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Rev. Dale Edwards  
Region Minister

Christ says, "Behold, I make all things new." *Rev. 21:5*

**THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**"Mission at our Doorstep:  
Renewal, Restoration, and New Beginnings"**



**October 2015 Newsletter**

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**Food for Thought**

It's been estimated that there are more stars in the universe than there are grains of sand on earth, but there are more atoms in one grain of sand than there are stars in the universe.

When you consider the universe, or even our solar system, do you feel small and insignificant, or do you declare the glory of God who, despite the vastness of His creation, knows each of us intimately?

To marvel at God's creation, check out the following videos:

[www.wimp.com/solar-system-built-to-scale/](http://www.wimp.com/solar-system-built-to-scale/)

(Filmmaker uses 7 miles to build a true scale model of our solar system)

[www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2014/05/for-the-first-time-we-have-a-full-virtual-model-of-the-universe/361945/](http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2014/05/for-the-first-time-we-have-a-full-virtual-model-of-the-universe/361945/)

(Virtual model of the universe)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaGEjrADGPA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaGEjrADGPA)

(The scale of the universe)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Eh5BpSnBBw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Eh5BpSnBBw)

(Earth compared to the rest of the universe)

## From Our Region Minister

On my next birthday I will be 57 years old. I try to believe that 57 is the new 37, but I am finding that the older I get, the more memories I have. The collection is larger, the reference points more like an exercise in connecting the dots. There is more to reflect on, draw from, ruminate over. And honestly, I unnerve myself when I remember histories of some ABC churches going back 20 or 30 years. I remember annual gatherings from the time I was about 18. I remember between the ages of 20 and 24 doing pulpit supply in churches where I now sit with some of the same people I met years ago, to prayerfully discern a church's future. Memories of what once was and what is now can feel weighty. The burden of change and anxiety about the future is palpable. We wrestle with what has occurred over time, and wonder why the world has unfolded as it has.



But there is also a place to see beyond memories and history to a timelessness encompassed in Christ. When I push back the layers of memories and ask myself "Why has my life unfolded like it has?", somehow by God's grace, in a transcendent work of the Holy Spirit, I can see a 9 year boy inviting Jesus Christ into his life via the classic sinner's prayer. When I ask questions about my life, and layers of memories begin to recede, I see my life's starting point and purpose. I wonder who I would have been without Jesus Christ. (I suspect I could be riding around on back roads, throwing the empties into the pickup's bed.)

When I dig into church histories, I read of the reason and purpose that churches were planted. I find covenants that speak of "Having left the darkness and now called into His marvelous light, we covenant...." Or, "Having been called together to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we covenant ...." Or, "Having been led by the Holy Spirit, we covenant together ...." When hearts received Christ, a collective heart formed Christian communities who built buildings with steeples and kitchens and educational wings. But it all began with that first, near earth-shaking memory experience, that Jesus Christ has met me, and I him, and the world will never be same for myself and others.

At this point, I believe we step from just memories into a Holy timelessness, which only the reign of Christ brings about. And dwelling, "camping out," in this Holy timelessness, dissipates the bad impulses, the gnawing worries, and we see Jesus fresh. And we are graciously given a timeless Sabbath, knowing in Paul's words to the Colossians, "He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together." When we examine our own thoughts, and when as churches we remember and look forward, the eternal Christ is holding our thoughts and memories. For individuals and churches, may God in a timeless fashion, form it all for His eternal glory.

In Christ, Dale



## Open House and Update on Amazing Grace Farm

### **A "Thank You" Open House**

All who have prayed for and supported the ministry of Amazing Grace Farm for the past seven years are invited to a "Thank You" Open House on Saturday, October 3 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Robert and Catherine Robertson write: For the past eight years we have been ministering to men who needed a place to start over with God – and the only way we managed to do that was by the power of the Holy Spirit working through your prayers, your presence on many work projects, your visits and your financial support. To date we have served 19 men, of whom 10 have graduated (plus one who is expected to graduate soon) ... for the others, seeds were planted.

