

The Barnet Messenger

A Newsletter from the Barnet Presbyterian Church



May 2017

Volume 17, Issue 2

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

Pastor's Corner
Rev Howard Gaston

Below are two quotes I have shared in my sermon on the Sunday after Easter. Interestingly for me they reflect similar issues which are that the church today is not living up to our calling as followers of Jesus. One, Martin Smith, is a progressive Protestant theologian and the other, Rod Dreher, is a conservative Catholic theologian; both are calling the church to be disciples of Jesus. Read the quotes and reflect on them along with the scriptures in the coming weeks.

There is a common idea that the heart of Jesus' message was that God loves us. That is absurd. No one has ever been crucified for saying that God loves us. But Jesus' actual message of a new order in which all are equal by virtue of their union and intimacy with God made it inevitable that he would be crucified...

There was no place in the old established order for Jesus or his band, so he was driven out of it quickly. Leaders of the best religion and the most advanced empire conspired to

crush him. They weren't fools. They knew how subversive his message really was.

Martin Smith, "Lift Up Your Hearts" sermon preached at Washington National Cathedral on October 30, 2005.

R.R. Reno reflects on Rod Dreher's book, "The Benedict Option: A Strategy for Christians in a Post-Christian Nation." He urges us to ask if we have "compromised too much with the world" and suggests ways to renew the integrity of our religious communities... We all sense that the social context for Christian faith and practice is changing in America, and in the West more broadly, and we know we need to decide what it means to be the Church today.

R.R. Reno

<https://www.firstthings.com/article/2017/05/benedict-option>

I believe that both Martin Smith and Rod Dreher are pursuing the same issue for us. As I said on April 23rd during worship, we need to reclaim what it means to be a follower of Jesus. While knowing that God loves us is important, that is not what sent Jesus or Paul and John to prison and their death. It was something greater; something that we as the church are not living out fully.

One of our great ends of the church is “*The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.*” That can mean many things, but it comes down to how are we living right now as citizens of God’s realm. What does that mean for us?

In essence it means that we chose to be disciples of Jesus and see this world as He does. We often see it the way we want the world to be, rather than what Jesus has already made it. Read through these quotes and scriptures below and ask yourself, what does this call me to be and do?

John 3
Luke 16:17-23

Reflect on these verses in the coming weeks and begin to live out God’s Kingdom here and now. By doing so we preach and live this “subversive message” of Christ and “what it means to be the Church today.”

Deacons’ Message

The Deacons welcomed two new members, Tammy Carpenter and Alice Frazer. We have focused on the Great Ends of the Church during our meetings and planning for this year.

We prepared and delivered Easter baskets during the week before Easter to eight local residents.

The 2016-17 Secret Pal project will wrap up on Sunday May 21st, during the picnic after Children’s Sunday. Please invite your Secret Pal to the Church Service and pot luck picnic. If you cannot attend, please let your Pal know who you are, and that you will be absent that day.

For the 2017-18 Pal project, we have decided to drop the ‘secret’. We will inform the children and their adult Pals about each other, by letter, at the beginning of the year in May. We hope this change makes it easier to get to know each other

and build relationships. Please contact a Deacon if you would like to be part of the Pal project.

Youth Group Trip Fundraising

On November 5th, the Youth Group held a mystery dinner to raise money for the upcoming trip to New York City. The mystery dinner consisted of foods such as Reuben sandwiches, Manhattan clam chowder, and more, disguised on the menu as places and things found in New York. Overall, over 50 people attended this evening and raised more than \$1,000 to help the youth group for their trip in June.

The youth group will be working with several organizations throughout the city. Specifically, the group will be staying on Staten Island and the trip’s focus will be to assist Project Hospitality with their mission relating to homelessness and hunger within New York City.

Some of the youth group will be auctioning their time off on May 20th to help you with a specific home project. Need windows cleaned? Yard work done? Spring chores? Come and bid on a teen to help you!

Annual Church Auction

The Annual Church auction will be held on May 20th at 4:30 pm. This year, we are combining our Church auction with the Barnet School 8th grade class trip auction. The Auction will be held at the **Barnet School**, and will feature Ben Gates as auctioneer, with a free spaghetti supper for all.

Ben has a system of lot numbers to make sure both the Church and the School are paid for the items they each donated. Jake, a school lunch employee, is going to make the spaghetti supper - which is a load off the minds of the Auction committee, as it seems to be difficult to find Church volunteers for this, although we do still need volunteers to serve.

