

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

The origins of Vacation Bible School can be traced back to Hopedale, Illinois in 1894. Sunday school teacher D. T. Miles felt she was limited by time constraints in teaching the Bible to children. So, she started a daily Bible school to teach children during the summer. The first Bible school enrolled forty students and lasted four weeks.

In 1898 Virginia Sinclair Hawes (often identified as "Mrs. Walker Aylett Hawes"), director of the children's department at Epiphany Baptist Church in New York City, started an "Everyday Bible School" for neighborhood children during the summer at a rented beer parlor in New York's East Side.

Dr. Robert Boville of the Baptist Mission Society, became aware of the Hawes' summer program and recommended it to other Baptist churches. Boville established a handful of summer schools which were taught by students at the Union Theological Seminary. During one summer, one thousand students were enrolled in five different schools. In 1922, he founded the World Association of Daily Vacation Bible School. One year later, Standard

Publishing produced the very first printed VBS curriculum. Enough material was provided for a five-week course for three age levels (kindergarten, primary, and junior).

So VBS has been around in one form or another for over 120 Years. It has taken on many different forms too. I remember when VBS was two weeks long. Many of you here have fond memories of The Green Mountain Camp that went on for a number of years. But no matter what the form of the VBS the message I believe continues to be the same, learning and loving Jesus more.

While the message is the same, some things have changed. For example, in the 1860's the new gadgets were the camera and the bicycle. While these inventions were around for several years, they gained in popularity. Today the camera is an app on an iPhone that almost every child has.

So how does that affect VBS? It is affected in some ways and in the important way, not at all. The message still is learning and loving Jesus more. But a 4-week program won't work, neither will a 2-week program. That is why I asked you about the different formats for VBS. Most of us went with a once a week format for 4 weeks hoping that we might attract more of our neighbors to VBS. While all the details are not in place yet, the Committee is moving towards doing this format. We plan to hold

VBS at the West Barnet building with the possibility of holding the last meeting at the beach sometime at the end of the summer.

What we will need is you. This church has been great about supporting VBS over the years. Last year we had around 29 volunteers! That is great and this year we will need all of us to help in some way.

I look forward to you sharing this new adventure with us by sharing the same message in a new way.

In Christ, Howard

Deacon's Message

Welcome to Irene Cheney and Sue Copenrath as this year's new Deacons.

We meet monthly on the 2nd Monday. Our principal duties are the card ministry, the weekly coffee fellowship, and providing refreshments after memorial services if requested. This spring we prepared and delivered five Easter baskets to shut-ins. We also help with the Children's Day potluck picnic and at the Beach Service picnic too.

We appreciate any goodies the congregation adds to our coffee hour. And we say a big THANK YOU to our volunteer dishwashers. Every Sunday morning several men from the congregation wash the dishes for us. We sure appreciate your good humor and excellent help.

The Messenger has been a Deacon's project for about 18 years. We publish four times a year, over 50 copies printed and mailed—and about 65 distributed via e-mail. If you have a bit of news or an interesting story you can submit it anytime.

Our Students Excel

Lydia Ruggles is a member of The Kingdom Gymnastics Junior Olympics Team which placed 4th in the recent USA Gymnastics Junior Olympics Vermont State Championship Meet held in March at Bellows Falls. Congratulations Lydia!

John Gaston was named an alternate on the VT Twin State Lions Cup show-down against New Hampshire, and also was accepted at Vassar College.

Logan Samuels was accepted at Boston University.

Recipes Wanted

Please share your recipes for baking that you have made for the European Coffee Hour in past years (or if you have any recipes that former Members of the Congregation made).

Please get them to Alice Frazer, Mary Faris or Ann Pesaturo. They are planning to put together a cook book. Thank you.

A Garden for Daily Living

To plant a garden for daily living, plant three rows of peas - peace of mind, peace of heart, and peace of soul. Add four rows of squash - squash gossip, squash indifference, squash grumbling, and squash selfishness.

