

The Barnet Messenger

A Newsletter from the Barnet Presbyterian Church



February 2016

Volume 16, Issue 1

Hope gives wings to our dreams...
Faith gives them flight

Pastor's Corner Rev Howard Gaston

Over Advent I have been using what is called the "Halverson Benediction."

*You go nowhere by accident.
Wherever you go, God is sending you there.
Wherever you are God has put you there.
He has a purpose and your being there.
Christ, who in dwells in you, has something He
wants to do through you,
Wherever you are.
Believe this, and go in His grace, and love, and
power. Amen!*

Rev Richard Halverson served as Chaplin to the US senate from 1981 - 1995. He was referred to as the "Soul of the Senate." He is credited with this benediction.

I like this benediction for several reasons. First it follows of Christ. Our time of worship is not a time for us to "get" something, but it is a time for us to take something to the world. It reminds us that we are not accidentally working where we work, or talking to a person or dealing with difficult issues; God has "*something He wants to*

do through you."

The other reason I like using this benediction, I believe it is appropriate for where we are as a church. Presbyterian Church of Barnet over its history has been a place of light to this community. We have survived some hard times. Times when attendance was low and money very short. I have heard the stories of worship in the vestry to save heat and how a good weekly offering got close to \$900 and worship attendance was in the 20's.

If you have noticed we are not in that condition these days. We are averaging in the 60's for worship, Offerings are often over \$1500 a week and the bills are getting paid. But, this is not all, there is a spirit among us that feels good and positive. The church is certainly more than numbers of people and the offering, but it is an indicator that we are a healthy church and that God is working with us. Which is saying something when many churches are closing their doors. We are in a good place.

So what do we do while we are in this good place? I believe that God is leading us to continue to move outward. I am often surprised how few people in Barnet know that we are here. Just a few months ago, a pastor from the presbytery went to the Barnet Village Store by mistake and asked where the PC of Barnet was. The folks there did not know where we were!

That is where *Halverson Benediction* moves us out to the community. You are the church to folks you meet during the week. Therefore, God is sending you to them and God is putting you in situations that reveal Christ to others. This coming year we will be involved in a couple of activities that will guide us in being the church outside this building. The Officers have already heard Donald Marsden talk about how the family is a church for Christ. We will be looking at how we can be disciplining others outside the church and I am planning on doing some kind of small or family groups this coming year as well as several missions.

So, as the Benediction calls us, "*Christ who indwells in you has something He wants to do through You, where you are.*" "Yes, where ever you are, at home, work, school, with friends and family and on and on. Church does not end on Sunday morning at 11am, but continues as we walk out the doors and into our homes and lives. If we believe this you can know that you "*go in His grace, and love, and power!*"

In Christ,
Howard

DEACON'S REPORT

The Deacons on duty for 2015 included Deb Locke, Ed & Nancy Brower, Donna Gaston, Tess Conant, Celina Wright and Verna Beaupre. Our annual activities include providing the community with coffee and snacks after Sunday Services at the West Church from September through May and the Center Church from June through August. We also assist in putting the Messenger Newsletter together four times a year. We enjoy getting in touch with those members who have a hard time attending service through the year with remembrance baskets at Easter, cards at Thanksgiving and gift bags at Christmas. When the Sunday School classes end in May we host a community picnic and Secret Pal reveal. We compile a new Secret Pal roster for the

coming year with volunteer members of the community, who remain anonymous throughout year, paired with each of our children to support them with a word of encouragement occasionally through the year. We also try to remember each high school graduate with a card. If you have or know of a senior, let one of us know.

After Bible School in August the Deacons host a Harvey's Lake picnic. It is potluck with meat and drinks provided.

Ongoing through the year we collect food donations for the local food shelves. Bring your donations to Sunday Service and we will deliver from there. Also, we highlight the birth of babies by sending a children's book and bookmark. Let us know if you have a new baby in the family or in the neighborhood. In 2015 we welcomed 6 babies: Hudson Neil Deem, Finley Kate Coppenrath, Daniel Beaupre, Piper Kempton, Olive Adams and Clara Heisholt. Congratulations Mom's and Dad's!