The school janitors are going to set up and tear down. There will be a lot more space in the school, and it will be safer to have a large crowd in that

building. We realize that people like holding the Auction at the Retreat, and that change is difficult, but we see a lot of possibility with this location.

Please plan to attend the Annual Church Auction at the school. The Auction committee is interested in hearing your opinions about the School location after the auction.

Capital Campaign Kickoff

Fundraising kick-off prime rib dinner nets \$2,600 toward new septic system for the Presbyterian Church, where the West Barnet Senior Meal Site serves about 10,000 dinners per year on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The former owner of Warner's Gallery in Wells River, Jan Warner, was in charge, joined by more than a dozen volunteers from both the meal site and church to serve 173 people for the kick-off fund-raiser.

The second fund raising event is a \$100 ticket raffle that is in progress for septic system replacement. So far more than half of the 100 available tickets have been sold, according to organizer and Barnet librarian, Sherry Tolle. Prizes range from \$500 to \$750 and \$1,000. (from Caledonian-Record)

The new septic system is expected to cost \$15,000 with engineering donated by engineer Shannon Larocque and installation to be donated by Richard Stevenson. Fundraising is on-going.

Per Capita Howard Gaston

At the congregational meeting it was suggested that I write about the per capita of the Presbyterian Church USA and our obligation to support it.

So let me start with some facts about it.

- per capita was started in back in the 1800's as a way to help people to serve as a commissioner at the General Assembly. Then in the 1950's through the 60s it began to be used for the work of the denomination.
- The per capita cost is \$46 per member of a church.
- It is divided by three ways: General Assembly, The Synod, and the Presbytery.
- The money is used for mostly administrative cost of the denomination.
- While technically per capita is a voluntary contribution to the denomination, each presbytery is required to send to Synod and GA their part of per capita.
- Per capita benefits us by helping to pay for the Pastoral Search process. It also provides many of the resources we have available to us as a church.

We therefore pay \$46 per member which amounts to \$4,800 a year. If you were able to give the \$46 upfront that certainly would save us that money in our budget.

I would like to also remind everyone that paying your per capita while helpful, it does little, if anything, to help with the ministry of our local church. We have an annual budget of \$120,576 for 2017 and if everyone paid their per capita we would still need \$115,776 to stay a church. The reality to remember is that we need about \$1400 per member to continue to be a church. We need that just to keep the doors open. So I would encourage you not to just think about paying your per capita this year, but to remember we need so much more to continue to be a witness in this community and in the world.

A Thank You from Dick Steele
For his 90th birthday card

“To each and every single participant, please realize my most sincere gratitude for the recent expressions that arrived at my home just recently. Please imagine how long it takes a senior to read each name from elders down to Young, then process the memory for each. All the while being in complete awe!

To the very few of those to whom I was not acquainted, may I say a belated "welcome to the parish."

This appears to be kind of a healthy project to undertake, for more than a few people and definitely more than a couple of hours to accomplish. On the front page, I am in tune with the “mascot’s” words he offers on the tip of his tongue. Took me an hour or so to fully absorb what my card presented and to cope with my related emotions. I want to thank you again for your kind thoughts. In a few days my kinfolk are taking me out to dinner and I am not allowed to even contribute towards the tipping. So you see, my 90 years have been rather kind to me in the next decade already has been most generous.

Most respectfully, as ever, Dick Steele

P. S. Mascot now greets me every morning from his regular place on top of my table!

Editor’s Note: Thank you to the Browsers for completing this project!

A letter from Lynn Burgess

Dear Alice and all the wonderful folks at Barnet Presbyterian Church,

I think of my Vermont family quite often. Much

more often than I actually write! Much more.

The years 2003 to 2012 are precious to me. Moving to Vermont to be the chaplain at NVRH was an amazing gift. I remember being interviewed by the Committee on Ministry (COM) and telling them a long and winding story about how I got to Vermont. David Stoner interrupted me, asking for a more direct answer and I gave him the only one I could fathom... God brought me. Obvious to many, yet for me it was in the looking backward to see how the move was a work in process for a long time.

You... the congregation of Barnet Presbyterian Church... were my faith family, my support and nurturers. You didn't see me every Sunday and yet were always glad to see me cross the threshold of the West Barnet and Barnet Center churches. You hold such a special place in my heart.

For those I have not met, you probably already know that this church nurtures all who enter, and many outside of the church walls. As a chaplain moving to Vermont, a place I had never visited until my interview in March of 2003, and a single woman at that, I had many new experiences and adventures to contemplate. Thank you for being there for me.

