

ALL THINGS NEW

American
Baptist
Churches



Vermont
and
New Hampshire

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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"

November 2015 Newsletter



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Food for Thought

"As long as you and I understand salvation as checking off a box to get to God, we will find ourselves in the meaningless sea of world religions that actually condemn the human race by exalting our supposed ability to get to God. On the other hand, when you and I realize that we are morally evil, dead in sin and deserving of God's wrath with no way out on our own, we begin to discover our desperation for Christ."

— David Platt, *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*

"Made for spirituality, we wallow in introspection. Made for joy, we settle for pleasure. Made for justice, we clamor for vengeance. Made for relationship, we insist on our own way. Made for beauty, we are satisfied with sentiment. But new creation has already begun. The sun has begun to rise. Christians are called to leave behind, in the tomb of Jesus Christ, all that belongs to the brokenness and incompleteness of the present world ... That, quite simply, is what it means to be Christian: to follow Jesus Christ into the new world, God's new world, which he has thrown open before us."

— N.T. Wright, *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*

We need not wonder about the cost of ministry. We need only look upon the cross with Jesus suspended there, and there we see the enormous cost of the ministry that is offered in the life and death of Jesus. The cost is great, but in the work of introducing men and women to Jesus and offering God's love to them, the cost must be accepted. For it is our own self-emptying and compassion for others that permits them to see Jesus. And seeing Jesus they will also desire God's love. It is in our living a way of love and compassion that others may be convinced to look at the cross of Jesus and also say, "Truly this is the Son of God."

— Norman Shawchuck

[From Our Region Minister](#)

This fall I have had the opportunity to be a part of several church anniversary celebrations. Years ending in “5” must have been popular years for planting churches. I have been to a #150, a #200, a #215, and a #225, church anniversary celebration. The histories of how churches began are quite similar. Baptists were driven out of Puritan Massachusetts. (Back then my forebearers were Puritans, so I have a twinge of guilt.) Churches came into being as part of the Great Awakening, the 2nd Great Awakening, and even the 3rd Great Awakening. One hears the names of George Whitfield, Benjamin Randall, and Isaac Backus.



The church I pastored for 25 years was a late comer to the history of Baptist churches in VT and NH. It wasn't founded until 1865. At that point Baptists had been renting pews in the Congregational church. The church was planted by the First Baptist Church of Haverhill, MA. The church planting pastor was Sumner Hale. To use a modern phrase, Sumner was “bi-vocational”. He was a scythe maker by trade while planting a church. In 1870 he helped dig the trenches in which granite blocks were laid via block and tackle, a tri-pod, and oxen for the church building's foundation. On a couple of occasions I held and read his Bible, his Psalter and his hymnal. The notes of the society he founded speak eloquently of his call to Lebanon, NH, to plant a new church. Those who signed the church covenant accepted a call to commit or recommit their lives to Christ. The covenant was influenced by the “New Hampshire Confession of Faith.” By 1875, Sumner had developed voice problems and could no longer preach. The church called one of its deacons to serve as pastor. Nathan Stone would serve as the church's pastor for 25 years until called to another New Hampshire congregation in 1900.

Over the years I have often sat and talked with church planters who have felt called to come to New England. Although I might disagree with shades of theology or methodology, I find a sincerity of call, and a passion for Christ. Today, over longer distances, one church can plant another. You don't have to depend on horseback, or coach, or the train from Boston. But sometimes when I talk with church planters, some of whom arrive like scythe makers with risk to themselves and families, I wonder if I hear who we once were? Granted, the ministry of church renewal is very different from church planting. Long histories are rich with instruction versus writing your own beginnings. But when I talk with church planters, do I hear the echoes of Sumner Hale or Benjamin Randall? What I think is timeless, whether we are called to plant churches or lead church renewal, is that inexplicable motivating sense of call. I am here doing what I am doing because Jesus Christ has asked this of me. To a geography and situation, Christ has called me. What is enduring out of all our history is answering a call to follow Jesus Christ. Behind the volumes of histories is simply meeting Jesus and being asked to live a life for Him, and Him alone.

In Christ, Dale

[New Region Directory Available in November](#)

The new ABC/VNH Region Directory will be available the beginning of November in 2 formats: online and physical. To download the various sections of the directory (Region Leadership; Church Listings; Ministerial Leaders Directory, and ABC/VNH Constitution, By-laws and Rules of Procedure), go to abcvnh.org, hover your cursor over “Who We Are” and click on Region Directory. That will take you to the various sections that you can then download or open. If you don't have access to the internet, you can call the office at 603-643-4201 to ask for a physical copy and we will mail one to you.

The online version will be periodically updated and posted. If you have any corrections or updates please let the office know at 603-643-4201 or office@abcvnh.org.

[Prayer Concerns](#)

Condolences to **Peter Carlson**, pastor of the Townshend (VT) Yoked Parish, on the death of his father who passed away the last weekend in September.

The French Speaking Baptist Church, Manchester, NH, has been searching for a new church building that will meet their needs. They have found one that is available (3 buildings actually) and are now seeking to raise the money needed to purchase the property. Please pray for them in this endeavor. Individuals or churches that would like to assist in this endeavor can contact the church pastor, Rev. Renaud Dumont, at PO Box 261, Manchester, NH 03105 or pastordumont@yahoo.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

I am looking forward to seeing all of the ABW women at the Fall Rally on November 7, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in West Lebanon, NH. Bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverages provided. \$5.00 registration fee.

