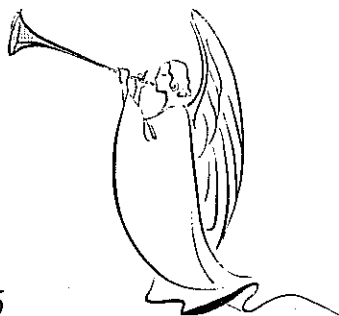


# The Barnet Messenger

A Newsletter from the Barnet Presbyterian Church



November 2015

Volume 15, Issue 4

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

## Pastor's Corner Rev Howard Gaston

Traditionally November is a time for stewardship campaigns in churches. At our church we don't do stewardship campaigns for various reasons. One of those reasons is actually an item of praise and joy in this church. So far the giving of this church has been exceedingly generous. So, I would like to thank everybody for giving to the church - for your weekly donations in the offering plate; for your active participation in our fundraisers; for your generosity with your time, help, and prayers.

As you know, we are dependent on your giving to continue to be a place of ministry, worship and mission. We are so blessed with those of you who give regularly to the work of the church. We are blessed with those of you who have dedicated your time and talents to the mission of our church: the families and people who tithe each week; the person who gives us their talents in music or craftsmanship; and those of you who see something that needs to be done and does it. I am especially thankful for those of you who keep our church and its ministry in your prayers. Without your participation on all of these levels we would not be able to be the witness we are.

I'm aware of the inadequacy of just saying "thank you" for the time, talents and treasures given to our church. But I really want you to know how much all those gifts matter to me, as your pastor and to our church. I know that you can use your money for many other things, but you have chosen to support this church. I know that we are all pressed for time to get everything done in a day and you are willing to give us your time to serve. And, I know that we all have numerous concerns to pray about and you are willing to grace us with your prayers.

So, not only do I say "Thank You" for your support but I encourage you to 'Keep it up'. Without your love and support to the Presbyterian Church of Barnet, we would be less. I am reminded of Paul's encouraging words to the Corinth church - "*I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus...*"

*In Christ,  
Howard*

Deacon's Message  
Celina Wright

from A Book of Prayer by Stormie Omartian

*Lord, may Your Word remind me of who You are and how much You love me. May it bring the security of knowing my life is in Your hands and You will supply all my needs. Thank You, Lord, that when I look into Your Word I find You. Give me ears to recognize Your voice speaking to me every time I read it. When I hear Your voice and follow you, my life is full. Guide, perfect, and fill me with Your Word this day.*

The Deacons started a new prayer list. The intention is to print it once a month and include those within our community who have more long term needs. Please keep this list for the month.

Remember to send your Secret Pal a Thanksgiving and a Christmas card!

We are planning the Angel Tree and the refreshments after the Memorial Tree lighting service on November 29.

Celina will also have poinsettias available to purchase for the Church or for your home.

As the busy holiday season approaches, please take some time to think about your blessings.

Operation Christmas Child  
Donna Gaston

*We are again supporting Operation Christmas Child which is a project of Samaritan's Purse. Here is the story of Luis who received a shoebox in Panama at the age of 6.*

The stuffed lamb in my shoebox was the first toy I ever received. I still have it. It was really a treasure. It played a little song and was so beautiful. It was so tender, so soft. The little face of the lamb was something I loved. I used to pretend I was playing with a real lamb. After

I finished playing with it, I always put it back inside my plastic shoebox. The lamb made me smile every time I saw it because I would remember the day people gave me the shoebox. The most valuable items in my shoebox were school supplies, crayons, a pencil sharpener, pens, pencils, and notebooks. In Panama in 1996, if you didn't have supplies, you could not go to school. That year I was able to use the pens, the pencils, the notebooks – everything.

The day before I received my shoebox I was begging my mom to buy supplies so I could go to school. She said, "I can't, I don't have the money but, if you want you can pray."

We never went to church. We never talked about God, but that day she told me to pray. I asked her to teach me how. She said, "You can talk to God like He's right in front of you, but you have to respect Him because He is the Lord."

So I knelt and I talked to Him like He was in front of me. I asked specifically for school supplies and the next day I was invited to a church for a special event. That's where I got my shoe box.

