

The Barnet Messenger

A Newsletter from the Barnet Presbyterian Church



November 2018

Volume 18, Issue 4

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

Pastor's Corner
Rev Howard Gaston

What do these characters have in common? Mrs. Wolowitz from *Big Bang Theory*, Lieutenant Columbo's wife, The Teacher in *Peanuts* specials, Maris Crane from *Frazier*?

They are known as "unseen characters."

"Unseen characters are causal figures included in dramatic works to motivate the onstage characters to a certain course of action and advance the plot, but their presence is unnecessary. Indeed, their absence makes them appear more powerful because they are only known by inference." They have been used in plays as far back as the ancient Greek tragedies, such as *Laius* in Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unseen_character)

There's another unseen character that I think is pretty important. The baby Jesus in the birth narratives. Have you ever noticed in the stories of the birth of Jesus in Matthew and Luke, that the baby is pretty much unseen? Out of the 97 verses that make up the birth narratives only 6 even mention "the child or baby." These are only four examples where the baby is a part of the story.

Matt 2:11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

Luke 2:7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger,

Luke 2:16-17 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him,

Luke 2:27-28, When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms...

This "Unseenness" of Jesus has peaked my interest. When we have a child in our lives, we want details, weight, length, hair color, eye color, "who does he/she look like?" But there is none of this in the stories of Jesus' birth. Yet his absence I believe has made him even more important, or makes the responses of the "seen characters" even more important.

Even without seeing the fulfillment of this birth - Joseph, Mary, Elizabeth, Zechariah, the Shepherds, the Magi and Simeon and Anna all believed. This Advent season we will be looking at how the "Seen Characters" believed in the "Unseen Character."

Deacon's Message

As the season changed from summer to autumn the vista's around our area have been breathtaking. And again this year it caused us to pause at the wonder of all God's blessings. As the song states, "All things bright and beautiful. . . the good Lord made them all."

The Deacons are making plans to celebrate the holiday season--we will be doing the Angel Tree again, and will be hosting the annual tree lighting on the first Sunday of Advent.

We are pleased that our church family still enjoys the weekly coffee fellowship following worship. It is a great time to catch up with our friends that we see only once a week. If you haven't stopped by for this fun fellowship please do so. We would love to visit with you! Remember our motto: Barnet Presbyterian Church--Faith, Family, Fellowship, and Fun!

VBS

Vacation Bible School in August was quite successful—we averaged about 15 boys and girls for the three Wednesday nights at the West Church. We had a very different schedule this year-- started each session at 5 - 6 pm with a different supper each night—pizza, tacos and sandwiches—and had many helpers preparing and serving. Then the children were divided into age groups and each group rotated between a Bible lesson, craft session or recreation time. Several members of our Youth Group were active in all the activities.

This year's theme was Veggie Tales. Week one we watched "The Little House that Stood." It was about making good choices and using the Bible as our source for those choices. The Bible story that went with this video was Matt 7:24-27, building the house on rock or sand. Week two

we watched "The League of Incredible Vegetables," a lesson in handling fear. The Bible story was connected to David and Goliath. Week three we watched "The Penniless Princess," a lesson in true worth. The Bible story we used was Joseph and his brothers. The youth group helped with the story time with puppet shows - thanks to Alex Calcagni, Waylon and Candace Gates, and Louis Hannon.

Katherine Gates, Fran Flanagan and Jenna Carpenter helped with the preschool group; Valerie Gombas and Rhonda Hannon with crafts. Mel and Lana Hale set up the dinners. Sandy Gaston and Donna Gaston did recreation. Lauren Gibson was the registrant. Other great helpers were Mary Faris, Verna Beaupre, Tammy and Jon Carpenter, Alice Frazer and Melody Morrison.

The fourth Wednesday evening a gathering at Harvey's Lake included a pot luck picnic. Along with our VBS students we had a large attendance of parents, siblings, grandparents and friends! While the children were swimming and playing, the grillers were cooking hamburgers and hot dogs. After our meal we were entertained by Jolly the Clown from Groton, VT. It was lots of fun.