We would love to be able to thank you in person! There will be a variety of breakfast breads for early birds, a hot dog BBQ with fixings lunch, and yummy desserts throughout the afternoon! There will also be a choice of Robert's homemade jams to take with you! HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!!!! 335 Monadnock St., Troy, NH.

### **Amazing Grace Farm to Conclude Ministry at Year's End**

After much prayer and seeking the counsel of trusted friends, the Robertsons have decided to close their after-care prison ministry at the end of this year. Robert turns 79 this year and the physical demands of work

on the farm require more energy than they can muster. Therefore, they do feel comfortable that they are completing their call to this after-care prison ministry. Their goal is to complete their mission with the men currently at the farm. They are praying that another ministry might be interested in purchasing the Farm.

They ask for prayers in the following areas:

- That they will indeed finish well;
- The needs of the men at the farm and for one who wants to come;
- For the Lord to show them who is meant to purchase the farm;
- For grace that the sale of the farm may be completed by the end of the year.

If you know of someone who might be interested in the Farm, either as a ministry (it is well suited for a variety of ministries) or a farm, please have them contact the Robertsons at 603-242-3429. They have details about the farm buildings and property that they can send to an interested party.

### [ABCUSA Missionaries to Visit Region Churches in October](#)

ABCUSA missionary in Baja California, Mexico, **Mercy Gonzalez-Barnes**, and ABCUSA missionaries in South Sudan, **Ann and Bill Clemmer**, will be visiting the Region in October. The dates and locations of their visits are below. Please contact the churches for details.

#### [MERCY GONZALEZ-BARNES](#)



October 4 – 10:30 a.m. Morning worship service at **United Baptist Church, Concord, NH**  
Contact the church at 603-224-7755 or unbapch@comcast.net.

October 4 – 3:00 p.m. Lakes Association Annual Meeting at **Bristol (NH) Baptist Church**  
Contact the church at 603-744-3885 or pastorwayne@bristolbaptistchurch.org.

October 6 – **United Baptist Church, Lakeport, NH** (pending)  
Contact the church at 603-524-8775 or unitedbaptist@myfairpoint.net.

October 6 – Mission Meeting at **Alton (NH) Community Church**  
Contact the church at 603-875-5561 or cmchurch@tds.com.

October 9 – Pot Luck Dinner at **First Baptist Church, Burlington, VT**  
Contact the church at 802-864-6515 or fbcvt@gmail.com.

October 11 – 10:00 a.m. Morning worship service at **Middle Street Baptist Church, Portsmouth, NH**  
Contact the church at 603-436-2337 or office@middlestreetbaptist.org.

October 11 – 3:00 p.m. Monadnock Association Annual Meeting at **Antrim Baptist Church, Antrim, NH**  
Contact the church at 603-588-6614 or abcانtrim@gmail.com.

October 12 – Dinner meeting at **First Baptist Church, Nashua, NH**  
Contact the church at 603-882-4512 or office@fbcnashua.org.

#### [ANN and BILL CLEMMER](#)



October 14 – **United Baptist Church, Concord, NH**  
Contact the church at 603-224-7755 or unbapch@comcast.net.

October 15 – **Grace River: A Life-Giving Church, Claremont, NH**  
Contact the church at 603-542-2344 or gracriver@myfairpoint.net.

October 18 – **First Baptist Church, Hampton Falls, NH**  
Contact the church at 603-926-3724 or klawrence@hffbc.org.

### [Karen Heavey Available to Talk About Grace & Hope Community Church](#)

Grace & Hope Community Church of Andover, NH is one of ABCVNH's recent church plants. It is very much a mission church, often ministering to the "least of these". Their pastor, Rev. Karen Heavey, would like to visit the churches in our Region to speak with them about Grace & Hope's mission. If you would like Karen to come and speak to your church, please contact her at 603-768-3720 or revkjheavey@gmail.com.