Inside the shoebox was a letter that said, "Jesus loves you and I love you, too." That message broke my heart immediately. All that I needed was to know that I'm loved. So to receive that letter allowed me to see the spiritual message behind the box. We were nonbelievers and the shoebox helped us understand that God answers prayers. My mom said, "Now I know that God is real."

Because someone took a moment to write down "Jesus loves you and I do too," it allowed me to see that even though I didn't have a father and even though I don't have a perfect life, He's there for me. I lived in the ghetto. We didn't have anything. I was hopeless. The shoebox allowed me to understand that God cared for me.

My mother and my little sister became Christians right after I received my shoebox, but I didn't understand that I needed to follow Christ. Still the letter in the shoebox was always telling me, "He loves you. He's there for you. He's waiting for you." There were people telling me all the time that God had a better plan for my life. At 14, I realized that I needed Him and accepted Jesus as my Savior.

The shoebox was the first seed that was planted in my life. Today I don't have the pencils but I have something that is more important because the Bible says, "the word of the Lord remains forever" (1 Peter 1:25, ESV). I just needed to know that He loved me, so the shoebox was a beautiful gift.

*If you want to donate the gift of a shoebox to Operation Christmas Child, please pick up the list of suggested gifts on the table in the vestibule or call Donna at 633-2688. The lids of the shoeboxes must be wrapped separately. Please do not include used items, war-related items, chocolate or food, liquids, medications, breakable items, aerosol cans, or fake or real money (could put a child in danger).*

***Shoeboxes should be dropped off at the church no later than November 15<sup>th</sup>.***

<p>Keeping Tabs on "Tabs" Ed &amp; Nancy Brower</p>
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"TABS" a wonderful project which supports the Shriners Childrens Hospitals. Many caring people have joined in to save TABS. Each August the final tally is turned in to Allen Lumber Company in St. Johnsbury, VT and then channeled to Kane Scrap Metal Company in Chicopee, MA., where they are purchased. The money is sent to Shriners Childrens Hospitals in Boston, or Springfield, MA.

TABS are the only pure aluminum part of the can and recycled cans can still be returned for the full deposit amount.

The Presbyterian Church in Barnet, VT has taken on this project with the support of Pastor Howard Gaston. He recently showed a five minute video during a church service which was obtained from "SCHs". The fellowship of our church is supportive of several other out-reach programs.

There are now five local sites where church members retrieve TABS, as well as one very active site in New Brunswick, CA. Any amount,

no matter how few, is a BIG help. An additional two sites were added this past summer and we hope to add more to the total collected in the future. The sites are: Presbyterian Church of Barnet--container in entryway;

Barnet Elementary School--container supervised by Tammy Carpenter;

The Birch Grove Restaurant, St. George, N.B., Canada--Horace and Jackie Young;

Skip's Repair Garage, Barnet--container inside garage.

Various collection points in W. Lebanon, NH and WRJ, VT--picked up by church members.

NEW: The Recycling Center in Passumpsic, VT--container to right inside and The Green Mountain Retreat, Barnet, VT--Jael Luomala tends to container.

On January 8, 2015 Joyce Brill's daughter, Sue Robinson passed away and a collection site in her memory was established at her brother's garage. In August her mother Joyce accompanied church members to Allen's Lumber Company in St. Johnsbury, to turn in the second collection. The 2015 total collected in Sue's memory was 9 lbs. 3 oz. since her death. This amounted to 8,205 tabs that family and friends had collected since January. Allen employees took a photo of Joyce and the 4 plastic tubes that were 8 inches by 5 feet tall and full! These made up the 2015 total turned in, 175 lbs!

TABS can be found on Progresso soup cans, soda, juice, beer, dog food, cat food cans as well as some other products. There are 893 small tabs in one pound, and 56 in one ounce.

Anyone who needs to have tabs picked up, or is not able to remove them from containers (clean) may call Eddie or Nancy Brower @ 802-633-3618. They will gladly pick them up, or take the entire containers if necessary and remove the tabs.

Many thanks to all who collect for this very worthwhile project. God Bless you and keep up the good work. The children appreciate the care, treatment and progress that they make because of YOU!

Visit to South Korea  
Dennis Kauppila

Becky and I visited Rick and Beth Mallon in Korea in September. We bought our tickets in July when they were visiting here. We picked our dates so that we would be there during a week-long school vacation for Chuseok – the Korean New Year’s holiday. Rick and Beth are teaching at an ‘American School,’ in Seoul. They are in their second year of a 2-year contract there.

