

The Barnet Messenger

A Newsletter from the Barnet Presbyterian Church



August 2019

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

Pastor's Corner Rev Howard Gaston

Many of you have heard that Donna has accepted a new job in Pennsylvania. She started in July. She is working for the architectural firm that she worked at before we moved to Vermont. They have several big projects lined up and they needed another architect. She is excited to return to architecture. So as you may have figured out, that also means that I will be looking for another church in western PA. Donna and I realized that it is the first time that I will follow her for work. She has always been willing to move to where I have been called. I don't know when I will be called to PA; it could be in months or longer. I want to thank everyone for all the support you have given us during this time.

So what do we do now? Well, I and you have to wait. I know I am not a good "wait-er." I like things to be done now. But this is not the case for us. I have said God gives us three answers to our prayers: "Yes," "No," and "Wait." We don't like "Wait." We know what to do if we get a Yes or No, but "Wait" forces us to, well - to wait. Waiting requires that we trust in God's ways. During this year's Vacation Bible School we had three sayings "When Life is unfair - God is Good", "When Life is scary ... God is Good" and "When life changes ... God is Good." Good advice even for adults and a church and minister going through this kind of

transition.

Waiting doesn't mean we do nothing, but we need to get ready for what God has in store for us. The Session will be starting the process for searching for a new pastor. The Session already talked with the Committee of Ministry (which is responsible for pastoral relationship.) The first step is securing a person to fill the pulpit when I do leave and the COM will help us do that.

Then the church will need to work on a Mission Study (which is a way for you to answer - "Who is God calling us to be?" "How are we to prepare for that?" And look at our vision, mission, values, goals, strengths, and the needs around us, and discern God's purpose for this congregation.)

Then there's writing a Mission Information Form (MIF) which is basically your dossier for a pastor to read. All of this normally starts when the pastor has moved. I am not sure if that will apply to us as well. We should hear something at the end of August about what we can and cannot do to begin the search process.

It has been a very good 10 years serving you, great memories and growth as well. I hope that in the following months as we transition through this time, that we can stay focused on being the Church in Barnet.

Deacon's Message

It has been a busy summer and we hope everyone is enjoying the various activities such nice weather invites.

A special thank you to Dennis and Becky for sharing highlights of their trip with the Mallons to Iceland. We look forward to Part 2 of their adventure.

As we finish up our summer worship services at the Center Church, we look forward to our return to the West building and the beauty of the autumn season in Vermont. If you have an interesting story or news item please feel free to submit it to Celina or a Deacon as it happens, and we will share it with our Church family. And don't forget to save the can tabs for the Shriner's Hospital!

Inevitable Change
Celina Wright

I have a book written by Diana Moore, called *Blessings for a Changing World*. Diana went to Danville High School with Steve, and she still lives in Danville. In this time of change for our Church, I hope her words are meaningful to you.

Inevitable Change

In the early season of Fall in the North Eastern United States, the sun often peaks through the clouds on an early morning. The air will be crisp and cool, the ground sprinkled with the colors of autumn leaves. The tamaracks turn that wonderful shade of yellow. This is such a gorgeous time of the year. It feels good to snuggle into warm sweaters and jackets, like a comfortable hug. Having the many seasons of the year is a gift of nature that goes beyond the change in temperatures and the color of the leaves. This ever-changing manifestation of life is our teacher that nothing stays the same, ever. It is not meant to. Even in parts of the world where there appears to be the same season there are other changes going on. Mother Earth is a flowing body of change. The winds and rivers move and shift the lay of the land. The Grand Canyon was carved by water. Sometimes we as humans forget this. Sometimes we think that things are supposed to stay constant. But that is not the way of life. Maybe one of our greatest lessons this lifetime is to accept change and learn to flow with it, no matter what that is. Maybe we could learn from our tree sisters and brothers how to bend with the winds, flutter in the breeze, go with the change of seasons as they move us ever forward.