A very important pleasure is to update the Long Term Prayer List for those of our community in need of prayer for any reason. We remember and pray for anyone needing comfort through illnesses or other difficult times. Please let us know of your needs or the needs of your neighbors.

Each Christmas we arrange for the Angel Tree so community members can buy gifts for sponsored needy families.

Respectfully,
Tess Conant

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Dec. 3 we gathered around the outside tree for carols, scripture and the dedication of the tree to our friend Rev. Dr. Dwight White. Afterwards we adjourned to the dining room for warm drinks and cookies.

The Sunday School Pageant was held during the morning worship on Dec. 20. Logan Samuels was the director and Pastor Gaston was the narrator. All Sunday School classes were included, from the nursery/pre-school (portraying sheep) right on through to the adults portraying

Wise Men. The congregation joined in with carols during the pageant.

There was a large attendance at the Center Church Christmas Eve service. The Gates grandchildren helped Stewart and Katharine light the Advent candles. Again we had lots of carols and special music.

At the Dec. 27 service the names on the memory tree were read, as candles were lit..

Throughout the Advent/Christmas season the church was beautifully decorated with the Angel Tree and poinsettias. Each week the Advent candles were lit by a different family. The season was filled with special music from the choir and wonderful carols during the services.

A Woman of Faith

Margaret St. Lawrence

August 31, 1925 - January 2, 2016

When my mother was 6 months old, a 15 year old girl who was living with an older man said how cute my mother was, and my grandmother said "if you like her that much, just take her". So this girl and man became her foster parents and raised my mother until she was 11. Then, when her half brother was born my grandmother needed a baby sitter. My grandmother's second husband went and picked up my mother.

After being there a year or so she ran away trying to get back to her foster parents. But, a truck driver picked her up and took her to the police station and they got social services involved. They gave her a choice to go live in New Jersey with her father or an orphanage. She chose New Jersey, where she met her brother, Ralph Streeter, for the first time.

She married my dad and had three sons. My dad wasn't the best provider so, she had to go to work. Around 60 years ago a lady named Isabelle knocked on our door and invited us to church and we have been in church ever since.

Mom did everything she could to keep the family together, through many trials and difficult times. When she said she wanted to come back to Vermont, we knew we had to make that happen. She was so happy and grateful living here and read her Bible every day. She was never bitter about her childhood and forgave her mother and said many times that she knew my grandmother had no resources back then to help her. She was a loving, caring, Godly woman and is at peace with her Heavenly Father.

Submitted by, Tom Flanagan

RHYME TIME

by, Merle G. Fitzgerald

A Note came from a neighbor
To me in verse it came
I studied it for hours; thought,
"I'll answer with the same."

I thought about an answer
To that kindly get-well prayer
Said "I'll create a stanza
To reflect this loving care.

So I sat in my recliner.
Pondered for a time
Thought "What could be much finer
Than a chance to build a rhyme."

With iambs and pentameters
Dancing in my Head,
Hyperbole and metaphors
(or similes instead).

I found a word, a second word,
A metaphor to make. But,
I could not build an image,
(Could not even stay awake.)

I found a word, another word,
Then one to rhyme with that
But when I sought the clinching word
My metaphor fell flat.

My talent has not grown a bit
I'll never be a poet.
For when I rhyme to show my wit
I always seem to blow it.

I learned today to stay away
From verse and rhyming schemes.
My doggerel will not surpass my inept prose,
It seems.

I'll call that neighbor up today
And say I love you, too,
But to build a poem that says it
Is impossible to do!

Visiting the Mallons in S.Korea, part 2

by, Dennis Kauppila

Rick and Beth Mallon lived for 25 years at the end of the little road above Merle and Pat Fitzgerald's house. They served our Church as Sunday School Teachers, and served on the Session and Trustees. They were teachers at Blue Mountain and St. Johnsbury schools. In 2014, they accepted a 2-year contract to teach at an American School in Seoul, South Korea. The school is the Korean International School, a very modern school, with about 1200 students, grade K-12, and all instruction is in English. Beth is the elementary school librarian, and Rick is one of the Educational Technology Specialists- helping teachers use computers and other technology in their teaching. They returned for a visit in July 2015, and in September, Becky and Dennis visited them in Seoul.