## American Baptist Women's Ministries VNH

**American Baptist Women's Ministries is a Christ-centered ministry with a commitment to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God.**

### ABW Ministries Fall Rally

From the ABWM VNH front: we have set the date for our Fall Rally. It will be November 7<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Baptist Church in Lebanon, NH, from 9:30 to 3:00. Patti Stratton, past national president of ABWM, will be telling us about her trip to South Africa this summer to attend the International Baptist Women's Convention and Mission experiences in Africa. She has videos and photos to bring the experience to us. Bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverages provided. There is more detailed information from our Mission and Service coordinator Norma Taatjes.

I have received more information about this year's focus "See...the Beloved Community: Transformative Relationships". Taken from Romans 12:2 (NSRV) "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect." We are offered the opportunity to explore:

- How we are drawn into reconciliation with God through the cross;
- How we, together, are co-creators of the Beloved Community through authentic relationships with one another;
- How our ministries and congregations can lead our neighborhoods, towns, and cities in becoming the Beloved Community.

There are resources available on the ABW Ministries web site. We all need to be working in our communities to bring them together. Praying together for insight is a good place to start.

Prayers and Blessings from Celia, your president of ABWM VNH ([kaela@tds.net](mailto:kaela@tds.net))

On July 14<sup>th</sup> Patti Stratton, past ABWM president (and co-pastor at First Baptist Church, Rutland), and 11 other women travelled to Johannesburg, South Africa for a mission encounter and to attend the 2015 Baptist Women's Leadership Conference. To see posts by Patti and Virginia Holstrom along with pictures and videos of the trip, go to <https://2015abwmmissionencounter.wordpress.com/>.

### SAVE, SAVE, SAVE For Missions

ABWM VNH is continuing to collect the following items for missions: Campbell Soup labels, General Mills BoxTops for Education, beverage can flip tops, fronts of greeting cards, eye glasses, hearing aids, cancelled stamps, S&H Green Stamp books or other stamp books. For more information or to mail your items, please contact Mrs. Josephine Clark at 938 Shelburne Rd, Apt. 2, South Burlington, VT 05403 or 802-735-3455 or Mrs. Alys Martinson at 1 Luneau Court, Northfield, NH 03276.



## American Baptist Men of Vermont & New Hampshire

### ABMen Fall Rally

ABMen will hold a Fall Rally on November 7 at Trinity Baptist Church, Lebanon, NH, from 9:30 to 3:00. Discussion of topics of interest and concern, sharing updates and planning for future endeavors will take place. Bring a bag lunch.

ABMen, is a group of faith-based and spiritually led men, a ministry of men, where caring for others is our mission, supported by knowledge, experience and love to fulfill our promise.

ABMen is a community of men inspired to work on behalf of our faith in addressing the needs of others. ABMen sought a meeting location that was central to accommodate our travel distance and our need for a meeting space. Ruben Jennings, president of ABMen, recently accepted the call to Plainfield (NH) Comm-

unity Baptist. He plans to offer Pierce Hall at Plainfield Community Baptist Church as a meeting space option. The location of this space makes reasonable travel distance possible because of its central location.

ABMen has discussed building a more modern network of names, emails, and other contact information, alongside each AB man's unique gifts and talents. We want to build a more efficient and effective tool for matching community needs with various AB men's gifts, talents and abilities as directed by the Lord. We selected AB men for travel to Colorado to participate in safety training for accreditation and certification. 2014–2015 weather patterns and recent weather commentators have put the nation on notice that 2015–2016 will bring stronger effects of El Nino and the likelihood of more disasters, resulting in more damage and the increased need for ABMen Disaster Relief.