Since leaving Vermont, life has been a bit rocky. I took a position at St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin and found the management style and culture to be more of a challenge than I could ever imagine. I lasted there only 16 months. It was a painful time, although I loved my work with elders in the Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing facility attached to the hospital. The residents were a sparkly silver lining in a very dark cloud.

Meanwhile, I began serving a very small rural church in Fox Lake, Wisconsin, something totally new for me. They were a gracious and loving congregation, and we were thrilled when the worship rolls were over 15 people! I am currently set to teach an online course in palliative care, an exciting prospect for me.

Through all this time, Michael has been by my

side. We were in a long distance relationship for about seven years and finally decided it was time to come together. I moved to North Carolina in February of 2014 and we married in August of the same year. He is an amazing support and we continue to find out what married life is about the second time around. We live about 2 hours away from my father and that is a real bonus. Mom died in October of 2015, very unexpectedly (yes at 91 death can still be a surprise!) and it is good to be able to drive to Knoxville, TN and be with him.

My girls are doing well, and I now have three grandchildren. Fletcher is 20 (he's the "bonus" grandson), Sam will be 8 in May, and Leta Zuzu (named after my mom Leta) is almost 3 months old. The only problem is that they live in Wisconsin!

I think of you all often. I miss Vermont, my dear friends there. I really put down some roots, even though I would never be considered a true Vermontah!

Love to you all, and if you are ever in the Western North Carolina, East Tennessee area, let me know. This is Jean Beaulieu's home territory. Her sister works in a neighboring hospital, and for some reason we have not met yet. (Need to fix that!)

My home address is
41 Gingko Lane
Waynesville, NC 28786
cell: (802) 274-4663 (won't give up my VT number!)
lyb05819@gmail.com

Gee... you'd think I was homesick...

With much love, and wishes of peace,

Lynn (Burgess)

Thank you from Richard Downer

Alice:

Thank you for the latest edition of the *Messenger*. As a summer resident only, it helps me stay connected to the community. I particularly liked the articles about the Barnet Center meeting house bell and the Walter Harvey Meeting House. They reminded me of the wonderful articles by Charlie Morrison. I have often wondered if his articles were available as a collection.

Thank you, Dr. Richard N. Downer, P.E.

Coffee Klatches

The Coffee Klatches are a time for friendship and an opportunity to learn from each other. They are not meant to be limited to those who enjoy crafts. One person is organizing recipes and another is organizing photographs. It's a good time to relax and work on those projects that are put aside, when we are home, because we feel too busy with our daily responsibilities. Some may decide to work on a project together. We have discussed one possibility, which would help people living in an extremely impoverished area.

There's no need to have a project, however. Come to share ideas or simply to be in the company of friends. It's fun and sometimes so enlightening to hear another perspective. Share your thoughts about a great book or anything that inspires you. Share your knowledge of how to make, fix or do something. We've already had some very helpful ideas exchanged.

The Coffee Klatches are held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month in the downstairs area of the Church from 2:30 to 4:00.

Joys & Concerns

* **Joys** – Kurt Borgstrom is at home, Easter services, Spring!

* **Concerns** – Sue Clark, family of Gilmore Somers, Dick Gadapee, Christians worldwide

Upcoming Events

May 20th 10 am Clean up at Barnet Center Church and Vestry

May 20th 4:30 pm combined Church / School Auction at Barnet School

May 21st Children's Sunday – Pot Luck picnic and Secret Pal reveal

June 4th 10 am first Worship Service at Barnet Center Church

Coffee Klatch meets every other Monday

The Ole' Church Store will be opening soon.

A new Church directory will be printed soon, if you have corrections or additions contact Alice Frazer or Wanda Linzer.

The organ is up and playing again! Thanks Kristen!

Easter

Easter Sunday was a beautiful spring day. Sunrise Service was held in Barnet Center, outside as usual, to the beautiful sounds of bagpipe music. A hearty breakfast followed the early Service.

The West Church was packed at the 10 am Service, complete with a few Easter Bonnets, to hear Rev Gaston's words, based on the song "I come to the Garden alone".

Easter and Spring were both late this year – it seemed like a long wait to hear of Christ risen from the dead, and to feel the warm sun on our faces. As we prepare for the growing season in our beautiful state, let us also grow in Grace and Love.

CHURCH / SCHOOL AUCTION

SAT, MAY 20TH
4:30 PM

AT THE BARNET
SCHOOL

Presbyterian Church of Barnet
279 West Main Street
Barnet VT 05821