

God Stuff Happening In Our Churches – June 2015

MISSIONS

- For the past 8 winters, **First Baptist Church, Brattleboro** has housed the town's Emergency Overflow Shelter. This past winter the shelter served 172 individuals. The shelter will need to find a new home this coming winter as the church moves forward with plans to sell the building.
- **First Baptist Church, Nashua** prepared over 140 Easter cards for the residents of New Hampshire State Prison for Women in Goffstown.
- The Coffee House at **First Baptist Church, Plaistow** donated \$100 to purchase Bibles for addicts and church members responded by donating almost \$400 more. The church opens its doors to Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings each week and would love to be able to give a Bible to any who wants one.

CHURCH NEWS

- Congratulations to **Pastor Dan Ward**, pastor of Holderness Community Church, who was unanimously recommended for ordination on May 17. Dan will be ordained on Sunday, June 28 at 3:00 p.m.
- The Lakes Association voted on May 17 to accept **Campton Baptist Church's** request to transfer from the Green & White Mountain Association to the Lakes Association.
- **First Baptist Church, Chester, VT** celebrated the baptism of 5 people on Palm Sunday. Congratulations to Toby Charlton, Ben Clark, Abigail and Rebecca Thayer and Barbara Duquette.
- On May 17 **Rev. Lynne Hubley** and **First Baptist Church, Bradford** celebrated 20 years of joint ministry. There was an opportunity for a joint renewal of vows (an opportunity to renew or make a deeper commitment to using one's spiritual gifts in joint ministry with Pastor Lynne for the Glory of God). Rev. Dale Edwards brought the message and a special luncheon followed the service.

- For 12 weeks, from January through March, a group of 12+ women from **First Baptist Church, Lebanon** gathered to study the book of Daniel. By the end of the study they report that they were a little study-weary, but were "so fired up and ready to 'go our way' in unwavering and wholehearted devotion and obedience to God, all for His kingdom and glory." They described the experience as "life-changing."

At their last session they had a potluck supper and one of the members made a unique and beautiful cake that included the main themes from Daniel all in edible parts.

- From **United Church of Hinesburg**: This spring the United Church of Hinesburg will venture into the sacred art of beekeeping. With honeybees, we can create another connection to the awe and wonder of creation in a most practical way. At the same time, the honey we produce will tie us closer to images, practices and stories deeply ingrained in our faith tradition. We will also produce honey to use in outreach, hospitality and special meals together.

The great thing about this project is that we enter such a practice with the needed tools and experience to make this work. Several of our church members are current or past beekeepers. One member has already donated this year's hive and another has donated the bees but we are still looking for help and support. The hive will be delivered in May and will make its home at the "Baptist lot" across the LaPlatte River on Sliver Street. In addition to bees, we will begin the work of reinventing this parcel of land to serve a variety of purposes.

Projects like these (including the Fun Run, Christmas baskets, sleeping bag drive, Ecumenical food drive, the plant sale etc.) serve as opportunities for our community to put faith into action.



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- **Newmarket Community Church** will be hosting a “Lunch and Learn” for the public on May 29. The discussion topic will be, “Coping with Anxiety and Depression.”
- **First Baptist Church, Berlin** welcomed Richard Hayes into membership in March.
- Congratulations to **Rev. Dr. Shoushan Salibian**, a member of **First Baptist Church, Nashua**, on being named one of the *Nashua Telegraph’s* 25 Extraordinary Women for her work as the Pastoral Care Director at Southern New Hampshire Medical Center in Nashua.
- **Rev. Cindy Johnson** became the Associate Pastor at **First Baptist Church, New London** in March. She has been on staff at the church for the past ten years, first serving as youth director and more recently as Director of Christian Education.
- **New Hampton Community Church** welcomed 14 new members on April 21. They are Candace Campion, Ben and Amy Kimball, Dave and Shirley Marcroft, Terry Normandin, Dean and Joyce Shedd, Scott and Amy Sweetland, Bill and Chana Wade, and Patrick and Suzanne Wetmore.