

The Barnet Messenger

A Newsletter from the Barnet Presbyterian Church



May 2016

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

Pastor's Corner

The Rev. Dr. Howard Gaston

Visiting Aline Faris one day, she showed me a folder of the sermons she preached here from 1991 to 1997. I thought it would be special for us to read one of them that she preached in 1992.

A sermon preached by Aline Faris, Feb 9, 1992 based on Psalm 116 titled "Why?" (edited by Rev. Gaston for newsletter publication)

"WHY?"

Probably most of you here this morning subscribe to the local newspaper, the Caledonian Record and perhaps some of you even occasionally glance at the comics. One of my favorite's is Peanuts, and about a year ago one appeared that I put on my refrigerator. It stayed there until it was quite faded and tattered. During that time I often thought I would like to share it with you sometime.

There lies Charlie Brown in his bed, wide-awake. Snoopy beside him sound asleep. Charlie Brown looks up and says, "Sometimes, I lie in bed at night and I ask myself why?" In the next frame he turns his head to one side and resignedly says,

"Then a voice comes to me that says, 'Why, what?'"

Why? What? That's a good question!

The Psalms opens with the positive declaration "I love the Lord!" You remember Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poem? It starts, "How do I love thee, Let me count the ways." In the Psalms we find reasons and ways to love God. First we love God because He listens to us and really hears us. The writer had been in deep thought. The text is not specific as to what the difficulty was, no mention is made of his enemy. It could have been ill health or danger from some other source.

In Verse 6, the Psalmist was brought low and he received help! Sometimes when a great anxiety or burden is lifted it takes a while for us to readjust our thinking. He says his soul relaxed. For not only has the Lord helped him adequately, but bountifully. And since his soul has been rescued from death, his tears dried and his feet have found solid ground. He vows to use those feet to walk before the Lord. (In these days of icy walks and roads, we can't appreciate the security of safe paths.)

At this point the Psalmist realized but summary payment is due for the great blessing he has received. What can he do in return? He will "take the cup of salvation." Recently in reading a different translation, I found that they meant a thank

offering of wine. But do you know that in my mind I like to picture another cup, the one filled to overflowing mentioned in Psalm 23. That cup, provided by our Good Shepherd, each cup is ours alone, and whatever it contains, be it bitter or sweet, we can accept it from His hand trusting that it's contents are just what we need for our spiritual help. Beth Dugger shared with us last week that some things which we do not welcome turn out to be a blessing. It's good for what ails us.

In the 14th verse he states that he is determined to pay his vows to the Lord and in an open manner. Promises are to be kept. We expect and trust God to keep His, it is up to us to keep ours, be they private or public. Vows are not to be taken lightly. His reference to doing this in the presence of the people, shows that He is understanding of the power of example.

This church is in the process of finding a new minister, this is our church. We need a pastor to help us do our work! The most frequent comment we have heard is that we want someone who will build up the church, which being interpreted, means more people. Not just a larger list of names on the annual report, we want pews filled every week, (as they are at Easter and Christmas,) with people eager to learn more about the Lord and equally eager to tell others about what the Lord has done for them and above all to praise him!

So, I meet a friend and I say, "Why don't you come to church on Sunday?" Suppose this person has already heard my question, "Why don't you?" and replies, "Why should I?" What do I give for a reason? Well - good fellowship, group singing and presentation of good ideas! All of these are available in many places. No, we offer more than that! We are unique! In church is the one place where you are most likely to find, on a regular basis, the Word of Eternal Truth presented!

If we are going to have an appealing cuddling baby Jesus in the manger and if we are

going to have to have Christ on the cross and resurrection! And if we are going to have those, we cannot ignore the truth that He taught in the interim between those happenings. It's all part of the package deal!

We have our task, we have our job description, we have our credentials and we have our understanding Supervisor!

What are we waiting for? Well, what's in it for us? Only this, peace that passes all understanding and the eternal life for us and those He brings to the church. This is the "What" and the "Why!"

Closing prayer: *Dear Lord it was good for us to be here in your house this morning, together. Fill us with the peace that we may share it with all we meet. Lead us in the path of righteousness for Jesus sake. Amen.*

DEACON'S REPORT

From A Book of Prayer
by Stormie Omartian

Lord teach me to worship You with my whole heart. Make me a true worshiper. May praise and worship of You be my first response to every circumstance. Because Your loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.

The Deacons lifted up their hands delivering Easter baskets to members who have a difficult time attending services. We welcomed Melody Morrison and Lauren Gibson to the Deacons. We said goodbye to Ed and Nancy Brower and thanked them for the many hands-on blessings they have provided for our community and our congregation.