Thank you to the organizers of this great summer activity, and to the parents who sent their children to attend—it would not have happened without your time and effort.

Green Mt Camp, 1950

I managed to include a program (technology, whew!) on the next page from Green Mountain Camp in 1950 that my Mother (Edee Black) attended. I'm especially interested in "Stunt night" – if anyone has memories about Stunt night, I'd love to hear them! The autographs are a little hard to read: Hezzie Somers, Anita Stearns, Ann Pollard, Josie Trigilio, Carolyn McLaren, Orin Hendrick, Andrew Urie, Claude Berry, Rodney Beal, Ann Miller, and two more that I was unable to read. Enjoy! Celina

AUTOGRAPHS

Vermont Presbytery

GREEN-MOUNTAIN-CAMP

Aug. 14-19, 1950

Barnet Center Vermont

CAMP - PROGRAM

Hezlie Somers
 West Barnet VT.
 Anita Marie Starnes
 So. Ryegate, Vermont
 Ann Collard East Ryegate Vt.
 June Truette West Barnet, Vermont.
 Carolyn M. Laver Passumpsic
 Orin Gay Hendrick
 Barnet, Vermont
 J. Louie Anderson
 Andrew Urie
 Craftsbury Common
 Vermont
 Claude C. Berry
 Rodney Beal

Ann Nancy Miller (S.M.C.)

DAILY SCHEDULE

Tuesday thru Friday

- 7:00- Rising Bells
- 7:30- Inspection
- 7:45- Breakfast
- 8:45- Morning Worship
- 9:15- Bible study Hour
- 10:00- Missionary Hour
- 10:45-11:00- Recess
- 11:00- Discussion groups
- 12:00- Lunch
- 1:00-2:00- Rest period
- 2:00-5:30- Recreation
- 5:30- Clean up for supper
- 6:00- Supper
- 7:00- Vespers
- 8:00- Popular Hour
- 9:45- Campers in quarters
- 10:00- Devotions
- 10:15- Lights out

You are required to attend all classes, and not leave the camp grounds without special permission.

Thursday night will be "stunt night", so be prepared with a good stunt.

The sound motion pictures, "Go Forth" and "Thy Will Be Done" will also be shown on Thursday, during the Popular hour.

CAMP FACULTY

- Dr. T.M. Taylor- Bible Study hour
- Dr. J. Lowrie Anderson- Missionary hour
- Rev. John Egnor
- Mr. Thomas Hodges
- Mr. Claude C. Berry

Positively No Smoking, Please.

Joys and Concerns

Joys – Peter’s daughter is expecting a baby; Celina’s granddaughter, Lydia is much better; weddings – Everts and Gastons; choir at Church

Health Concerns – Marvin Bailey, his brother, Frank and his son, Jeff; Clint Duncan; Ray Nutter; Jael’s mother, Nancy and stepmother, Carol; Ed Brower

Other concerns – the family of Ken Dow

A Poem

My November Guest *by Robert Frost*

My Sorrow, when she's here with me,
Thinks these dark days of autumn rain
Are beautiful as days can be;
She loves the bare, the withered tree;
She walked the sodden pasture lane.

Her pleasure will not let me stay.
She talks and I am fain to list:
She's glad the birds are gone away,
She's glad her simple worsted gray
Is silver now with clinging mist.

The desolate, deserted trees,
The faded earth, the heavy sky,
The beauties she so truly sees,
She thinks I have no eye for these,
And vexes me for reason why.

Not yesterday I learned to know
The love of bare November days
Before the coming of the snow,
But it were vain to tell her so,
And they are better for her praise.

Upcoming Events

Dec 2 at 5:00 pm Memory Tree Lighting
Dec 16 Children’s Christmas Program during Church
Dec 24 at 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service at Barnet Center Church
Dec 30 reading of Memory Tree names during Church

The Danville Senior Meal Site will hold a Community Thanksgiving at 12:30 on Thanksgiving Day at the Methodist Church on the Green in Danville. All are welcome, please RSVP Karen at 745-8520. The organizers would welcome pies beforehand.

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