Continued from the last issue of the Messenger-

We did not attend the afternoon program at church because we wanted to see more of Seoul. We took the bus to one of the former emperor's palaces (rebuilt after the war) in Seoul, just in time for the changing of the guard. About a dozen soldiers in bright blue ancient uniforms with lances, swords, battle-axes and flags changed places with the soldiers in red. Fun to see. The

palace is in a dramatic setting: a big, brightly painted pagoda building, with a mountain right behind, and the main square of the country, with bronze statues of historical figures in front. We looked around for a couple of hours, then on the way back, we had a snack of nice slices of fresh pineapple on a stick.

The next morning, we got up at 4:30 in order to be on the road by 6 and miss rush hour traffic- even though we were heading away from Seoul! Our destination was about 3 hours south, to a national paper museum that Becky wanted to see. As we were driving, there were fields of rice, and farms with cattle, chickens and hog barns. Then there would be a town with industrial buildings and maybe 10 BIG high-rise apartment buildings with cranes constructing more high-rise apartments. We stopped for coffee and a snack at a rest area. It was a food court with quite a few unidentifiable things to eat. They had good coffee and a good sausage and bun.

Unfortunately, when we got to the museum, the guard told us that it was closed due to the national holiday. We had reservations to stay overnight in this city, so we tried to find our motel, a 'hanock,' designed as a traditional Korean home. Well, it was a holiday and there was a festival happening in the city, so all of the public parking lots were filled up. We found some parking and went to look for our hanock. We had the address, but not very many places had numbers on our street. We found it, down a side-alley, no car could fit in there.

It was a wooden building with plastered walls. There was a row of about 8 rooms facing a courtyard. You took off your shoes, and stepped up onto a walkway about a foot higher than the courtyard. Then you went into the room. There was no furniture, just a small fridge, with a TV on top. The mattresses were folded up in a stack with the bedding on top. Each room had its own bathroom.

We spent the day and evening wandering up and down the streets, poking into the little shops and snacking. Becky and Rick both found good hats from a street vendor. When it was time for bed, we unfolded the 2-inch thick mattress and

put the sheets on. The next morning we went back to the paper museum, the same guard was there. He told us the museum was closed all week. Bummer.

Our next stop was a national site that had dolmen- prehistoric stone monuments. We saw dolmen in Ireland: some were 6 feet tall with a slab of stone maybe 4 by 6 feet and 4 inches thick that was sitting like a table-top, resting on 3 other similar pieces of stone that were set into the ground on edge. People think they mark burial sites from 2-3,000 years ago. The group of dolmen in Korea is the largest grouping of them in the world.

The weather report predicted a typhoon to arrive in the afternoon. When this storm passed through Japan the day before, it brought the 4th strongest wind gust ever measured in Japan. We wanted to see the dolmen, but we did not want to linger. We admired several dozen dolmen, one memorable one had a 'table top' that was about 4 by 6 feet across, and about 5 feet thick, and set on stones about a foot off the ground. It started raining, so we headed toward the car to go to a national park that was right on the Yellow Sea.

Between the showers, there were lovely views of the sea as we drove out on a peninsula. We began seeing ginseng growing under shade: there would be a couple of acres with a black woven plastic shade cloth that was up on wooden sticks 5 feet high, so a person could walk inside and tend the ginseng plants. We also saw small ponds that were rectangular, maybe 100 feet square, in a grid pattern, with maybe 6 to 20 ponds in a grid. We don't know what they were for...rice paddies or raising shrimp?

We found the hotel, a fancy 10-story place that had a cheap rate to encourage mid-week customers. It looked like some kind of a time-share that was linked with other hotels. It was right on the Yellow Sea, we moved our luggage into the hotel fast, then went outside before it got dark and really stormed. We waded just a bit, then got under our umbrellas and looked for supper.

