

The Barnet Messenger

A Newsletter from the Barnet Presbyterian Church



November 2017

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

Pastor's Corner
Rev Howard Gaston

Donald Miller, writer of "Blue Like Jazz," told this story about Hostages being rescued.

A long time ago I went to a concert with my friend Rebecca. ... I heard this folksinger was coming to town, and I thought she might like to see him because she was a singer too. ... Between songs, though, he told a story that helped me resolve some things about God. The story was about his friend who is a Navy SEAL. He told it like it was true, so I guess it was true, although it could have been a lie.

The folksinger said his friend was performing a covert operation, freeing hostages from a building in some dark part of the world. His friend's team flew in by helicopter, made their way to the compound and stormed into the room where the hostages had been imprisoned for months. The room, the folksinger said, was filthy and dark. The hostages were curled up in a corner, terrified. When the SEALs entered the room, they heard the gasps of the hostages. They stood at the door and called to the prisoners, telling them they were Americans. The SEALs asked the hostages to follow them, but the hostages wouldn't. They sat there on the floor

and hid their eyes in fear. They were not of healthy mind and didn't believe their rescuers were really Americans.

The SEALs stood there, not knowing what to do. They couldn't possibly carry everybody out. One of the SEALs, the folksinger's friend, got an idea. He put down his weapon, took off his helmet, and curled up tightly next to the other hostages, getting so close his body was touching some of theirs. He softened the look on his face and put his arms around them. He was trying to show them he was one of them. None of the prison guards would have done this. He stayed there for a little while until some of the hostages started to look at him, finally meeting his eyes. The Navy SEAL whispered that they were American and were there to rescue them. "Will you follow us?" he said. The hero stood to his feet and one of the hostages did the same, then another, until all of them were willing to go. The story ends with all the hostages safe on an American aircraft carrier.

In the past weeks we have been talking about being a follower of Jesus and you have been asked to answer a few questions about where you are in the journey. I certainly hope none of you are curled upon a floor unwilling to follow Jesus. I hope that each of you will seriously consider what it means for you to "take up your Cross and Follow Jesus."

The answers to your questions will help Nick and

me to explore some ways that we as a church can help each of us to cultivate our faithfulness to Jesus Christ. If you missed a week, the Questions will be posted on Facebook and our web site and you can work on them at home and send them to us.

I believe that we are not only protected by God's love as we follow Jesus, but it is essential for us as Christians to live out this wonderful faith.

So continue to ask yourself how is Jesus asking you, "Will you follow me?"

Deacon's Message

The Deacons are preparing for Christmas activities. We would like to start the Angel Tree a little earlier this year, but it all depends on our contact person, who sends the families to us. We never know if we will be asked to help make Christmas for a family with younger children or a family with teenage children. We appreciate all your help, even if it means you are shopping outside your "comfort zone". (For example, video games or technology stuff).

Capital Repairs Fundraiser (Thank you, Stevenson's)

The Capital Repairs Fundraiser was quite successful. Members and friends of the church, the Senior Mealsite and the community raised over \$26,000! We Thank everyone for your generous donations. God Bless you all.

Richard, Paula and Shane Stevenson have contributed so much to our Church over the years by donating their labor and equipment for large repairs. They have finished our new mound septic system, with a large grease trap. Please thank them if you see them out and about, they were instrumental in finishing this work. We raised more than the cost of the septic system, and have earmarked that money for future capital improvements on the West Church building.

Coffee Hour Thank You

Thanks
For a pleasant day,
for a good crowd of people,
for workers to prep, serve and clean up,
for a group of schoolkids who did an excellent job
of serving,
for donations of baking monies,
for your prayers,
The European Coffee Hour's success must have
been blessed by Our Good Lord.

Did anyone notice the new poster for the European Coffee Hour? We have Dominique Salisbury to thank - she did an excellent and creative job.

Recipes?

There is a renewed interest by some people to put together a small cookbook of recipes that have graced the tables of the European Coffee Hour. If you can remember something you made in the past, and this year too - we would like to have a copy of the recipes, if you are willing to share them. I have some recipes, but I'm far from having them all.

Coffee Hour Fun

The European Coffee Hour was executed with maximum efficiency by a horde of volunteers under the supreme tutelage of Mary Faris. Preliminary prep time was on Thursday afternoon when recipes were consulted and ingredients were assembled. Volunteers included Bill and Tess Conant, Mel and Lana Hale, Alice Frazer, Celina Wright, Rosina Greenwood, Pat Fitzgerald, Lauren Gibson and Fran Flanagan. Sandwich mixtures were made in preparation for the morning, and fruits and veggies were chopped, sliced and diced.

Friday morning everyone was back with bells on! The sandwiches were stuffed by a group of apron bedecked ladies and decorated and arranged for maximum gustatory appeal thanks to Verna Beaupre, Lauren Gibson, Alice Frazer, Ann Pesaturo and Fran Flanagan. Jean Beaulieu

assembled a fruit tray to amaze! Many kind and willing community members donated and delivered an amazing delectable assortment of cakes, cookies and assorted delicacies. Tom Flanagan and Howard Gaston were in charge of coffee and greeting patrons with a smile and gracious welcome.