The Deacons will be joining their hands to

organize the Secret Pal reveal on Children's Sunday on May 22. On this date the adult Secret Pals will be revealing themselves to the children whom they have been writing to and praying for over the last year. If you are currently a Secret Pal and you will not be attending Church on May 22, please contact your pal and introduce yourself in advance.

Secret Pals encourage the different generations of our congregation to get to know each other and support one another. The Secret Pals mission is ongoing. Therefore, we will be asking the adults of the congregation to offer to accept a child to sponsor for the upcoming year. This lifting up of hands doesn't take a lot of time. As any teacher knows, it is difficult to know what the outcomes of interactions with young people could be. A monthly note and ongoing prayers may touch a young person in our congregation more than you could ever know. Please contact a Deacon if you are interested in becoming a Secret Pal.

Keeping TABS on Tabs

It has been exciting to see how that members of the Presbyterian Church of Barnet and many other interested people have joined to aid handicapped children by collecting TABS. The proceeds from these TABS goes directly to the "Shriners Hospitals for Children", in Massachusetts. Even local children have received beneficial treatment at these facilities.

The Shriners Hospitals for Children have been very appreciative of the efforts of everyone who saves the TABS. It is a very small item which generates many dollars when collected by multiple groups of individuals, as well as clubs and various organizations. The money derived from the TABS helps to supply loving care; medical equipment, therapy; arts and craft

supplies and books, videos, plus educational computer software.

Our support group has grown from one container in the entry of the Barnet Presbyterian Church and one at the Barnet Elementary School, to several other local locations. The Recycling Center in Passumpsic, Vt. has a collection container as well as Skip's Repair Garage in Barnet, VT.

Word travels and a gentleman in Washington, D.C. has joined in by mailing TABS to the church, as well as another gentleman in North Carolina, both who used to live in our community. We have collection sites in West Lebanon, N.H., Springfield, Vt., West Hartford, Vt., and White River Jct., Vt.

We have been blessed by this support!

Our last collection from these areas amounted to eleven contractor bags of cans to be "de-tabbed".

Any amount of TABS, or clean cans or containers that have TABS are gratefully accepted. We are happy to remove the TABS for anyone who does not have the time, or finds it difficult to remove them. These "de-tabbed" containers or cans may be returned to the contributor's, if wanted, or we will take them to the recycling facility.

We hope to have a supporters listing which will be posted in the church. All supporters---ie: workers, monetary givers and all who have given TABS will be listed. Please be certain the you let Eddie or Nancy Brower(tel. 1-802-633-3618) receive your names, company, or group affiliation, so that we can list them correctly. We try our best. Also call the Brower's for items to be picked up.

Our total TABS collected April 2016 was almost 9 #!! 8 # 9 oz. or 7,672 TABS.

To Friends and Members

Please Remember In Prayer

Those with Cancer:

Ed Ryan, Marilyn Dickinson, Jody Crane, Shelby Sargent, Virginia Bailey's daughter Marie, Kerwin Brower, Joanne Post, Ed Brower, Clint Duncan, Merle and Pat Fitzgerald' nephew, Doug.

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.

THANK YOU

For Iris

When we first came to this church there were a few people who seemed to be the root of all fellowship and goodness. Iris was that person for us. During the times when we were between pastors – there was someone who kind of “held court” with conversation and making us a loving and togetherness team. Iris was also that person for us. We banded together – all of us, and worked to bring a new minister to our church.

Every time, there was a constant and strong person behind the scenes – again, that person was Iris.

Thank you and happy eternal home!

Leo and Jean Beaulieu

Thank you for the wonderful celebration of my 90th birthday. It was overwhelming to have so much attention, but I could absorb the extent of the care and love that went into the planning during the days and weeks that followed.

I read the birthday cards again and I enjoy the little plant that keeps on blooming on my dining room table. I understand how much preparation is required for such an event, and I realize that it requires teamwork, but our congregation knows how to do it.

Many years ago, our minister confided in me her thoughts about our church. She was looking for a church to serve in northern New England, when someone from Presbytery suggested our church because it had a special "spiritual quality". As our minister, she found this spiritual quality did exist in our congregation.

The years have passed and our congregation includes members who arrived to join us while others have passed away. Yet, this spiritual quality continues to manifest. This spiritual quality is love, as defined in the Bible.