Trip to Iceland
Dennis Kauppila

In mid-May, Rick and Beth Mallon, and Becky and I went to Iceland for 2 weeks. Iceland is about 4 times the size of Vermont. About 350,000 people live there, roughly half of Vermont's population. Two-thirds of Iceland's population lives in or near the capital, Reykjavik, in the southwest corner of the country.

Iceland is an island, kind of between Scotland and Greenland, in the north Atlantic Ocean, it is just south of the Arctic Circle. When we left at the end of May, the sky would turn orange and pink at about 11:30 pm, and the sun would come up at 1:30 am (they tell me), it never got dark. We did not see the Northern Lights, because it did not get dark. On the bus, coming home from Boston, it got dark- it was the first time we had seen darkness in 2 weeks!

There were a couple of days that we did not need a jacket, but we always needed either a windbreaker or jacket or both. I guess it got into the low 50s and one evening, after a soak in a hot tub, my swim trunks got a bit frozen, while hanging on the porch railing. But we did not see frost on the ground or car. The first 4 days were wet, and then it was dry and windy.

We saw lots of sheep. Sheep have been the main type of farming since people moved to Iceland a little before 900 AD. There were many lamb dishes available at restaurants- it all tasted good. We saw lots of horses- the Icelandic breed, a few beef cows, and some dairy cows. There is only one type of horse, it is small, gentle, and friendly, it has 5 gaits, 2 are unique to this breed. No other horses are allowed onto the island.

One of the farm B+B's that we stayed at made ice-cream, they had a popular brand- and some unusual flavors- one was salt and caramel, another had licorice in it. (There are many many different kinds of licorice available.) We saw lots of wrapped round bales, most were wrapped in white or black plastic, then some were in green, pink, and blue!

There are about 140 volcanoes on Iceland, 30 are active. One caused the huge ash cloud 10 years ago that stopped air flights in Europe for nearly a week. Iceland is on both a 'hot-spot' (like Hawaii), and a place where tectonic plates are in motion (like Mt St Helens).

Then there are glaciers in Iceland. Some are on top of volcanoes. One volcano has a glacier on top that is a half-mile of ice. So, when the volcano erupts, first the

glacier melts, and floods a large area, then there may be a flow of lava afterwards. Not every eruption has lava- the volcano that caused the halt in air traffic, created flooding, then tremendous ash clouds, with very little lava.

We were able to go for a several-hour guided walk on a glacier. There were cracks in the glacier, some filled with water, some not. There was water flowing on top of the glacier, the air was above freezing, and it was a sunny day. There was black volcanic ash on the glacier- it would get blown around. Strangely the ash acted as insulation, so the ice would not melt that was under the black volcanic ash.

Sea birds. We stayed 2 nights a few miles from the Latrabjorg sea cliffs. These cliffs are about 1,200 feet high and continue for 6 miles. There are more than a million birds nesting on the cliffs: puffin, arctic terns, gulls, razor bills, fulmars, guillemots.... We walked to about a yard from the edge and saw birds in flight, birds in the water, birds on their nests, and birds coming and going from their nests. The puffins nested very close to the top of the cliff, and dug tunnels for their nests. We got a good close look at a number of puffins. Then there was one particular spot where birds would come to gather grass for their nest. They did not go to other places to get the grass, just this one particular spot. Catching sea birds and gathering eggs used to be an important source of food. They must still do some catching, because we tried smoked puffin in blueberry sauce as an appetizer one evening. (It was OK.)

We saw a number of swans, and snipes and seals. We went kayaking one day, and were able to see seals with their young over there on the rocks. This was from a small farm hotel. (There must not have been much theft- there were about 20 kayaks on the ground. The fellow from the hotel drove us there, and picked what kayaks to use, and away we went. The kayaks were not chained or locked.)

To be continued....