We will be hearing from Patti Stratton, past national president of ABWM, about her Trip to South Africa for the AB Women's Ministries Mission Encounter and the Baptist World Alliance Women's Leadership Conference and also the Baptist World Alliance Congress. She also will tell us about her visit to Kinshasa, Congo and the Congolese women she met there. She has videos and photos to bring the experience to us. She will lead us in celebrating Women's Day of Prayer after lunch. We will close with a communion service.

Do not forget to bring your Bag lunch. The AB Men's group will be joining us for lunch and Communion and possibly for part of our morning program.

Prayers and Blessings to all, Celia Taylor, President ABWM VNH (kaela@tds.net)

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. We will be joining AB Women for lunch and communion.

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



News for Pastors from the Ministers Council

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 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. 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. 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. You can visit 25 to Life at 25toLifeForJesus.com. A link to our Facebook page is available on our website.



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.

What an exciting fall season! The leaf colors are at their peak and God's beauty surrounds us. This last week has been exciting at Sentinel. Here is a glimpse:

This past weekend (Oct. 17-18) we served a Brazilian Church at Sentinel Lodge. Sunday afternoon they went down the waters to have a baptism in Dan Hole Pond (the morning air temperature was 35 degrees!).

On Friday the 16th the well was hooked-up to the Wixson Cabin to provide fresh water for nourishment and an intentional place for pastoral rest! We are working to get the cabin ready and open for use.



On Thursday the 15th, 20 youth gathered in the basement of a local church to laugh, fellowship and dig into the Word. We studied the importance of remaining in God and He will remain in us (John 15). This is a community youth group from 6 area churches.

On Tuesday the 13th, students from the local Lakes Region Technology Center came to learn about the importance of hospitality through Sentinel Lodge's conference center, which serves over 3,000 guests throughout the year. We spoke about generosity and servant leadership. Some will return to volunteer for community service.

On Monday the 12th, over 150 friends and alumni gathered to dedicate the new dining hall addition to God's purpose and glory as Pastor Dean Stiles led the prayer of dedication. In the past six months, over 50% of the \$120,000 funding has been secured. Thank you to those who have stepped up to invest and pray for Sentinel, as we grow for God's purpose!



This is an exciting time in the Region's outdoor camp and conference ministry. Please continue to pray for Sentinel as we serve youth, families and adults throughout the year.

See you on the mountaintop,

Rev. Kevin Van Brunt "Pk", Executive Director, Sentinel

Year Round Retreats Rest. Renew. Reenergize.

Sentinel offers a place for school and community groups, churches and individuals to come to the 600+ acres and enjoy the stillness of the grounds. Meals are cooked to meet the individual group needs and the Lodge offers a place for meeting and lodging (with brand new tempurpedic mattresses!) throughout the year. Contact Kevin to book a retreat – kevin@campsentinel.org.

Missions Support

Sentinel is a Christ centered, Bible based summer camp experience for children. We welcome all regardless of financial status. This past summer, with your help, Sentinel lovingly gave \$23,210 in scholarship assistance. We are able to do this because we are a mission before money ministry. Thank you to those who pray and stand with us. Please consider supporting Sentinel as your local church mission so we may reach more children for Christ's Glory!

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.



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.



Check out what's happening throughout the ABCUSA.

Go to www.abc-usa.org and check out "The Latest News", "In the Spotlight", Ministries, Resources, etc.

Go to www.abhms.org or "Like" ABHMS on Facebook (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 or "Like" IM on Facebook (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.

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 September 2015

	2015	2014	Incr. (Decr.)	% Incr. (%Decr.)
United Mission Basics	\$ 86,520	\$ 84,489	\$ 2,031	2.4%
ABW Ministries Love Gift	\$ 1,119	\$ 2,221	\$ (1,102)	-49.6%
America for Christ Offering	\$ 16,654	\$ 18,702	\$ (2,048)	-11.0%
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	\$ 30,485	\$ 28,116	\$ 2,369	8.4%
World Mission Offering	\$ 8,568	\$ 7,166	\$ 1,402	19.6%
Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering	\$ 12,197	\$ 14,795	\$ (2,598)	-17.6%
Region Offering	\$ 15,682	\$ 10,067	\$ 5,615	55.8%
Institutional Support	\$ 818	\$ 1,015	\$ (197)	-19.4%
Specifics	\$ 7,779	\$ 13,808	\$ (6,029)	-43.7%
Targeted Giving	\$ 22,266	\$ 19,690	\$ 2,576	13.1%
Adjustments	-	\$ 331	-	-
Total American Baptist Mission Support	\$ 202,088	\$ 200,400	\$ 1,688	0.8%

Thank you to the churches that sent in their United Mission giving in September. United Mission giving is now back on track and up 2.4% for the year. Regular submission of United Mission giving and offerings helps with the budget and can us minimize having to take funds from the endowment fund.

A publication of ABC/VNH – Edited by Malcolm Hamblett
Send items for publication to malcolm.hamblett@abcvnh.org.

Deadline for submissions for the September newsletter is Monday, November 16.