As ABMen, we know that God must be present in the needs of the community for our love of service to be fulfilled. We are constantly thinking about our grass-roots purpose-filled mission and how to rejuvenate, reinvigorate and sometimes repackage and recreate to appeal to a new generation of faith-filled and spirit-led men. At a recent meeting we discussed renewal of a few of our earlier promises: (a) community leadership, (b) mentoring children, young adults and adults (c) helping families in need with small local projects like painting, and removing ice from under the roof, and (d) maybe an occasional vehicle motor oil change for families or individuals in need.

We want to increase our ranks with men interested in answering the call to be a part of ABMen. By adding more men to our ABMen roll-call, we can secure the availability of men to offer the services we have outlined for today and well into our future, even providing service to communities where ABMen are not present. We want everyone to be increased, because of the love and grace poured into each of us. We are ABMen.

God's wisdom, Rubin Jennings, President, ABMen of VT & NH



## [News for Pastors from the Ministers Council](#)



Work on the new Wixson cottage is progressing under the direction of Rafe Longver. It is hoped that it will be ready for guests by December, but to make that happen much work still needs to be done. Any pastors (or men's groups) who have the time and interest in helping with construction should get in touch with Rafe by calling Camp Sentinel at 603-539-4839.

When a more concrete date of occupancy is known, reservations will be accepted. Ministers Council members will receive first priority in using the cottage. Stays can be from 1 to 7 days. There will be no charge for Ministers Council members and their families to stay at the cottage (though donations will be accepted). This cottage will be available year-round. It will have 2 bedrooms, a kitchen, and a dining/livingroom area, as well as a porch. It's situated so that one can see Dan Hole Pond and the mountains.

The Ministers Council board of directors met on September 14. The following members were appointed to the following positions and committees: Auditors: Malcolm Hamblett and Greg Vigne. Necrologist: Everett Palmer. Liaison to the Department of Professional Ministry: Karen Heavey. Nominating Committee: Kathleen Blackey and Dale Louise Nicholas. Finance Committee: George Keeler and Shirley Marcroft. Retreat and Continuing Education Committee: Malcolm Hamblett and Wayne Toutaint. Professional Standards/Advocacy Committee: Linda Bolton and Karen Heavey. Two members-at-large will also be appointed to each of these committees.

## FALL WORKSHOPS and NEWMA Luncheon – Register Now

Mark your calendars for two workshops coming your way:

### “Help Your Church and You Face Conflict”

**Thursday, October 8, 9:00-4:30 p.m.**

Singing Hills Christian Fellowship, Plainfield, NH.

Workshop Leader: Rev. Margaret Marcuson

Sponsored by the Region, the Ministers Council and The Center for Career Development and Ministry.



Most pastors experience conflict when they want to introduce change to their congregation. This workshop will deal with how to handle church conflicts and the process of change.

Rev. Margaret Marcuson helps clergy make their lives easier. She speaks and writes on leadership and works with church leaders nationally as a consultant and coach. Margaret is the author of *Leaders who Last: Sustaining Yourself and Your Ministry* and *Money and Your Ministry: Balance the Books While Keeping Your Balance*. An American Baptist minister, Margaret was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Gardner, MA, for 15 years. She now lives in Portland, Oregon. Find out more at [www.margaretmarcuson.com](http://www.margaretmarcuson.com) and read her two latest blogs on church conflict, including this one: “Five Reasons to Celebrate Church Conflict.”

Workshop Cost: \$55; \$40 for Ministers Council members. The fee includes all materials, lunch and snack. If you want to stay over the night before, the cost is \$75 per person, double occupancy and includes breakfast. Linens are \$7 extra. To register for this workshop, send a check to Ministers Council of ABCVNH, c/o ABCVNH, 1 Oak Ridge Rd., B3, #4A, West Lebanon, NH 03784. **Registration deadline is October 2.** 0.6 CEUs are available upon request.

### Maintaining Ethical Boundaries in Professional Ministry Workshop

**Saturday, October 31 from 9:00-4:00 p.m.**

Singing Hills Christian Fellowship, Plainfield, NH.

Workshop Leader: Rev. Linda Lea Snyder.