Add four rows of lettuce - let us be faithful, let us be kind, let us be patient, and let us really love one another. And no garden is complete without turnips - turn up for meetings, turn up for service, and turn up to help those in need.

Finally a garden requires thyme - time for each other, time for family, time for friends.

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. You'll have much fruit in your garden, because you reap what you sow.

Church Auction coming up soon

The annual Church Auction is coming up on May 19th. After a change in location last year, we have decided to move back to the Center Vestry on the hill in Barnet Center (also known as Green Mountain Camp). We will open at 4:30 pm and there will be a spaghetti supper served.

Ben Gates will again be the auctioneer. We are planning a seating arrangement that will leave a little more space in the back room. So if you've not attended in the past because it's been too crowded, please give this event another try. It's an important fundraiser for the Church and really is a lot of fun. Hope to see you there!

Barnet Center Bible School (not so long ago) Celina Wright

I spoke to a few people who attended Green Mountain Camp in the late 40s through the early 60s, including David Warden, Priscilla Paquette, and Edee Thurston (my mom). GMC was for a full week and included children age 10 to 16 from many area Presbyterian churches: including Greensboro, Granville, Burlington and the Ryegate churches.

This was a mission of the Barnet Center church- the kids paid very little, maybe \$10, to spend a week at camp (which probably barely covered the cost of food!). The adults volunteered their time and some came back year after year from other Churches. Sometimes, former campers would come back as volunteer counselors.

This was before the back room and bathroom were added (in 1966) at the Center Vestry. The years varied, sometimes the girls stayed in the barn at the Parsonage, and the boys slept on cots in a large tent put up in back of the church. Or the boys slept in the barn and the girls stayed in the house at the Parsonage. The bathroom in the

house at the Parsonage was available, but the campers also used an outhouse up at the Church.

The days were structured with Bible classes, outdoor activities, meals ("good food", by all accounts), quiet/rest time and Vespers before bedtime every evening were held outside. Some years the campers were bused (or piled into the back of a pickup) to go swimming at Harvey's Lake. There were KP and other duties. There was a lot of singing, and a lot of walking up and down that hill from the Parsonage to the Church. There may have been a campfire, or a hike, or maybe a trip to the museum on a rainy day.

The participants all remembered large groups of campers, estimating probably 40 to 50 kids. The best memories seem to be meeting youth from other places, some of which seemed to be very far away at that time. Priscilla said "The kids from Burlington wore makeup and nail polish, and had never seen an outhouse!"

The influence that Church Camp had on all these participants was undeniable. My mom was so excited when we bought a house in Barnet - because of her fond memories from years before of Green Mountain Camp.

The Day after Bible School

'Twas the day after Bible school and all over town
a sigh of relief as we all settled down.
Out to the boat launch goes Pa in his cap,
And back in the bedroom Ma is taking a nap.

Gone Linda, gone Brenda, gone David and Johnny,
Gone Margie, and Mary, and Ronnie and Donnie.
Gone stories, and prayers, and songs in the air,
Gone paint under fingernails and paste in the hair.

Rest sweetly, dear workers and wake with good
cheer,
For Bible School won't come again for a whole
'nother year.
As they drifted off, I heard them exclaim'.
"It was worth all the hard work and we'd do it
again!"

Joys and Concerns

Joys: Spring is finally here! Nancy's recovery, Pat's recovery, Dick Steele's move in NC – new address 4465-A Magellan Court, Aden, NC 28513

Concerns: Kristine's Dad – Bernie, Doris Stetson, Ward Family (fire in Monroe), Clint Duncan, Robert Roy, Lester Goss, Kempton family

Upcoming Events

CHURCH AUCTION

Sat, May 19th
4:30 pm

Spaghetti Supper

Barnet Center Vestry

Presbyterian Church of Barnet
279 West Main Street
Barnet VT 05821