

# The Barnet Messenger

A Newsletter from the Barnet Presbyterian Church



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

## Pastor's Corner Rev Howard Gaston

Lent is coming soon. With Easter on April 1 (no Joke) that makes Valentine's Day Feb 14 Ash Wednesday. For this Lenten season I will be looking at Religion. I have read a Book by Skye Jethani, titled *What's Wrong with Religion: 9 Things No One Told You about Faith*. We will be looking at those 9 things. Here are the titles for the sermons.

1. Everyone is Religious.
2. How Religion Ruins the World.
3. Why Getting Rid of Religion Doesn't Help
4. God Does Not Exist to be Used
5. And Neither do You
6. The "Solution" Living with God
7. The "Radical" Life isn't What You think
8. The World is A Perfectly Safe Place (Really)
9. All You Need Is Love.

Bob Goff, author of *Love Does* said of this book "*If you're disillusioned about religion you must read this book!*"

I think there are some important ideas and beliefs we hold about our faith. Some are helpful and

some are not. Some hold us back in living the full life that Christ has for us. But whether your Grandmother instilled the fear of God in your life or you have found the way you grew up religious is not helpful to you, this book and the sermon series can help you. Helping you to understand what it really means to believe is someone greater than you.

This God, who we call Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is a God who wants to be "with" us. We have heard that before, it is the key for us to reflect on this Lenten time. Is God really with you? Do you feel that and believe that? This is what Christianity is really about. It is not about getting what you want, or controlling those things we fear, like Death. Faith is about being in and with God in Jesus Christ. This gives us life. This is what we look for when we come to Easter Celebration.

I hope you will follow along with us on this journey through Lent this year, walking with each other and most importantly with Jesus.

In Christ, Howard

## Deacon's Message

As we come to the end of yet another year, 2017, it gives us an opportunity to reflect on the state of our church community. The Deacons have spent our

time continuing the Card Ministry, remembering those ill and shut-in in prayer and with small remembrances at the holidays, and ministering to the church through the Coffee Hour after Sunday Service. We want to thank those who have "joyfully" joined in doing the dishes. We wish to remind everyone that your food donations for this time are gratefully accepted. If you are making a batch of cookies or cupcakes, consider donating a few. We have room in the small freezer.

We mourn the loss of people we have loved and tried to support all those affected by their loss. We remember Emma Bean, Mary Faris' Mom, Barbara Warden and Pat Jones. The absence of these beloved people is felt not just when we hear of them through the Prayer Line or host a funeral luncheon, but at random times as we go about our lives. We ask our Lord to comfort those of us left behind as we walk the path He has chosen for us.

Our lives are brightened by the announcement of babies throughout the year. Our hearts are warmed as we welcome these babies who are often joyfully announced at Service and sent a gift of Baby's First Bible. Twenty-seventeen was enriched by the birth of Sullivan Jean Copenrath, Bennett Anthony Lotrina, Owen Lewis Lotrina, Addison Marie Coleman, Everett Russell Coen, Hazel Smith, Kaeson Roger Kendall and Magnus Thody.

Each year one or two Deacons cycle off the duty roster and we look to the Church community to find members willing to devote some of their time to this enriching ministry. We understand we live in a world that demands much from each of us, but each task we take on is a choice we make. Our choices often rule our time in ways we didn't anticipate. Often these choices are viewed only as bothersome responsibilities or are moved by societal expectations instead of careful consideration. We hope that all the choices we make, individually and collectively, are made thoughtfully and prayerfully. And we hope that some of you will consider enriching

your lives and the life of our community by carefully considering volunteering when you are asked to become a Deacon, Elder or Trustee.

### Keeping TABS on TABS Nancy and Ed Brower

It was so exciting this year when we turned our TABS in at Allen Lumber, St. Johnsbury, to learn that we had put them ahead of last year's total. The fellowship at the Presbyterian Church in Barnet, VT really stepped up and helped make a big difference. This includes contacts and supporters that we keep in touch with all year to keep the TABS coming in.

We are part of a team to help the kids at Shriners Hospitals in Massachusetts and they really appreciate everyone's efforts and the money that is derived from the sale of these TABS. It goes to aid in the treatment and care the "kids" receive. We have active community members participating as well: the Barnet Elementary School, Skip's Repair Garage, the Barnet Recycling Center at Passumpsic, and the Green Mt. Retreat Center. There are also out of state donations that come in from North Carolina, Florida and Washington, DC. One of our larger donors is the Grove Restaurant in St. George, New Brunswick, Canada that is picked up regularly by Horace and Jackie Young. They also encourage friends and family to keep saving TABS.

We began helping with TABS in 2013, the team total was 39,424 tabs. In 2014 the total rose to 57,792, in 2015 the team was up to 157,136 TABS, 2016 the team total rose to 226,072, and 2017 it topped off at 231,616. We were so pleased to have 5,544 TABS more than last year.

Finally, on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, I was able to speak with Lee Roberts, after several rounds of telephone tag. She is so pleased with ALL the efforts of the Presbyterian Church of Barnet in helping to make the TABS project for the Shriners Hospitals for Children very successful.

We will soon be receiving new brochures to place

at the community sites for the collection of TABS. Also, she will send some fliers with complete explanations of the program and the wonderful help it has been to these needy children.