Sponsored by The Center for Career Development and Ministry (CCDM) in partnership with ABC/VNH



Professional church leaders and congregations flourish when good and ethical boundaries are maintained by their leaders. This one-day workshop will introduce and review the “pinch points” all of us experience in the practice of ministry as we strive towards integrity, well-being, and vitality for ourselves and those we serve.

*Maintaining Ethical Boundaries in Professional Ministry* will be led by the Rev. Linda Snyder. Linda served on the faculty of Yale Divinity School for 12 years teaching professional ethics and misconduct prevention. She is an ordained American Baptist pastor who has served in settled and interim ministry, and on staff as associate executive minister with the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut for 19 years.

Through lecture, small group work, and sharing sound strategies, Linda will lead the group through these topics:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Biblical and Theological Underpinnings                               | Maintaining Healthy Boundaries of all kinds |
| Building Awareness: Sexualized behavior and Power Dynamics           |   |
| Managing Dual Relationships  | What About Gift-giving/receiving?           |
| Prevention Strategies – Education, Effective Policies, and Self-Care |   |

Cost: \$40; \$30 for Ministers Council members. The fee includes all materials, lunch and snack. If you want to stay over the night before, the cost is \$75 per person, double occupancy and includes breakfast. Linens are \$7 extra. To register for this workshop, please call Jessica at CCDM (781) 329-2100. **Registration deadline is October 23.** 0.6 CEUs are available upon request.

### NEWMA Fall Luncheon

New England Women Ministers Association (NEWMA) will hold their fall luncheon for lay and ordained women in ministry on Saturday, November 14 at Edwards House Conference Center in Framingham, MA. The Rev. Cindy Maybeck will lead an introduction to biblical storytelling, “I Love to Tell the Story.” The link to the event description and registration is at <http://newenglandwomenministers.org/luncheon/>.

## Time Away for Pastors

**CAMP SENTINEL:** Sentinel has dedicated a place of rest for pastors, missionaries and ministry leaders and their families. As you nourish others for God's purpose and glory, it is important to take time and "be still". There is no charge for this experience. Contact Pastor Kevin at [kevin@campsentinel.org](mailto:kevin@campsentinel.org) to schedule your time of rest and renewal.

**ALTON BAY CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER:** Pastors are invited to spend up to two nights at the Conference Center on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday free of charge (subject to availability). There are no meals included, just a comfortable room, quiet time for study and reflection, and the natural beauty of the Lakes Region of New Hampshire.

**FOREST HAVEN:** A place of healing hospitality and spiritual refreshment for pastors and other Christian workers. 29 Hogg Hill Road, Bradford NH; 603-938-2964; [Revrandy3795@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Revrandy3795@sbcglobal.net). Looking for a get-away place? Forest Haven is an apartment attached to the home of Randy & Jill Thompson, who have answered God's call to provide this place for you. It is a faith-based ministry so there is no charge. Randy is Pastor at Immanuel Community Church in Concord. Visit their website at <http://foresthavennh.org>.

Check out the Ministers Council's website for online resources, information about forming a "Together in Ministry" small group, a monthly newsletter, Women in Ministry information, ministry stories and more. Go to [www.ministerscouncil.com](http://www.ministerscouncil.com). Also check out the Ministers Council's Facebook page: [click here](#).

## 25 to Life

25 to Life is hosting dinner at the Common Man Inn in Claremont, NH, on Saturday, November 7, from 4-8 p.m. 25 to Life is an initiative to support and encourage long-term ministry in northern New England. We welcome anyone considering or committed to long-term ministry. During our time together we will connect with other pastors and their spouses, hear some wisdom from a northern New England pastor, and enjoy a delicious CM dinner! RSVP to Abraham Gross at [abraham.gross@abcvnh.org](mailto:abraham.gross@abcvnh.org). You can visit 25 to Life at [25toLifeForJesus.com](http://25toLifeForJesus.com). A link to our Facebook page is available on our website.



