The Barnet Messenger

A Newsletter from the Barnet Presbyterian Church

November 2016C:\Users\wright\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\WMY3SI0W\MC900304865[1].wmfVolume 16, Issue 4

Hope gives wings to our dreams…

Faith gives them flight

The Leadership of the church met together on Sept 14 and we discussed all the things we do as a church. We came up with an impressive list of over 50 items. And there are still more that come to mind over the last few days. Below is the list we came up with.

1. Mission

a. Full time Pastor   
 b. Adult trip   
 c. Local work projects   
 d. Angel Tree

2. Christian Education

a. Sunday School   
 b. VBS   
 c. Christmas Play

d. Bible study

3. Youth

a. Children’s Sunday   
 b. Summer trip

c. Volunteers

4. Administration

a. Foundation money   
 b. ByLaws / Manual   
 c. Schedule of events

5. Worship

a. Music   
 b. Barnet Center   
 c. Fellowship time   
 d. New members   
 e. Easter sunrise and breakfast   
 f. Beach Service   
 g. Service flowers   
 h. Pub Theology   
 i. Special offerings

6. Fundraisers

a. Chicken BBQ   
 b. Fall Foliage European Coffee Hour   
 c. Talent Show   
 d. Silent Auction

7. Building Maintenance

a. West Church   
 b. Center Church  
 c. Green Mtn Retreat   
 d. Manse   
 e. Yard work and flowers   
 f. Clean before switching church

8. Outreach

a. Card ministry   
 b. Memory Tree   
 c. Advertising   
 d. Special events

e. Mealsite   
 f. Funeral luncheons   
 g. Secret Pals   
 h. Christmas and Easter Baskets

i. Popcorn at Yard Sale   
 j. Church Store   
 k. Food Shelf   
 l. Newsletter

Also we have been looking at the *“Six Great Ends of the Church”* during our worship.

The great ends of the church are:

•The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind

•The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God

•The maintenance of divine worship

•The preservation of the truth

•The promotion of social righteousness

•The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world

This statement of the great ends of the Church, slightly edited in the Book of Order, came from the United Presbyterian Church of North America, which united with the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America in 1958.

I have been asking you to take one of the note cards with one of our activities and ministries written on it and decide what Great End that activity matches. At the end on this series the leadership will meet again and review those results and ask, “How can we best serve as Christ’s Church in our Community and what might we need to leave out?”

So I would encourage you to ask this same question these coming weeks.

In Christ, Howard

"As we wait in quiet expectation..." while nature takes a breath -- This is a "between" season. Fall is finishing up and winter is creeping down the mountains. Soon we will rush headlong into the holiday season alive with activity, parties to plan, dates to set, turkeys to cook, presents to buy. Dashing between Christmas parties, sledding parties, carol singing, rehearsals, wrapping presents -- it is hard to remember the reason for the season in the midst of the rush.

So now, "in quiet expectation," take the time to reflect on seasons past and on the most important reason for the season. Now is when you can catch your breath, appreciate the people around you, give thanks to God for His many blessings and ask for patience, a quiet soul amongst the coming hubbub, and the clarity to see the beauty of the people and places around you. Give thanks for the wonder of the greatest gift we were given with no strings attached. Just believe.

This is the wish the Deacons have for each of you -- love, family, thanksgiving, peace.

This summer’s Vacation Bible School took place the first week of August at the Green Mountain Retreat Center. Around 20 children attended from kindergarten through the 6th grade. This number is lower that it has been in the past with very few children from the church attending. Most were children from the community.

The theme for this year was Buck Denver’s What’s in the Bible? Lessons included: What is the Bible? Why Do We Need the Old Testament? Why Do We Need the New Testament? and What is a Christian? The children enjoyed a lesson, games, crafts, snacks and either music or role playing.

A big thank you to the 18 adults and older students who led activities or helped with the students: Lauren Gibson, Melody Morrison, Melanie Hannon, Alice Frazer, Alex Calcagni, Jenna Carpenter, Edie Rayburn, Barb Warden, Vanessa Gingue, Tammy Carpenter, Val Gombas, Rhonda Hannon, Louis Hannon, Logan Samuels, Howard Gaston, Becca Gaston, John Gaston and Donna Gaston.

We have been reminded that our Church needs your continual support for the work and maintenance of this church. We are very aware how important the weekly offering is to us. And Thank you again for your support! But have you thought about putting PC of Barnet in your will?

