called with a suggestion that we

thought was such a good idea we made it happen! Below is an **Emergency Information Form** that we encourage all persons who attend FBCM to fill out and return to the church office (ATTN: SAFETY COMMITTEE). This form will be kept in a confidential but accessible place so that in an emergency, appropriate contacts can be made according to each person's direction. (for instance, "call my daughter, not my son", or "call neighbor A not neighbor B".)

If you have questions about this please call any member of the Safety Committee. (Denise Keane, Jennifer Bradshaw, Susan Figueroa, Laura Austin or Tricia Baker)

First Baptist Church of Mansfield Emergency Contact Form

Please put the name and numbers of two or three people you would like contacted in case of an emergency at church.

Name	Relationship	Number
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		

This information will only be used in case of an emergency when the person is not able to communicate for themselves. It will be kept confidential, however it will be accessible should an emergency arise. If you have any questions please contact anyone on the Safety Committee.

Completed forms can be given to any member of the safety committee or mailed directly to the church attn: Safety Committee. Safety Committee Members: Denise Keane, Jennifer Bradshaw, Susan Figueroa, Laura Austin or Tricia Baker)

Flower Committee

Don't forget that flowers are needed during the **summer months** for the Sunday morning worship services. Check the flower calendar in the Christian Education wing and sign up for a Sunday. Show off fresh flowers from your garden or share a potted plant. Arrangements are always appreciated.



Seventeenth Annual Steeple Chase Bike Tour Fundraiser Saturday, August 16, 2008

This year is the seventeenth annual Steeple Chase Bike Tour. The Steeple Chase is a fundraiser for two area non-profit social service agencies, WAIM and Perception Programs, which help people when they need it most. **WE NEED YOUR HELP** to raise money to meet the increased needs of the clients we service. Please ride with us and raise money for your neighbors, friends and family. Thanks for helping to make the Bike Tour a continued success. Last year nearly \$70,000 dollars was raised helping thousands of people in Eastern Connecticut in need.



A new 35 mile route has been added this year along with the 100 mile, 50 mile, and 20 mile Bike Tours through scenic Northeastern Connecticut's Quiet Corner. Many rest stops at historic churches with all kinds of food prepared by WAIM's faith communities. Free food, beverages and snacks after the ride for all participants. Free Steeple Chase T-shirts to all individual riders and two free T-shirts for family/group riders.

Riders can pick up a registration form or register on-line at www.active.com (search for Steeple Chase) to register.



Music Ministries Sunday was held on Sunday May 18 to give recognition and show appreciation to those who serve in the music program of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield.

Anthems were presented by both choirs – a special arrangement of *Kum-Ba-Yah* sung by the Adult Choir, and *Make Your Life a Song to God* by the Youth Choir.

Certificates and tokens of appreciation were given to Youth Choir members. Flowers were presented to members of both choirs and their directors – Melissa Rood, Adult Choir and Grace

Music Notes

Riesen, Youth Choir Director, as well as to others who have been a part of the music program throughout the year.

Pastor Ron's sermon, *The Rock for All Ages*, included the background of some of our beloved hymns and the singing of these hymns by the congregation. The prelude, *Sonata* by J. Brahms, was played by Igor Senderovich, violin and Allyson Austin, piano. The Postlude, *Allegro Moderato* by Franz Schubert, was presented by Allyson Austin and Grace Riesen. The service was followed by a delicious fellow-

ship coffee hour.



Church Family News



Engineering Award

E.O. Smith High School Student Priyanka Nakka, center, won fifth place at the 2008 Connecticut Junior Science and Humanities Symposium competition for her oral presentation entitled 'Improving Low-Temperature Performance of Biodiesel.' Presenting the award to Priyanka is Alan C. Eckbreth, right, president of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, and E.O. Smith teacher Julia Sherman. Each winner received a certificate of recognition, book from the Academy of Science and Engineering and an official statement of congratulations from the Gov. M. Jodi Rell. E.O. Smith will also receive a cash prize.



John and Grace Riesen recently enjoyed a 45th anniversary celebration on Sat. June 14th at the church with friends and family from near and far. Among those who at-



tended the celebration were John and Grace's son Bill Riesen and family from Iowa and daughter Carol

Bigl and family. Also in attendance were John's sisters Elaine and Martha from AZ & MA and nieces and nephews, aunts and cousins from across the country (and Canada)! Food, fellowship and beautiful music performed by Melissa and Bill Rood were enjoyed by all.