It was quite an airplane ride: Detroit to Seoul’s Incheon Airport was nearly 14 hours! (About 1.5 hours less returning home- due to the winds.) It was comfortable enough, with good food, about enough space, and movies or TV shows, but long! The beginning and end were OK, but there was quite a bit of time in the middle. (Merle Fitzgerald took a US Navy ship to get to Incheon back in the early 1950s, he said there were a couple of US ships stuck on the mud flats- the ships are gone, but there is still a big mud flat, with container ships in the channel now.)

Rick was there to meet us when we left customs to pick up our luggage. Plenty of big smiles! We took the airport bus for about 1.5 hours, then a short taxi ride to their apartment, and Beth!

They live on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of an apartment building, about 45 minutes on the bus or train to downtown Seoul. There are six 15-story apartment buildings in their complex, about 2,000 people. (Barnet’s population is a bit less than 1,800.)

There are lots of people in Seoul and in South Korea. S. Korea has about 50 million people (the US has about 322 million and Vermont 625,000). However, S. Korea’s area is just a little larger than the State of Maine! So, the density of population is 1,300 people per square mile in S. Korea (there are about 91/sq mi in the US, and 68/sq mi in VT).

Seoul has the 4<sup>th</sup> largest population of cities in the

world- 17.5 million (Tokyo is the largest with 33 million; New York City with 17.8 million is third largest). And the density of population in Seoul is 44,000/sq mile, compared to New York City’s 27,000/sq mile!

So, buses are full, subways are full, roads are busy, and there are many, many high rise apartment buildings. Plus dozens of big cranes building more.

Mallons brought us around Seoul for a couple of days, using the subway or bus to get around. We saw the rebuilt main palace of the Emperor, about 20 acres. It was originally built in 1400 AD, with 500 buildings and 7,000 rooms. It burned down but now they have rebuilt big gates, a throne hall, emperor’s residence, plus special residences for the emperor’s mother, wife, main concubine, and crown prince. With gardens, walls, temples, libraries, and on and on! Think about a pagoda, and you have an idea of what the buildings look like. The palace was built up against a steep hill. People who wore traditional clothing got into the palace for free on this holiday, so there were some people really dressed up nicely.

We met with about 10 of the Mallon’s friends from school for supper at a Korean BBQ. Each table held 4-6 people, with a hole in the table about 1.5 feet in diameter, and a 4 inch hose coming from the ceiling down to the hole in the table. We ordered pork. The waitress brought a dish of hot coals and set it into the table’s hole, and pulled the hose down to remove the smoke from the coals. The waitress brought a grill to put over the coals, and put thinly sliced pork onto the grill to cook. In the meantime, she brought about 8 side dishes to share: rice, cole slaw, green onions in sesame oil, whole kernel corn, cloves of garlic, leaf lettuce, sauces, and kimchi (spicy pickled cabbage, with radish, fish sauce and garlic). The waitress would come by to flip the meat, and cut it into smaller and smaller pieces with scissors. When the meat was cooked, one way to eat it was to put a piece into a leaf of lettuce with whatever else you wanted in there, roll it into the lettuce and eat. It was really good.

Another night, we walked to the duck restaurant near their apartment. We ordered duck, and sat at a table for 4. In the middle of this table was a granite disc about 2.5 feet in diameter; there was a little lip around it, and a drain hole. The waiter brought an LP gas burner and set it under the granite disk, then brought the side dishes. When the granite was hot enough, he brought pieces of boneless duck and plopped it onto the granite with plenty of onions. As the duck cooked, he would use scissors to cut it into smaller pieces, and move it around on the heat, every once in a while, he would drain off the grease. We ate it wrapped in lettuce leaves. Again, this all tasted really good.

Seoul is built along the Han River. The main part of the city is between the river and steep hills. The city has spilled onto the south side of the river and miles and miles up and down stream. There were paths along the river for walking and bike riding, plus large parks. Many of the brooks that flowed into the Han had been covered over and built over. Now they have been opened up, making green spaces of 80 feet or so wide, including the brook, plus a walking path with a bike lane and bushes or trees. Some had paths on both sides with benches to sit on. Many of these brooks were 10-15 feet below the level of the street, so when you were down near the brook, you really were taking a break from the city traffic, pedestrians and general hubbub. We saw people having their lunches by these brooks, and kids (and adults) looking at the carp and minnows in the water.

