

The Barnet Messenger

A Newsletter from the Barnet Presbyterian Church



May 2019

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

Pastor's Corner
Rev Howard Gaston

The Session has decided to discuss the book *Neighborhood Church* by **Krin Van Tatenhove & Rob Mueller**. This book was recommended by our co-moderators for the General Assembly, Ruling Elder Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri and the Rev. Cindy Kohlmann (Cindy is Northern New England's resource presbyter.) This book asks, "*How can we embody the values of love, grace, and justice? As faith communities, how can our collective embodiment of these values shine even brighter? The answers to these questions must always unfold right here, right now, exactly where God has planted us. Neighborhood Church acts as a resource to inspire churches to become a vibrant and engaging community partner with the families and neighborhoods living around them.*"

We are just starting the study and the first assignment I gave to the Session, and I now give to you, is to look at how we function out of an understanding of Abundance verses how we tend to operate out of an attitude of Scarcity.

Now what the authors mean by "abundance" and "scarcity" is important. Being a church that lives in

a sense of scarcity is a church that pulls itself inside like a "*hermit crab into a borrowed shell.*" This kind of church only sees what they don't have and how things used to be and lacks the imagination that anything can be different. In contrast serving out of an attitude of abundance sees our situation very differently. Not looking at what we don't have but rather at what we do have can provide us with some "aha" moments as a congregation.

The authors first suggest that abundance comes from understanding what God is doing in our church through the eyes of gratitude. Gratitude for "*the many blessings our Creator showers on us*" as a church.

So the Session will be looking at the ways we are living as a congregation out of scarcity and abundance and what does that mean for us. I would like to challenge you to do the same thing in the coming weeks. Ask yourself, "How does Barnet Church see its ministry out of a sense of Abundance and what are we doing that relies on a sense of Scarcity?"

This is just one of the steps this books deals with and throughout the summer we will be hearing about the other ways that we can, (in the words of the authors) "*Transform our Congregation into a powerhouse for mission!*"

Worship live on Facebook

Recently John Heartson and I have been experimenting on streaming the worship service on Facebook. We are able to show the worship service live over the internet on Facebook. (At the end of the article there are instructions if you want to watch.)

Presently we are using my iPhone to stream the service and the quality is OK. One family who watches the service has offered to pledge \$1000 towards upgrading the camera and sound for the streaming. We should be able to do this for around \$2000. So if you are interested in helping us to upgrade our Facebook Live then send a donation to the church and earmark it for "Streaming Service."

If you haven't seen the Facebook Live, all you have to do is:

1. "Like" the Facebook page for the Presbyterian Church of Barnet.
2. Then be on the church's Facebook page on Sunday morning at 10 am.
3. You can watch later in the day as well since it will stay on our Facebook page.

Hope this helps our friends at home or far away to enjoy a time of worship with the Presbyterian Church of Barnet.

Deacon's Message

Welcome spring! We all look forward to the green grass and all the flowers blossoming, the warmer weather, and being able to enjoy all God's blessings of this new season and the summer months that follow. There is much to anticipate during the next few months—The Church Auction, the Children's Day celebration and picnic, moving to the Center Meeting House for the summer services, the July 4th chicken bar-b-que, Vacation Bible School, the beach service at Harvey's Lake, and the wonderful bargains at Ye Olde Church Store. We invite all to take part

in these things.

We continue our card ministry, sending cards to shut-ins and those who are ill, but also remembering our church family on happy occasions, too. Our coffee fellowship will continue at the Center building, we look forward to welcoming our seasonal friends and hearing their adventures since we last were together.

And we are so grateful for all the help we receive throughout the year as we perform our duties. We have the best dishwashers in the entire Presbytery of Northern New England. They have a jolly time in the kitchen after coffee hour. And they just love cheese curls! All the goodies that show up each Sunday are so appreciated. Our church group is truly a family.

We hope everyone has a great summer!

Coffee, Crafts and Conversation

On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the winter months several women of the church have gathered in the dining room for "Coffee, Crafts and Conversation." It is an informal get together where we share fellowship and have time to know each other better.

The crafts vary from knitting/crocheting (or learning how to crochet) to making updates in one's address book. Work has been done on stained glass ornaments and it is so interesting to see how it is done. A new grandma is making felt dinosaurs to decorate her new grandson's room at grandma's house. A portable sewing machine has been instrumental in designing and assembling a new wall banner for the sanctuary. A visiting friend attended one afternoon and helped us to make beautiful greeting cards—she furnished the card stock, patterns, ribbon, stamps, colored pencils and water pencils. And some just enjoy seeing the talents of our women friends.