The church hall was transformed into a festive fall venue by Valerie Gombas and two lovely young ladies from the Barnet School. The stage was set, the food arranged, the volunteers festively attired. A pressing crowd of patrons were held at bay by our intrepid ticket seller, Merle Fitzgerald, until all arrangements were completed and pictures taken.

A group of wonderful young students from the Barnet School efficiently set about serving the patrons drinks and setting and clearing dishes. Their smiles, positive attitude and vast amounts of energy were an inspiration to all of us! Thanks to Shellie Samuels, Tammy and John Carpenter and Celina Wright for help on Friday cleaning up and doing dishes, an oft overlooked but much appreciated activity. Everyone joined in where they were needed and by Sunday morning, after service, the hall was again familiar and the fancy dishes were packed away awaiting the next flurry of fun.

Poinsettias

The Church will be supporting Caledonia Home Health and Hospice's Poinsettia fundraiser again this year. Celina will have information and sign-up sheets. This is a great way to bring beauty to the Church and to your home, while supporting a wonderful organization.

Vacation Bible School

"Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!" was the theme for this year's Vacation Bible School held July 31st thru August 2nd. The Bible stories studied were Samuel anoints David, Abigail saves the day, Jesus goes to the temple, The Beatitudes, and Pentecost. God's heroes have heart, courage, wisdom, hope, & power.

We were blessed with 21 children and 29 volunteers in one capacity or another including our older church youth. They made heroic commitments! This year we had a new format. Bible school was 3 full days starting with free time and then breakfast at 8:30. Breakfast and lunch were prepared by Jake from Barnet School. Daily activities included an opening session, crafts, recreation, story time, science session, and a closing. Have you ever tried balancing nine hymnals on an 8 ½ by 11 inch piece of paper? Ask our children how they accomplished that in the science session! There was a snack time in the afternoon. Children also worked on a service project - making benches from logs.

The offering collected was sent to Clint Duncan's family. Wednesday, the final day of Bible School was the day he underwent surgery to receive his altered white blood cells. Surgery was scheduled for 11:00 a.m. so everyone at Bible School gathered in front of the church. The bell tolled 11 times and then the minister offered up a prayer for Clint and his medical team. Also on Wednesday morning at the opening service Jake, our cook, shared his personal faith journey with the children.

Wednesday afternoon featured water splash fun and games. After racing downhill on a block of ice, blowing bubbles, playing other water games and searching for treasures in a pool of sawdust the children enjoyed an ice cream sundae made in a long trough. We were blessed with a warm, sunny day for this event!

Pipes and Pies!

Several from our church attended the Organ Concert and Pie Social hosted by the Ryegate Presbyterian Church Sept. 30. It was a very interesting afternoon starting with hearing the history of the organ, followed by musical selections highlighting the various functions of the organ. To summarize: it was built by a J. Buffington of Philadelphia, the style of the organ and metal of which the pipes are made indicates an 1850-1860 date. What is known is that the organ was purchased from the Congregational Church in Wentworth, NH and installed in the Ryegate Church in September 1948. The restoration in 2002 was made possible by

an anonymous donor. There are 236 pipes and 5 ranks in the organ. It has 54 manual keys and 13 pedal keys. Because of the top of the box, the 8' open wooden pipes show above the classical case front. As of 1996 there were 26 known instruments built by J. Buffington, seven of which were in Presbyterian churches.

The organists were Dr. David Sears, who has Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Peabody Conservatory and a Doctor of Musical Arts from Boston University. His wife Permelia Sears is a graduate of Smith College and the Yale University School of Music with a Master of Music in Pipe Organ Performance. The Sears specialize in playing historic 19th century tracker organs, and discovered the Ryegate organ while camping at Groton State Forest.

It was a very interesting concert with the organists playing solos, duets, turning pages and pulling out pipe stops! A social gathering followed with 27 pies waiting to be served!

Thank you to the Ryegate church for inviting other church communities to enjoy this event. The concert was a benefit for hurricane relief.

Parent's Night Out

At the Presbyterian Church of Barnet, we know that raising a family is hard, under-appreciated, incredibly important work. We want to help any way that we can. Parent's Night Out is a chance for younger parents to take a break, have some time for yourself, or your marriage. All TOTALLY FREE OF CHARGE.

You may drop your child off at 5:00pm. You will

check in your child and fill out a short info form for your children. Children will be fed, we'll play some games, watch a family-friendly movie, do a craft, have a lesson that teaches love, kindness, and friendship. Then you can pick your children up by signing them out whenever you are ready for them or at 9:00pm (whichever comes sooner).

We are planning on hosting this monthly, on the third Saturday of the month beginning in November. Pending approval of our application (we have already received verbal approval), Parent's Night Out will be hosted at Barnet Elementary School.

So go on a date, watch some Netflix'n'Chill, get some laundry done, or sit in blissful silence. We'll watch the kids.

Joys and Concerns

Have any of you heard Kristen Wolfe conversing with the birds? It's fascinating!

Clint Duncan is doing better!

Concerns: Barb Warden, Gail's' sister – Sally, Jael's Mom, Paula Stevenson

Upcoming Events

November 12th – Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes due

November 18th – Parent's Night Out

Thanksgiving – Dinner at Methodist Church on the Danville Green, call Merle if you'd like a ride

December 3rd – Memory Tree lighting, 5pm

December 24th – Sunday Service at West Barnet Church and Christmas Eve Service, Barnet Center Church, 7 pm

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