



(If you enlarge the photo, you can see a horse and wagon to the right of the church.)

“SpiritSpark”

**The First Baptist Church
of Manchester Center, VT**

P.O. Box 1049, 4895 Main St. 802-362-1555

www.fbcmanvt.org

fbcmanvt@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

August 2017

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I heard the most encouraging thing yesterday, as people were stopping to shake my hand on their way from the sanctuary to the vestry for refreshments. A visitor said, “This church is so alive!” I agree that the Holy Spirit is moving among us, and it brings me joy to see how people are moving in harmony with God.

The passage that accompanied the Daily Bread devotional this morning was Ephesians 2:19-3:11. It talks about the church family being a holy temple, a “dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit” (Eph. 2:22). What an awesome thought, that each of us is a part of a living church, not just a historic building.

Jesus is our Cornerstone, so we look to his life and teaching to know how to live according to God’s will. This is exactly what we’ve been doing these many weeks going through the Gospel of Luke together. I pray that the character of Christ will grow in each of us as we open our hearts to God’s mercy and grace.

May the Spirit’s vitality continue to flow through us,

~ Pastor Rebecca Sommons

AUDIO SYSTEM UPDATE:

Recently the church approved a replacement sound system. The old system was down to a single working speaker, and two microphones with questionable audible quality. While the old system fulfilled its duties over the years, the much needed update is now addressing several immediate needs. First, the pastor and lay readers were limited to the single pulpit; they now have the ability to use either lectern. Second, with our services being broadcast via GNAT, the sound quality needed to be improved to simplify the audio aspect of the recording. Additionally, there are now many more microphones to allow a wider variety of orators and musicians. Finally, the system connects directly to a computer to allow us to capture the sound for future uses and for playing music before the service or anytime it is deemed appropriate.

Originally, the timeline for the project was to be complete before the end of the 2017 summer. Happily, the audio portions were completed ahead of schedule. While there are fine-tuning aspects to the equipment that may take some time, the only incomplete aspect of the project is the connection of the sound computer system to the projection system. That aspect should be done before the end of August.

For the technically minded, the system includes a Mackie soundboard to connect up to 22 various microphones, instruments, and digital audio sources. There are now a total of 6 speakers and a subwoofer. While there is plenty of audio power (3050W), the system is designed for clarity of the human voice. With up to eight vocal microphones, each vocal channel is specially equipped to prevent feedback if the portable microphone (or any other) wanders in front of a speaker. The components within the system are specifically professional quality. From the Shure microphones, to the Behringer processors, to the Electrovoice powered speakers, and Crown amplifier driven Polk wall speakers, the system is built to last for several years.

While we are enjoying the fresh sounds from the sanctuary, we are praying for new opportunities for the system to spread the word of the Lord. The future may include Christian band performances, audio and video postings to the internet, and it may even capture the silent reverence of our prayers. Above all, we must remember that the system is a tool for God to use through us. All of the work done on the project reflects the quality of those in our midst willing to use their skills to serve the Lord. For those of you that made this upgrade possible, thank you. May the Lord bless you and your efforts.

For His Glory,

Jeremy Crumb

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Missions Committee continues to reach out globally to aid those in need. \$200 was sent to the famine in East Africa through World Vision. We are thrilled to tell you that a number of grants will boost the contribution seven-fold to a total of \$1,400!

On Friday, July 21st, the Manchester Street Fest was held from 6-9 pm and the Irish band 'Get Up Jack' was front and center at First Baptist Church! Mission Committee members Jeff Linebeck (bubble maestro), Dottie Sundquist, and Pastor Rebecca Sommons (behind camera) greeted many delighted cookie lovers with a free temptation. Thanks to Glenna and Russ Taxter and Jeremy and Annie for joining the ranks and to those of you who stopped by. A special thank you to all who took the time to bake for our contribution to the magical night. We truly expressed giving, generosity and grace to all who passed by. Jeff left with a full belly (he ate the broken ones) and we all slept with full hearts.

~Submitted by Dottie Sundquist



DIACONATE REPORT

The deacons discussed the all board meeting to be held on August 24th at 6pm where we will be discussing Pastor Rebecca's installation which will be held on September 10th at 3pm.

An outdoor service has been scheduled for Sunday, August 27th at the Factory Point Town Green. This is weather permitting.

We also discussed reviving the meal ministry in which volunteers can select a time to prepare food for a church member or friend who is unable to prepare food as a result of illness, surgery, childbirth or other difficult circumstances.

As always, the members of the committee seek to be available to anyone in need of comfort and spiritual support.