This great idea for a fun afternoon was instituted by Verna Beaupre, and she has coffee and tea

made when we arrive. It surely has been a great way to break up the long, cold wintry weather. We hope more women will join us next winter – you will be very welcomed. And we may have a surprise or two for some summer fun.

**TRYING TO KEEP TABS
ON “TABS” by Nancy Brower**

It is important to benefit disabled children by saving TABS. Although we all are busy and face many challenges in life, these children face their problems daily 24/7!

With the funds derived from selling the TABS that we cooperatively collect and turn in, it is possible to keep the assistance coming in to help these children. The TABS are the only pure aluminum on cans and that makes the price higher.

It is such a simple task to bend the TABS back and forth and they come off quite quickly. If anyone has cans with TABS and does not have the time or energy to do this, just call Ed or Nancy Brower (802-633-3618) and we will arrange to pick up the cans and take care of it. It will be greatly appreciated!

There are many sources of aluminum tabs: soda cans, some juice cans, beer or ale cans, dog food and cat food cans, some soup cans, canned vegetables, tuna fish, luncheon meats, spaghetti cans and many others. Just check it out when you open a can.

We were blessed with many helpful people who faithfully remember to collect TABS, even when we have not been as active as usual. A BIG thank you to each and every one! We were able to turn in approximately 10,300 tabs so far in 2019. GREAT JOB!! We appreciate your help and the children appreciate all the benefits they receive from the TABS project.

**God’s Blessings
Amanda Cashin**

In 2009, we were expecting a baby, and at 33 weeks gestation, I was diagnosed with preeclampsia. Our local hospital was not able to provide care for a preemie that early, so they sent us to Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. Grace was delivered seven weeks early, and weighed 3 lbs. 14 oz. She was sent immediately to the neonatal intensive care unit. The NICU at Childrens Hospital at Dartmouth (CHaD) is full of doctors and nurses who offered us excellent health care and tremendous support. For 18 days, they helped her learn to nurse, be able to regulate her body temperature and get stronger.

While there, we met several families whose babies were born with much more serious issues than Grace, and CHaD provided exceptional care for them as well. Families from all over VT and NH were there getting treatment for their children that was not available in smaller, local clinics and hospitals.

Each October, our family (including my mom and dad Barbara and George Cobb, and my sister Melinda) walks a 5K to raise funds for the hospital as a part of the CHaD Hero. Last year, Team Grace raised \$2,000, and the event raised over \$800,000 total!

We are incredibly blessed to have been able to have Grace at CHaD, and we will be forever grateful that they supported her and us in her first days of life. She is now a happy, healthy, tough 9 year old, and we thank God that the folks at CHaD were there at the start!

**Getting to know one of our Organists
Jackie Verley**

I grew up in Michigan and began playing piano at age 5. I began teaching piano lessons when I was in high school and decided to study music education in college. After graduating from Oakland University in

Rochester, MI, I moved to Vermont in 2016. In the fall of 2016 I began teaching music part-time at Newbury Elementary School. While in Vermont I have also worked as an Innkeeper/ Park Ranger at Seyon Lodge in Groton State Forest, taught homeschool music classes, and currently work as the Assistant Librarian at Barnet Public Library. I am glad to be able to play at the Presbyterian Church of Barnet and get to know everyone who comes to church here!

“God's Summer Stage”
By Gwen Meyer-Erlach Schutz

God's summer stage is a delight of warmth and wisdom,
Beautiful butterflies flying about,
Bees pollinating the exquisite flowers,
A walk through the summer jungle,
Trees and bushes and flowers blossoming,
The sound of calm waters,
Ducks and geese caressing the lake,
Swimming in ripples, the lake visited once again,
Humanity walking in harmony with nature,
God's clouds shapely and moving about in the breeze,
The caress of the wind on your shoulder,
God's blessing to humanity.

Joys and Concerns

Joys: eye surgeries that went well, children in Church, grandbabies, Carol Broderick doing well, also Pat and Merle

Health concerns: Kathy Somers, Clint Duncan, Nancy's brother – Arthur, George's niece - Cassandra

Other concerns: Family of Marion Somers, the family of Gail's sister – Sally

Upcoming Events

May 17 + 18 Presbyterian Women's Spring Retreat

May 18 Church Auction

June 2 Children's Sunday at West Church, potluck to follow

June 9 Move Worship to Barnet Center Church

June 9 Youth Group going to RI

Church Auction
Sat May 18th
4:30 pm
With free spaghetti dinner
At Barnet Center Retreat
Always a great community event!

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