Festival of Singing Children

Saturday, April 26, 2008—Holyoke, MA



June 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Deacon: - Terry Yanaway Trustee: - Bob Gardiner			4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 8:30 Service	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 8:30 Service	30					

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 1 Pete Bradshaw
 June 2 Evan Fulton
 June 4 Tom Lackman
 June 4 Ethel Larkin
 June 4 Jennifer Whittemore
 June 7 Lyrica Yanaway
 June 8 James Kloss
 June 10 Karen Hocking
 June 10 Robert Peters
 June 11 Bonnie Buscaglia
 June 11 Millie Larkins
 June 12 Frank Whitehead
 June 13 Michele Gagne
 June 13 Brendan Reas
 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
 June 28 Ryan Quigley

July 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Mission Trip get to- gether 7:00- 8:30	2 Deacons	3	4	5
6 8:30 Service	7	8	9	10	11	12
		VBS- (8th-10th) 6:15-8:30pm				
13 8:30 Service	14	15	16 Mission Trip get to- gether 7:00- 8:30	17	18	19 Youth Mission Trip
20 8:30 Service	21	22	23	24	25	26
YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO WEST VIRGINIA (20th-26th)						
27 8:30 Service	28	29	30	31	Deacon: - David Stevens Trustee: - John Riesen	

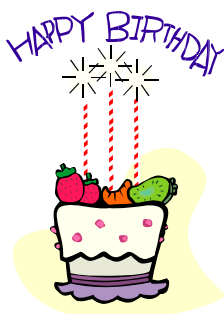
JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 1 Andrew Gardiner
 July 4 Martha Davis
 July 7 Dana Yanaway
 July 8 Kristin Geissler
 July 8 Tyler Nilson
 July 8 Ellie Trainor
 July 15 Kendall Barry
 July 16 Joy Erickson
 July 18 Erin Flynn
 July 19 Jill Stedman-
 Myette
 July 22 Nicholas Donato
 July 25 Warren Austin
 July 27 Stephen Donato
 July 29 David Barry



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Aug. 4 Rachel Sherman
 Aug. 6 Sam Shepardson
 Aug. 10 Emily Grace Bigl
 Aug. 15 Laurie Gilman
 Aug. 17 Beth 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 Wendy Parker
 Aug. 26 Amanda Gardiner
 Aug. 26 Rahim Mama
 Aug. 26 Raman Mama
 Aug. 27 Jenette Kloss
 Aug. 29 Chris Beaulieu
 Aug. 29 Bob Gardiner
 Aug. 30 Kim Setterberg



August 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Deacon: - Lisa Reas Trustee: - Meradith McMunn				1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Trustees	11	12	13	14	15	16 WAIM Steeplechase
17 Soup Kitchen Collection	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Blueberry & Peach Crisp Sale	25	26 Executive Committee Mtg. @ 7pm	27	28	29	30 WAIM Tag Sale
31						

Donations for us to remember, are the cancelled stamps with 1/2 inch borders and labels for education!



Please note education labels need the youngster on them with the happy face. Thanks to all who continue to donate!

The donations can be left in the basket at the front entrance to the church.





Dates to Remember

June 22	8:30 Service	July 27	8:30 Service
June 29	8:30 Service	Aug 10	Trustees Mtg.
July 1	Mission Trip get together 7:00-8:30	Aug 16	WAIM Steeplechase
July 2	Deacons Mtg.	Aug 17	Soup Kitchen Collection
July 6	8:30 Service	Aug 24	Blueberry & Peach Crisp Sale—Ladies Aid
July 8-10	VBS—6:15—8:30	Aug 26	Executive Committee Mtg. @ 7:00
July 13	Trustees Mtg.	Aug 30	WAIM Tag Sale
July 13	8:30 Service		
July 16	Mission Trip get together 7:00-8:30		
July 19-26	Youth Mission Trip		
July 20	8:30 Service		



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MANSFIELD

945 Storrs Road, Storrs, CT 06268

Summer Hours

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Vacation Bible School

July 8th through July 10th

6:15 to 8:30 pm



An American Baptist Church