

God Stuff Happening In Our Churches – November 2015

MISSIONS

- **First Baptist Church, Plaistow, NH**, reports that they have been receiving a large amount of donations for the animal shelters in Stratham and Methuen. They have also donated several bags of food to Timberlane High School for the backpack program. Member **Walter Mailhot** continues his good work at the Concord Prison through the Kairos program. As one person who was helped by this mission said, “Kairos helped me see the light of Christ and a bright new future.” Members have also provided Recovery Bibles to those who attend the church’s monthly services for those struggling with addictions.
- Each Monday morning during the summer members of the Mission Board of **United Baptist Church, Lakeport, NH**, volunteered at the Laconia “Got Lunch” Program. They helped to pack lunches for several hundred children in Laconia.
- Several members of **New Hampton Community Church** are planning on going another mission trip to Nicaragua in November. Knitters and crocheters in the area have been making teddy bears which will be handed out to children in Nicaragua, many of whom have no toys or anything to cuddle. More than 25 bears are ready to travel.

CHURCH NEWS

- Welcome to the following pastors have recently begun serving in our Region:
Mr. Scott Tyler began serving as pastor of Georgia Plain Baptist Church at the beginning of October.
Rev. Roger Spinney began serving as interim pastor at First Baptist Church of Hanover in Etna at the beginning of October.
- Congratulations to **Rev. Christopher Dunaway**, pastor of **Middle Street Baptist Church, Portsmouth, NH**, who was ordained to the Christian ministry on September 20th. Rev. Dale Edwards, Region Minister, participated in the service.
- On Sunday, August 9 **Rev. Thomas Hiltsey**, interim pastor at **First Baptist Church, Bennington, VT** as honored as the church celebrated the 45th anniversary of his ordination. Tom (pictured at right with his wife Dee) will be concluding his ministry at First Baptist at the end of November.
- **The Townshend Church** celebrated its 225th anniversary on the weekend of September 26-27. On the 26th they had a ham dinner and program afterwards. Former pastors Bill Salt and Vern Stanley gave speeches and others told stories of their childhood and youth in Townshend. On the 27th, interim pastor Jim Scott led the service, former pastor Jim Harrington and wife Linda both spoke briefly, and Region Minister Dale Edwards preached. The Baptist and Congregational churches federated in 1923.
- **Centerpoint Community Church, Salem, NH**, celebrated its 150th anniversary on September 26 with a series of events that included a luncheon, a history tent, a celebration service, cake and ice cream and a concert.
- **Rev. Patty Marsden**, pastor of **Newmarket Community Church**, reports that much has happened in the year since she became pastor. Some of the highlights of the past year include: 9 new members joined the church family, they led a 34 member team on a mission trip to South Dakota, they transitioned to a blended worship style where grandparents and grandchildren can worship together, they cleaned up the grounds in the spring, reconnected with the community in meaningful ways, including partnering with the Sunrise Sunset Senior Center, the Newmarket Business Association, and most recently they have been leading the Newmarket Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention for their community. They have continued to serve through the food pantry and the thrift shop and in addition they are now serving at the



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Soup Kitchen in Portsmouth each month. And last, but CERTAINLY not least, they recently kicked off their 2015 - 2016 Confirmation class with eight youth from NCC joining together with nine youth from Stratham Community Church as they lead their kids to a confirmation celebration on May 15th - Pentecost Sunday.

- On Sunday, October 4th **First Baptist Church, Bellows Falls, VT**, celebrated the ordinance of believer's baptism. Congratulations to **Kaitlyn Bacon, Melissa Richmond** (pictured at right) and **Terry Burnham**. Pastors Steve and Terri Walton said the congregation was "born anew as a new church with the three of them formally joining the new church body. The entire service was centered on our faith and the ordinance of baptism." On September 12th their Sunday school got off to what promises to be a great year, with over 20 participating children and youth from kindergarten through high school. Three years ago when the Waltons started, the church averaged 20 in attendance at worship and fewer than 5 in Sunday school.



- If you have it, they will come..... And they did, from young to more "experienced hunters." All dressed in special garb! There was excitement in **First Baptist Church, Lyme Center, NH**, one recent Sunday, sort of like before the hunt. Pastor Lloyd Wiley led the service and shared some of his own hunting stories. There was a Deer Hunter's Prayer and a blessing of the hunters. Following the service refreshments were served and a box with hunting treasures was given to everyone to take home. Within a few days, word came back that three of the hunters that came to the blessing had tagged themselves some venison!
- **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 – the present Manchester Alliance Church) 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.
- Congratulations to **Patti Stratton**, co-pastor of **First Baptist Church, Rutland, VT**, on passing her ordination council on October 11. The council voted to recommend that the church proceed with her ordination.
- **First Baptist Church, Brattleboro, VT**, recently welcomed 6 new members with the right hand of fellowship: **Phil Gambill, Jr., Mark Holmes, Melanie Jandris-Hudson, Jerome Pinette, Kevin Regan** and **Faith Marie Roy**.
- **New Hampton Community Church** worshipped on the beach of Newfound Lake on September 13. **Tom O'Shea, Jim Hersey, Danell Ross, Terry Normandin**, and **Chuck Swanson** were baptized in the lake. A picnic celebration followed.
- **Melvin Village Community Church** has started a Sunday evening service twice a month. This will be a contemporary worship service with a brief sharing and discussion of the Word of God. This service is offered for those involved with family and sports on Sunday morning.