On the Sunday, we went to Beth's favorite church, it was a short bus ride away from their apartment. They liked that it had contemporary music, and it was all in English. There are some huge Presbyterian churches, but most are conducted in Korean. (Some people spoke a bit of English, Mallons often ordered food by the pictures on the menu. I was totally illiterate: the only thing I could understand on posters and signs were the phone numbers.)

This church was run by Global English Ministry. We got off the bus, and they said, "here is the church." It was a 6 or 8 story building with big

advertisements on each floor, announcing what businesses were inside. The wide sidewalk was pretty full of people. A greeter was at a door to the building, welcoming us to come in for worship. People were waiting for elevators. We walked down 2 or 3 flights of stairs- the church had 2 floors in the sub-basement of the building! There were about 80 folding chairs and a 4-piece band playing. On this day, there were only about 30 people there, they were having a big event in the afternoon with several other churches around Seoul. The lesson was about Joshua, the Minister had been at a conference all week in another country. The Mallons knew several people there from their school. We sang with the songs, they were not hymns like we sing. There was Communion, everyone went up front and dipped the Bread into the Cup. Because it was an English service, there were not very many Koreans there. We did not attend the afternoon's event; we continued our sight-seeing.... (more next time!)

### "Homework" from Howard

What does LOVE Require?

Howard has asked us to think about a person or group of people that we need to look at and love more. LOVE is the type of love that Jesus Christ calls us to have. How is the "filter" of LOVE going to change the way we look at this person or group of people?

### Christmas Dates

Nov 29, 5 pm, West Barnet Church: Memory Tree Lighting and refreshments

Dec 20, 10 am, West Barnet Church: Children's Christmas Program

Dec 24, 7 pm, Barnet Center Church: Christmas Eve Service

Dec 27, 10 am, West Barnet Church: remembering the Memory Tree names

### Joys & Concerns

\*Illnesses: Kerwin Brower, Jim Choate, Susan

Clark, Virginia's daughter-Marie, Barbara Warden, Shelby Sargent, Lewis's Grandmother-Katherine, Marilyn Dickinson, Jody Crane

Recoveries: Carol Shields, Clint Duncan, Alan Fogg, Ed Brower, Ed Ryan

Other concerns: the family of Janet Weidman

The year in review! Landon Gates, son of Josiah and Amanda Gates, was baptized, and there were two "Church babies" – Clara Irene Heisholt joins big sister Louisa and Piper Kempton joins big sister Chloe.

Rev Dwight White  
Tom Flanagan

The 2015 Memory Tree will be in memory of Reverend Dwight White.

Memories of my friend Rev Dr Dwight White:

During Dwight's interim service at our church we became good friends. We went to breakfast quite often and would bicker over whose turn it was to pay. Even though I would argue with him, he was always right. After years of asking another pastor to visit my uncle who was battling cancer, I decided to ask Dwight one Sunday and he was there the next day. He ended up having a meal with them and that afternoon my cousin called and said that he never thought of thanking God for the trees. But Dwight did.

There were times that he may have been weary but continued to serve our congregation with a joyful heart and true love and concern for each one of us. He called and asked me if I would mind taking him to Littleton Regional Hospital for a sleep apnea test on a Sunday evening which I did. We ended up taking the wrong exit but had a nice talk while finding our way back. Another friend of his was supposed to pick him up the next day, but Jean called to say that their friend had car trouble and asked if I could go back for him. Of course I went back and he surprised to see me, but pleased as well. He tried to buy me breakfast that morning but I told him no, that Jean was probably waiting for him to come home. He said ok but he owed me breakfast.

Only The Lord knew that was the day before Dwight went home to be with Him. I look forward to the next breakfast with Dwight in Heaven and he'll probably remember it was his turn to pay.

How many of the congregation remember this?  
*Come Holy Spirit, come. Come as the fire and burn, come as the light and illumine, come as the water and cleanse.*

Thank you Rev Dr Dwight for being a blessing to me and our church family.

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