We found a group of seafood restaurants in a group by the water, none of them were very

busy. We picked the brightest one, our window opened right up onto the sea, but it was dark. This was the only time that we ate at a low table, about a foot off the floor, and sat on cushions on the floor. We ordered shrimp. They brought the usual 6-8 side dishes. Then brought what looked like a wok with a glass cover- a pot maybe 10 inches in diameter and 6 inches deep. Then they brought an LP gas cylinder and a burner, set the cooking pot on the burner, lit it, and went away. After a minute, the live shrimp started to flip around in the pot! They were fresh. And tasted great. When we got back to the hotel, we had regular beds, plus an extra room that was empty, except for the folded mattresses and bedding stacked on the floor. Customers could choose to sleep in a western bed or an Asian bed.

In the morning, they had a nice breakfast buffet. There was food that was easy to understand, plus they had about 5 different kinds of rice, with a half dozen sauces- I tried the salted baby octopus, it was spicy-hot and good. Becky and Beth liked the sweet pumpkin salad and the yogurt with vanilla and lime. Rick and I enjoyed the spa with 3 pools of varying temperatures of warm water, one sauna room, one steam room, and one cold pool. The pools were not for swimming, but for soaking. It was great!

TO BE CONTINUED

Please Remember In Prayer

Those with Cancer:

Ed Ryan, Marilyn Dickinson, Jody Crane, Shelby Sargent, Virginia Bailey's daughter Marie, Kerwin Brower.

Homebound and in Nursing Homes:

Aline Faris, Ernest Kent, Gilmore Somers, Charlie Morrison, Doris Stetson.

Health Concerns and Healing:

Barbara Warden, Leo Beaulieu.

Long Term Needs:

Janet's nephew, Tom, Wayne Nutter, Sue Rankin's brother, Allen.

WEST CHURCH KITCHEN **PAINT JOB**

The Trustees were discussing the much

needed paint job during the fall. We finally came up with a plan, and here is how it worked out.

Fri, 1/08/16: George Hannon and Derrick Samuels arrived at Church in the afternoon to discover that people from Senior Meal Site had already emptied the kitchen.

Sat., 1/09/16: Ed Shields, Peter Everts and Dennis Kauppila scrubbed kitchen walls and ceiling.
[14 hours]

Sun., 1/10/16: Shelly and Derrick Samuels and Dennis began painting ceiling and cupboards.
[10 hours]

Mon., 1/11/16: Elizabeth Everts, Jael Luomala, Connie Hare, Becky Boardman, Charlie McAlpine, Ed Brower and Dennis Kauppila completed the paint job by 4 p.m. [42 hours]

Tues., 1/12/16: George and Derrick arrived at the Church to put the kitchen back together and are helped by people from the Senior Meal Site!

We got it done between Friday Senior Meal and Wednesday's meal! We logged 66 total hours of work over that weekend. A BIG THANKS to all who helped.

"Keeping TABS on our TAB PROJECT"

It has been exciting and rewarding to be part of The Presbyterian Church of Barnet, where the Pastor and fellowship are so supportive of

projects which benefit others. Money derived from the collection and sale of the "pure aluminum" contained within the TABS is a valuable asset for Shriners Childrens Hospitals.

Children benefit from this project for various handicaps that they suffer from. Medical personnel; equipment; supplies; medication; surgery; therapy and loving care are administered---with no cost to the families.

Originally it was hoped to keep all of the church contributors listed by name and amount of TABS. This is still a work in progress.

TABS being turned in for February were from The Presbyterian Church of Barnet, Barnet Elementary School, Passumpsic Recycling Center, and other outside donations from West Lebanon NH and White River Jct VT. They totaled 7 lbs 6 ozs. That is 6,643 small TABS!! A HAPPY NOTE to ponder: Local community and church members who are "elderly" are still active.

Charlie and Iris Morrison's son, Edgar, brought in soda cans from the shed to Iris, who will be 93 in March, to "save" the TABS. She diligently worked until she had 6 OZS to turn in (about 336 small TABS). Good Job Iris!!

Joe Desrosier also collects TABS. He lives alone in his farm home, after the death of his wife, Ethel, over 5 years ago. He was 92 in January, and keeps very active around his property. TABS are just one more thing that he is happy to participate in.

God Bless our resourceful seniors and each of our contributors, who help the "kids" at The Shriners Hospitals for Children!

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