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*The purpose of Sentinel is to create a welcoming environment for Christian relationship building and spiritual renewal.  
Within the stillness of God's creation and through the guidance of the staff,  
people are moved from discovery into authentic relationships with others and with Jesus Christ.*

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## Grand Opening of New Dining Hall

On Monday October 12<sup>th</sup> Camp Sentinel is having a grand opening of the new dining hall! You are invited to celebrate with us on Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> (Columbus Day) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come and see all that is happening! There will be games in the field, zip line and a BBQ lunch. There is no charge for the day. Donations are welcomed to help pay off the dining hall investment. RSVP to [admin@campsentinel.org](mailto:admin@campsentinel.org).

See you on the mountaintop,  
Rev. Kevin Van Brunt "Pk", Executive Director, Sentinel Ministries

## Thank you Camp Pastors!

Each week camp pastors dedicated their time to the campers at Sentinel. We appreciate them stepping forward to serve in this way.

- Pastor Ned, Sugar Hill Community Church
- Pastor Dean, First Baptist Church Berlin and Jefferson Community Church
- Pastor Mark, First Baptist Church, Lexington, MA
- Pastor David, retired
- Mr. Robby Zeller, teacher, Manchester
- Pastor Anthony Amor, Cadence Student Ministries International
- Pastor Cliff, retired

## Year Round Retreats *Rest. Renew. Reenergize.*

Sentinel is open year round and we would love to host your group at Sentinel Lodge. Retreat experiences begin at just \$65 per guest. Weekends are booking up quickly. Contact the camp office for availability.

Sentinel offers over 600 acres and a mile of water frontage in which to explore God's Creation through:

- **Summer Camp:** for youth, adults and families
- Year-round **group retreats:** for churches, families, and school and community groups
- **Pastor's Sanctuary:** a place for those in ministry to find rest (Psalm 46:10)
- **Community Programs:** adventure classes, school groups, youth group.
- Pines adult and family **camping:** 33 tent and RV sites

## Amazon Smile. Help send a youth to camp when you shop

Help support Sentinel's scholarship fund when you make Amazon purchases. Amazon has set up a way for .5% of your purchase to go to Camp Sentinel's scholarship campaign. There is no cost to you and you still pay the same price for items on Amazon. Amazon makes the donation above and beyond your purchase. Simply click this link, <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-3562406>, select Sentinel as the charity and shop as usual. Thank you for your support in helping children have a life changing Christian camp experience!

## Wish List

We ask for your prayers and support as we embrace the past and invest in the future! To see our most recent wish list click here: [www.campsentinel.org/support.php](http://www.campsentinel.org/support.php).

## Sentinel on Facebook and Instagram

Want to see what's been happening at Camp Sentinel this summer, go to Facebook or Instagram and join at [www.facebook.com/campsentinel](http://www.facebook.com/campsentinel) and [http://instagram.com/camp\\_sentinel](http://instagram.com/camp_sentinel). Lots of great pictures!



## Institute for Learning News & Courses

### Fall Class Schedule

This fall we will be offering two courses that may be of interest to church leaders as well as IFL students. More details about the courses and course registration forms can be found on the IFL website at [www.instituteforlearningvtnh.org](http://www.instituteforlearningvtnh.org) or you can email the Institute at [iflvtnh@gmail.com](mailto:iflvtnh@gmail.com).

**IFL 304 - Lifespan Pastoral Care** will be a course about visiting people and providing a spiritual presence that will allow one to listen to them and pray for them in meaningful ways. The course will be taught by Rev. Cliff Vendt and will meet on Saturday mornings and provide information and practice time to learn about the needs of people over their lifetime and how to improve one's listening and support skills. There is also a time for 20 hours of visitation in coordination with a supervisor, like a pastor or a hospital or nursing home chaplain. Students will learn how to share their visitation experiences in class without names or identifying information so that they can discuss and learn from their experiences.