Our Church Fellowship and community, with the support of many people who have moved away – are known about and appreciated at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Springfield MA, as well as some of their affiliates. We may be small, but we ARE making a very helpful impact for children. Keep up the good work, and know that every TAB saved is helping a needy child. That is what is important! Thanks so much.

Thanks to every single person for participating with every single TAB. Questions? Contact Ed or Nancy Brower, 802-633-3618.

### More on the Diaper Bank

Community Connections, with NVRH, helps to connect people to services they may need. Their website says “Community Connections will take the time to talk with you to determine which social and community services you need, and then help connect you to the right people at the right services. They know who to call to get you an appointment, health information, legal services, medical transportation assistance, or a place to live.”

Community Connections is starting a diaper bank. According to the National Diaper Bank Network, 1 in 3 US Moms report diaper need. Babies and toddlers need disposable diapers in order to attend child care, and parents need child care in order to work. Diaper need impacts the physical, mental and economic well-being of children and parents.

There is an organizational meeting scheduled in early February; right now there are two distribution points planned, one in St Johnsbury and one in Lyndonville. There will be information about a diaper drive proposed for March forthcoming. In the meantime, you may bring donations of diapers to the Community Connections office at 55 Sherman Drive, St

Johnsbury VT. They are open from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, and greatly appreciate all donations.

### In the Times of Old Merle Fitzgerald

My family moved to West Barnet in 1944. My father, Gordon, was the manager at that time of the Ide Grain Store (which is now the house between the Marceau's and the Church Store.)

My sister, Donna, and I attended the West Barnet School, which had two classrooms, grades 1-4 and 4-8, with the Grange Hall upstairs. I was in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade when we moved here, and Donna was in Grade 2. A basketball court has replaced the old schoolhouse, which burned many years ago, and the site is now the Bernice Mackay Memorial Park.

My family was quite involved in the West Barnet Presbyterian Church in those years, with my father serving in a number of offices. I joined the church in 1948 at the age of fourteen. My first church office, as I recall, was that of “Usher.”

In those days, during worship, two teenage ushers sat in single chairs at the rear of the church, one on each side. Our primary job was to take up the collection. We were also responsible for the doors, lights, and errands for the pastor. Our Sunday School class, held before the Sunday service, took place in what is now the pastor's office.

Our minister at that time was the Reverend Harry Gayley, a devoted young pastor who was sincerely loved by all the congregation.

Mr. Gayley was followed by the Reverend Thomas Hedges, fresh out of school. The first time I met him, I said “Hello, Mr. Hedges, I'm . . .” “Call me Tommy!” he replied, causing my jaw to drop. It was always a source of pleasure for kids to hear our elders addressing the pastor as “Mr. Hedges,” while we just shouted “Hi, Tommy!” and watched them frown. This was, I think, now, the very beginning of a time of far less puritanical formality than had previously existed.

In 1944, of course, we were deeply involved in World War II. Almost all of the young men in West Barnet were in the military, many of them overseas in combat. A review of the plaque in our church will give a good sense of this.

My first paying job as a ten year old was filling Elsie Choate's wood box. My family lived where Meg Clayton is now, and Mrs. Choate, an elderly lady, lived alone on the Choate Farm, since her two sons, Charlie and Paul, were both overseas.

My job was to walk down to the Choate farm every day and bring in enough wood from the barn to get Elsie through the next twenty-four hours. I was paid 75 cents a week. This may sound like pretty low pay, but keep I mind that at that time I could have bought local land for two dollars an acre, and a camp on the lake for five hundred dollars.

Resources page on Church Website  
Nick Perrine

Today is the best of times and the worst of times. It is the best of times because we have access to more tools for growing in our knowledge of God and His Word than ever before. Through internet resources, growth in godliness is at the fingertips of Joe Churchmember like at no other time in history. It is also the worst of times. Literally anyone can put their ideas on the web. Who do you trust? Who is misleading? To choose the wrong online teacher could mean placing yourself among the flock of a wolf. For this reason, The Presbyterian Church of Barnet

has compiled a list of pastors and teachers who we trust to provide you with biblically sound teaching. On these pages, you will find daily scripture studies, sermons, or help with almost any question you could have in the Christian life. We trust that with these tools, you can better live and serve in your life. While we differ from some of these teachers in some smaller matters, we trust their heart for Christ and their work. We encourage you to check out these resources. You'll find it by going to the church's website and clicking on "Resources for Living and Understanding." You might not even know that you have a question until you start looking.

### Joys and Concerns

Concerns: Doris Stetson, Betty, those with the flu, Alice's grandson - Charlie, Paula Stevenson, Clint Duncan, Derick's friend from market  
Joys: Gertie is home, Raymond is back to work, Bentley is up to 5 pounds!

### Upcoming Events

Prayer Wednesday 6:30 - 7:00 am West Church  
Bible Study Thursdays 7:00 pm West Church  
February 23 1 day seminar on Work As Worship at Union Baptist Church  
March 29th at 7pm Maundy Thursday Service  
Easter Sunrise Service, Barnet Center 6:30am  
Breakfast to follow  
Easter Worship 10 am at West Barnet - No Sunday School

Presbyterian Church of Barnet  
279 West Main Street  
Barnet VT 05821