Thank you,
Pat Jones

TRY VERY HARD NOT TO GIVE UP

(you may miss a BIG blessing)

by Eddie and Nancy Brower

On June 30th, 2011 we purchased a property in South Ryegate for our oldest son to live in. While spending 18 weeks in emptying it out, we came across a well worn St. Johnsbury Trucking Company watch. When we turned it over we saw the inscription "Robert A. Bliss - 9-25-1958".

The watch was set aside and we hoped we might locate a family member that might treasure it. For the next four years, each time that we thought about it, a series of calls were made to local areas....to any "Bliss" listed. No luck!!

In 2015 we happened to mention our efforts to Joe Barrett of Passumpsic, Vt. who immediately told us he would get and give us a list of employees for the trucking company, which he did!

He pointed out the name of Marie Heath of Waterford, Vt. and we spent a considerable amount of time attempting to reach her over the following year. We would always receive a fax machine noise and the call would not go through.

On Thursday, April 21, 2016, we decided that one more try would be made and "lo and behold" the call went through, but no one answered. Disappointment again! Perhaps we just needed to dispose of the watch?

Twenty minutes later....Our telephone rang and Mrs. Heath was returning the call that showed up on her phone. I explained what was going on and she enthusiastically volunteered to get on her computer and do some tracking.

A very short time later, Marie called back with a lot of information. Robert A. Bliss had passed away on January 29, 2009. He had married Barbara in June 1955 and they had 2 boys and 1 girl. There was a son, Rick Bliss in Chester, VT who operates Bliss Farm Enterprises and she gave us a phone number.....

While Ed listened on another phone, we immediately called and Rick answered. Nancy explained what was going on and Robert A. Bliss WAS his father. Rick is the only "Bliss" from this family line. Rick was very emotional and said his

father never knew what became of the watch. Still a mystery as to how it ended up in South Ryegate.

Interestingly, Rick told us that he and another man collect St. Johnsbury Trucking Company memorabilia and they swap duplications back and forth. The largest collection in the State of Vermont belongs to Rick.

Ed mailed the watch, very carefully packaged, out to Rick on Friday. Our last "TRY" worked out as a blessing---with the help of two other supportive Vermonters. Now, Rick Bliss can claim to having a complete collection, with his father's watch included.

Conclusion of
Visiting the Mallon's in S.Korea
by, Dennis Kauppila

We drove through Byeonsan National Park, with beautiful mountains and valleys. But it was too windy with heavy showers to do the hiking that we had hoped to do. Warm rain, but really wet. On the way back to Mallon's in Seoul we went past a huge port, the one where all of the Kia automobiles leave Korea. Plus we saw plenty of rice paddies, and in villages there were a lot of gardens with cabbage, radish and hot peppers: kimchi gardens! Kimchi is the national dish of fermented cabbage and radish, with plenty of hot peppers and fish sauce. I got to like it.

Our trip to visit the Mallon's ended at a folk park, where samples of buildings from around Korea have been brought for display. It was a nice warm Sunday afternoon, with a lot of people there, finishing up a holiday weekend. We saw a number of farmsteads set up like the hanock where we stayed a few nights before: one room would be a living room, then the kitchen, and dining room, store rooms, and bed rooms. There were dancers, archery demonstrations, tight rope walking, and horseback riders. I found a box of ginseng tea to

bring home. Beth had the good idea to go out to a BBQ place for supper (with the charcoal grill right on the table).

The next morning, Rick brought us to the bus at 6:30 to get to the airport for the 12-hour flight to Detroit, then to Boston and home. We sure had a nice time, we were the Mallon's first guests! Their daughter Mandy and husband Dan visited for 2 weeks over Christmas. Mallon's teaching jobs finish up in June, they hope to visit again this summer. They are not quite sure if they will live here or in Michigan. I hope it is here!

Summer Worship at Barnet Center

June 5 until Sept 4

*Worship will begin at 10:00am**

Remember that it will be cool in June.
Bring a blanket or wear a coat.

**In March the Session decided to continue to worship at 10am for many reasons. The Session wants to thank everyone who helped with this decision.*

SAVE THE DATES

Friday, June 10

Presbyterian Church of Barnet
Annual Silent Auction
at the
Green Mountain Retreat Center
on
Barnet Center Road

August 1 - 5

Vacation Bible School
at the
Green Mountain Retreat Center
(volunteers are still needed)
call 802-633-2309 or 2688 for details

More information will be coming soon.
Look for posters, check out our Facebook page (Presbyterian Church of Barnet), or attend church for updates given during the announcement time.

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