**IFL 303 - Preaching and Leading Worship** will be a course to help improve one's preaching skills. Students will also learn how to lead special worship services like memorial services, burials, weddings, and alternative worship services. This course will be taught by Rev. Akum Lonchar, who is currently working on her doctorate in Homiletics at the Graduate Theological Institute, Berkeley, CA. The class will meet on 5 Saturday mornings.



## ABCUSA News

### Interested in Global Missions & volunteer work?

International Ministries sends out a weekly email about volunteers in global missions. Each email shares a volunteer missionary's experience, volunteer opportunities, and features a snapshot of one of IM's





missionaries and how you can pray for him or her and their ministry. To receive the weekly emails, email IM at [volunteers@internationalministries.org](mailto:volunteers@internationalministries.org).

**Check out what’s happening throughout the ABCUSA.**

Go to [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org) and check out “The Latest News”, “In the Spotlight”, Ministries, Resources, etc.

Go to [www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org) or “Like” ABHMS on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/ABHomeMission](http://www.facebook.com/ABHomeMission)) to find out what churches across our denomination are doing, to get information on Home missionaries and ministries, and AB Reads.

Go to [www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org) or “Like” IM on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/InternationalMinistries](http://www.facebook.com/InternationalMinistries)) to find out more about our ABC missionaries and their ministries and to get updates.

**New Hampshire Council of Churches and New Hampshire Bible Society**

Go to the New Hampshire Council of Churches’ website for information about upcoming events: <http://nhchurches.org/>. For information about the New Hampshire Bible Society, go to [www.biblenh.org](http://www.biblenh.org).

The Bible Society invites you to come by their bookstore, at 125 Airport Rd., Concord. They offer a variety of Bibles; study, large print, pew Bibles, in many different translations and languages to meet your needs. The Bibles are available at greatly reduced prices and often they are able to eliminate the cost altogether.

**American Baptist Mission Support Update**

**VERMONT & NEW HAMPSHIRE MISSION GIVING Year-to-Date thru August 2015**

	2015	2014	Incr. (Decr.)	% Incr. (%Decr.)
<b>United Mission Basics</b>	<b>\$ 70,927</b>	<b>\$ 75,225</b>	<b>\$ (4,298)</b>	<b>-5.7%</b>
ABW Ministries Love Gift	\$ 889	\$ 2,026	\$ (1,137)	-56.1%
America for Christ Offering	\$ 15,840	\$ 17,388	\$ (1,548)	-8.9%
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	\$ 25,021	\$ 26,029	\$ (1,008)	-3.9%
World Mission Offering	\$ 4,359	\$ 6,114	\$ (1,755)	-28.7%
Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering	\$ 10,349	\$ 13,994	\$ (3,645)	-26.0%
Region Offering	\$ 12,738	\$ 4,410	\$ 8,328	188.8%
Institutional Support	\$ 650	\$ 954	\$ (304)	-31.9%
Specifics	\$ 6,175	\$ 13,438	\$ (7,263)	-54.0%
Targeted Giving	\$ 17,966	\$ 16,015	\$ 1,951	12.2%
Adjustments	-	\$ 324	-	-
<b>Total American Baptist Mission Support</b>	<b>\$ 164,914</b>	<b>\$ 175,917</b>	<b>\$ (11,003)</b>	<b>-6.3%</b>

In August, United Mission giving was down by more than 44% compared to August 2014. For the year, United Mission giving is down almost 6%. On the positive side, Region Offering giving year-to-date is up almost 200% over 2014. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Your financial giving to United Mission and the Region offering support the work that your Region staff does to support you and your sister churches and your pastors.

A publication of ABC/VNH – Edited by Malcolm Hamblett

Send items for publication to [malcolm.hamblett@abcvnh.org](mailto:malcolm.hamblett@abcvnh.org).

**Deadline for submissions for the September newsletter is Monday, October 20.**