~Submitted by Carol Lattuga

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NOTES

On Tuesday, July 25th, the Christian Ed Committee hosted a tea party to give a big thank you to those involved in the care and supervision of children and youth at our church. We also introduced a draft of the FBC "Child and Youth Safe Church And Abuse Prevention Policy". The discussion was attended by Pastor Rebecca, Maurie Hill, Holly O'Brien, Lindy Mylott, Glenna Taxter, Russ Taxter, Jenny Russell, John Hess, and Linell Pike. We went over the policy page by page. The care, interest, and level of input of the attendees was impressive and appreciated. The most discussion involved the need for 2 responsible persons to supervise the children, in particular when they go upstairs during the church service. With about 10 active people on the childcare list, it may be difficult to fulfill this.

The committee explained the importance and reasons behind the 2-person policy. The childcare providers expressed the awkwardness and difficulty of grabbing a second person out of the service. We also want to minimize the frequency of adults missing the sermon for which they came to church for. A "buddy system" was suggested, where 2 people could team up for their turn and both names would be on the childcare provider list. The more teams we have, the better. If you are interested in being part of a team, please let anyone on the CE committee know, or anyone on the childcare provider list. Please pray that this can come together in order to serve and enhance both the child and adult needs and safety concerns of the church.

The final draft of the policy will be presented for ratification at the all church meeting on Sunday, August 20th after church. Maurie will email a copy of the policy to all church members, or it can be picked up in the church vestry for review. Please make comments/suggestions about it by August 13th so that any changes can be made before the August 20th meeting.

~Submitted by Maurie Hill

WARNING OF CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

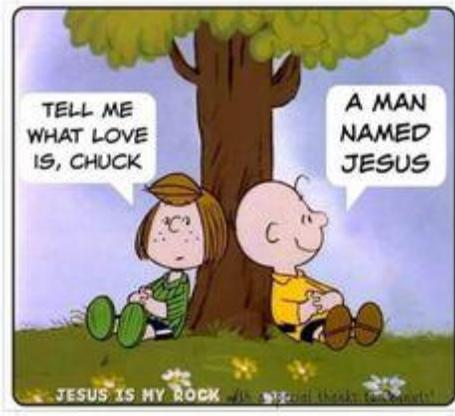
Please plan to stay after the service on August 20th for a business meeting. We will be voting on the new Safety Policy for Children and on some changes to the pastor's contract. There will also be some further information on the Church Photo Directory.

ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

The adult church school class, led by John Hess, will not meet during the month of August. We will resume on September 8th at 9:30 AM when we will continue with Chapter 5 of Remembering Your Story.

NEW CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY

The photographers for our new photo directory will be here on Monday and Tuesday, September 25 and 26th! Those of you who live in the area will have the opportunity to have your picture taken between 2:00 PM and 9:00 PM on either of those days. You will be receiving more information about this including how to make an appointment that works for your schedule. Stay tuned!



OUR CHURCH IS PRIVILEGED TO BE ABLE TO OFFER OUR FACILITY TO THE FOLLOWING AA GROUPS EACH WEEK.

Equinox Group: Mon-Fri from Noon to 1:00 PM
Thursday Morning Men's Group: Thursday 7:30-8:30 AM
Primary Purpose Group: Sunday 7:30-8:30 PM

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office Hours 9:30-12:30 AM on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Pastor Rebecca's e-mail address: rebeccasommons@gmail.com
Pastor Rebecca's cell phone: (802) 688-3024
Church office Phone: (802) 362-1555
Parsonage Phone: (802) 362-5335
Please call to request a meeting or visit outside of regular church office hours.

CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS

Tuesday, Aug. 1: Mary & Martha Annual Picnic Judy Koch's Home
Saturday, Aug. 5: F.O.C.U.S. (Men's Group) 8:00 AM
Saturday, Aug. 5: Baseball Game Outing (Meet at church 5:30)
Tuesday, Aug. 8: Prayer Group 7:00 PM Lois Squires' Home
Thursday, Aug. 10: Pastoral Relations Committee 4:00 PM
Sunday, August 20: Church Meeting following service (see agenda elsewhere in newsletter)
Sunday, Aug. 20: Rubin Jennings' ordination council & supper 3:00 in No. Springfield
Thursday, Aug. 24: Diaconate Meeting 5:00 PM
Thursday, Aug. 24: All-Board Meeting 6:00 PM Planning for Installation Service
Sunday, Aug. 27: Sunday Service at Factory Point Town Green (weather permitting)
Sunday, September 10: Pastor Rebecca's Installation Service at 3:00 PM

FLOWERS

August 6: Lindy Mylott
August 13: Lisa & George Hess
August 20: Carol Lattuga
August 27: Lorraine Wilkins

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

August 6: Barb West
August 13: Judy Koch
August 20: Lindy Mylott
August 27: Dottie Sundquist