Presbyterian Women's Retreat

Presbyterian Women gathered at Alton Bay Christian Center for their annual spring weekend on May 17 & 18. About 75 women were in attendance. This year's weekend was hosted by the Vermont Presbyterian churches—Gail Brown, Ann Marie Pesaturo and Lauren Gibson from our church were part of the

planning committee. Thanks to the knitters from our church for the Vermont Maple Leaf wash cloths to be included in the welcome package.

After a delicious dinner on Friday evening women met in small groups to make some glass jewelry. There was some free time just for chatting also.

Saturday morning started with a Bible study and nature walk before the 8 am breakfast. Those attending on Saturday only arrived at 9 am. After a brief hymn sing the business meeting started and various reports were available for review. Vacant offices were filled by voice vote.

Our guest speaker was Rev. Dr. Richard Crocker, Professor Emeritus from Dartmouth College. He had an interesting talk titled "The Language of Faith" about a situation that he found himself in his early ministry, and left us in suspense as to how that ended. Luckily his book was available for us to purchase and find out "the rest of the story."

There were various activities available for us in the hour before lunch--intro to "Stretch and Balance" exercises, Embracing Diversity talk with Dr. Crocker, an Emmaus walk, and crafting.

We had tacos for lunch! And then we had some free time to browse through the goodies that were available for Silent Auction bid. We had eight wash clothes that were bundled together for the auction which earned an extra \$17.

The afternoon began with music from our women friends from Elliot Presbyterian Church in Lowell, MA., Eliot's African Fellowship Choir and the Eliot Marturia Choir. They were comprised of people from a variety of African cultures, Cambodians and Indonesia who sang beautifully in their language and in ours. Their music is always a highlight of our weekend. We are blessed to have these friends share their faith and talent with us.

We had a short worship service with communion prior to saying our goodbyes. We look forward to meeting again next year at the Lutheran Christian Center in Ossipee, NH. Hope to see you there!

The Journey
Mel and Lana Hale

Many of the articles this month are about travel: Howard

is beginning a new passage in life, Dennis's relating of their Iceland trip. When Mel's Mother was about to begin her final journey home last year, the family found this beautiful poem in her many writings. Lana says it was one of those moments when you feel the Holy Spirit so close and comforting.

The Journey

I lie this day with labored breath
I know that I am nearing death
My body seems so unattached
My spirit is feeling free at last

A cloud is dropping o'er my eyes
And then a glow began to rise
A light so bright I dare not look
It's blinding glare the room it took.

A voice within my head replied,
"Don't be afraid, I'm by your side"
I felt a touch beneath my hand
The strength with which I tried to stand.

Without effort I rose and stood
My pain was gone, I felt so good
The warmth surrounding me in peace
I felt my body was released.

I was light like feathers on a bird
Sweet singing voices then I heard
I rose above the room below
I wanted to say, "I have to go"

But no one seemed to see me there
As weeping sounded in the air
I wondered why they had to cry
It wasn't hard for me to die.

I knew they'd miss me after all
But I was answering Jesus' call
"Come now my friend, we have to go
We'll leave this sinful world below.

To join the angels in their song
And gather with the Heavenly Throng
For you are one of the chosen ones."

We soared towards Heaven in the light
A golden path that was so bright
I saw the angels 'round above
I felt so free, so full of love

The angels sang so soft and clear
The music flowing through my ears
Their voices raised in sweet refrain
To welcome us back home again

Helen B. Sargent (1932-2018)
Written September 28, 1993

Joys and Concerns

Joys: successful surgeries, Justin just got a job in PA, Pat feeling better, also Linda Perkins. School starting! The Hale's have their granddaughter living with them
Health Concerns: Margaret Strobridge, Cindy Frazer
Other concerns: Barbara Cobb's mother passed away

Upcoming Events

Aug 18th 10: 00 am Beach Service at Harvey's Lake, Potluck following
Aug 21st 5:00 pm VBS at the Beach
Sept 1st 10:00 am Worship at Center Church
Sept 8th 10:00 am Worship at West Church with Facebook livestream

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