Wills and bequests are essential components of estate planning – the process of managing your accumulated assets and determining what legacy you will leave through them, including your legacy of faith. Your will and other estate planning documents provide an ideal opportunity to make a statement of your faith and to give resources that will support your church or favorite mission for years to come.

Charitable bequests, for example, can be written into your will. The bequest can be a stated amount, a percentage of your estate or a residual amount after other expenses have been deducted, left to our church or any charitable beneficiary you identify.

For example, here is a story about a woman who was not “rich” but remembered her church. *Judy Whitford of First Presbyterian Church in Iowa City, Iowa makes a big impact through her decision to leave ten percent of her estate to the church. She hopes that it will help her congregation empower others in the future as they have empowered her in the past.*

You don't have to have a large estate to make a difference to our church. So would you consider including Presbyterian Church of Barnet in your will? Contact any session member or Pastor Howard for more information.

Do you wonder why our Fall Foliage celebration is named the European Coffee Hour? Here’s the answer! Apparently several years ago there were three or four women in the West Barnet village who were from different European countries and would meet on a semi-regular basis for a coffee break with goodies. When our church got involved with the Barnet foliage festivities they joined with the women of our church and expanded on their get-togethers.

Mary Faris starts to get us organized right after Labor Day. She keeps excellent records of our needs, our recipes and a schedule of what to do and when to do it–always having a smile on her face. In recent years the “hour” has grown to about a day and a half of on site preparation/serving/clean up. There are many community and church members who bring special cookie treats from home to add to a smorgasbord of sandwiches, fruit trays, coffee, tea and warmed apple cider.

Valerie Gombas decorates the dining room with help from some 7 and 8 graders from Barnet School, who also help serve. This is a part of their community service program at school. Bill

Conant is the mainstay in the kitchen, and is always willing to help in any way he can. The day runs very smoothly, with people returning year after year to join in the preparation.

So, what started out as less than a half dozen ladies enjoying an afternoon together has grown into a very successful part of the celebration of our beautiful Vermont autumn season, and a chance for church, school and community people to work in unity and to meet many tourists who are awed by our beautiful countryside.

We are still collecting aluminum can tabs  
throughout the winter months. There is a  
container inside the entrance of church,  
please add your tabs to the collection.  
Let’s see if we can fill that bucket by spring  
time!

The Northeast Kingdom in the State of Vermont  
Where many people visit or live and often speak,   
Known for the natural beauty this area holds  
Within its low lands and on each lofty peak.  
  
There is a quiet and remarkable lady named Mrs. Lorna Fogg  
Who adds her musical talents to church service in Barnet, VT  
She plays the organ, piano, clarinet, saxophone, and sings  
And is always willing to help others musically if they want.  
  
There are two Presbyterian churches in the small town of Barnet.  
Lorna is there “most every Sunday” and has been for many a season.  
In the summer she plays at the Center Church for services there.  
The rest of the year she is at the West Church, heating costs the main reason.  
  
Lorna is a multitask lady at home, school, family, church, etc.  
She is right there to lend a helping hand wherever she sees a need.  
Assisting her husband, Alan during their spring “sugaring season”  
She’s happy to work very hard there and follows Alan’s lead.  
  
Lorna is blessed with many Christian friends  at church  
She can be depended on to listen when folks need an ear,  
Being very positive about keeping conversations confidential.  
And repeating things is NOT something others have to fear.   
  
We all wish Alan and Lorna traveling mercies, as they head south.  
May God Bless their new home and the new friendships that they make.  
We shall miss Lorna in so many ways, including her uplifting smile.   
Yet, we know it is important for them to lighten their load for their sake.  
  
We hope that you always remember, wherever you travel Lorna,  
If you get homesick for family and friends up here in Vermont  
You will always be welcomed back  with open, caring and loving arms.  
So feel free to come back here whenever you and Alan want.

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The trustees plan to update the two refrigerators at the Retreat Center.  If anyone is updating their home kitchens please keep us in mind!

Pastor’s Corner

Rev Howard Gaston

Deacon’s Message

Book Review by

Patricia Jones

2016 Vacation Bible School

Christmas is coming! The 2016 Memory Tree will be in memory of Aline Faris, Cathy McLam, Iris Morrison, and Margaret St Lawrence.

Operation Christmas Child boxes due Nov 13.

Nov 27 – lighting of Memory Tree at 5:00 pm

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Service at Barnet Center at 7:00 pm

Dec 25 – Church Service at West Barnet at

10:00 am, we will be reading names from the Memory Tree.

Angel Tree - to be announced

European Coffee Hour

Remembering Our Church in Your Will

TABS Update

A poem for Lorna

By Nancy Brower

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