

THE BELL RINGER

Calling all to gather in His name

November 2020
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First Baptist Church of Blue Hill, 53 Pleasant Street, Blue Hill, ME 04614
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Greetings in Jesus' Name

We are so glad you're interested in our church. We are people who love Jesus and who want others to know the joy and purpose that come with following Him. We are a friendly American Baptist Church committed to Jesus Christ and the work of His kingdom. We aim to be a loving, growing family in Jesus, and we seek to walk humbly with God, obedient to His Word. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are working to love and serve others. We invite you to join us in experiencing and sharing this abundant life.

From the Pastor's Desk



Pastor Jerry Springston
Minister-at-Large

"Grace and Gratitude"

"Paul took some bread and gave thanks to God, then he broke it and began to eat. The others on board the ship were all encouraged and ate some food themselves." [Acts 27:35-36]

A symbol of this season of the year is a "horn-of-plenty" suggesting abundance. This picture, however, is not substantiated by either history or the Bible. Too often we feel that thanksgiving is only justified if we

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have been blessed in abundance or if things have gone well for us. Yet the first Thanksgiving was celebrated by people who were simply "glad to be alive." It was the same with the Apostle Paul and those who were being tossed about on a raging sea, not too certain they or the ship they were on would see another day. In the midst of mutiny and impending doom, Paul pauses to thank God for a measly bit of bread which he first offers to others. [Acts chapter 27] This is the spirit of Thanksgiving: simple and sincere gratitude for God's grace.

The records of the Plymouth pilgrims clearly illustrate people who were experiencing extreme peril and privation. Their governor, William Bradford, recounted people who survived a treacherous voyage of nearly two months across the Atlantic Ocean during one of the worse seasons of the year; the death of more than half of their number from disease during their first six months in the new world; and their avoidance from starvation thanks to the Native Americans who taught them what crops to plant and how to plant them; and then, joining them in a

celebration of thanksgiving following a meager harvest.

Theologian, Reinhold Niebuhr once observed: *“The Thanksgiving Proclamations of American presidents have increasingly departed from the original, rather purely religious spirit of Thanksgiving, and have increasingly become congratulations to God for having such wonderful children in America.”*

This attitude smacks of the Pharisee, who prayed, *“God, I thank you that I am not like other people....”* [Luke 18:11] If we are truly grateful for God's gracious blessings, there are several things we can do to show it:

- Imitate Christ: Imitation is the highest form of flattery. Jesus said, *“Go and do likewise!”*
- Proclaim God's grace: I've never met anyone who was totally sold on anything that they weren't rather blunt at telling others about!
- Ceaselessly tell God of your gratitude: Ten lepers were healed, but only one thanked Jesus. The Lord would have an inferiority complex if He depended upon people's gratitude and praise.

Jerry Springston

Sympathies and Concerns



Let's continue to keep all unsaved loved ones in our prayers, as well as members of our church family who are unable to join us on Sunday mornings due to illness or other difficulties.

We need to keep praying for everyone involved in trying to bring about an end to the coronavirus pandemic. We know that prayer works, so let's not get discouraged. We may not be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel yet, but God surely is listening to our prayers.

November Bulletin Bloopers

Twenty-two members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.

Spirited Moments

Christ died to liquidate the sin question so that on the basis of his atoning life we may enjoy the resurrection life.

Ian Thomas, Major (Ret.) UK

When we encounter the unknown, the Spirit of God is there to keep us from being intimidated. He lives within us to reveal, to teach, to direct.

Chuck Swindoll

The Church was never intended to be a natural and intellectual organization, but a supernatural instrumentality wholly dependent upon the power of God.

A. W. Tozer

Signs of Faith



Member News

Beverly Walls, a longtime member of our congregation, has taken up residence in the assisted living wing of Island Nursing Home. Although no visitors are permitted at this time, Beverly would enjoy hearing from her church family. The address for sending cards to Beverly is:

Mrs. Beverly Walls
c/o Island Nursing Home
587 North Deer Isle Road
Deer Isle, ME 04627

We've heard from our friends, Paul and Ginger Doyle. Here's what Ginger has to say:

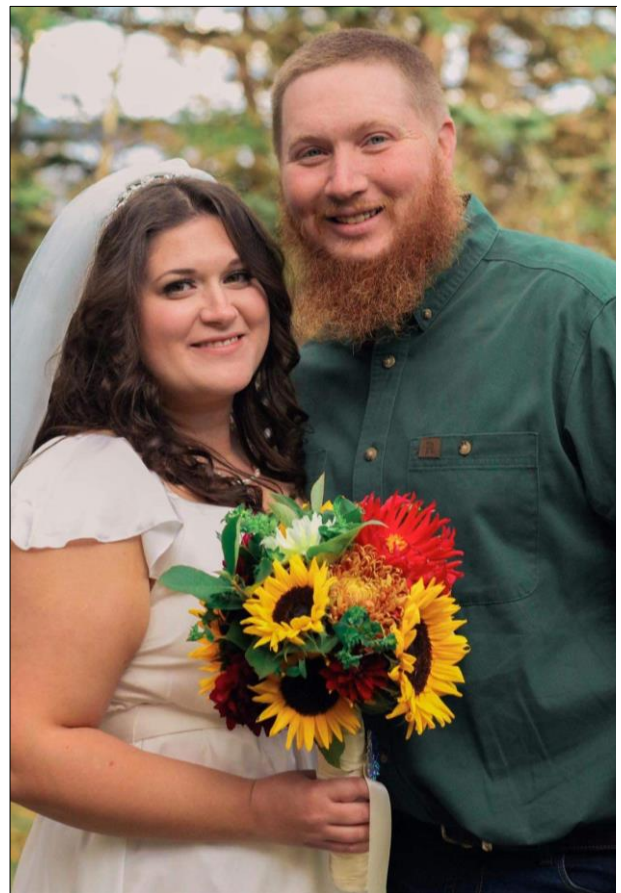
“We have decided to downsize our fifth wheel and will close on this home December 1. We will be moving to Savannah Lakes Village in McCormick, S.C., on Strom Thurmond Reservoir. We will continue to RV in a smaller RV, but not full time! Stay tuned as we begin a new adventure together!!!”



Even with a chill in the air, young Thomas Astbury enjoys playing soccer. Nice cap, Tommy!



On October 3, Betsy Butler’s daughter, Carrissa, became the bride of Dustin Bowden in a beautiful ceremony that Betsy describes as a blessed event. Betsy shares the following photos:



Fall has many celebrations. Early Fall is the season for visiting local apple orchards and gathering a supply for making pies, applesauce, crisps and more. The Astburys once again visited Wight's en famille for their apple-picking. It's clear from the following photos that the youngest generation had the most success at picking apples... just check the apples in little Lyla's hands.



Project 31

Saturday, October 31
2-5 p.m.

This year's Project 31 is a drive-thru event being held in our church parking lot. Volunteers will pass out treats and tracts to vehicles driving through.

We conclude the month of October with our annual Project 31 celebration. This year's Project 31 is a drive-thru event held in our church parking lot. Volunteers will pass out treats and tracts to vehicles driving through. Project 31 coordinator Allison Charles displays the finished goodie bags below.



And look what we have here! Is that a witch I spy? How about that ghoulie ghost? Josh and Kim Astbury's girls are all set for Project 31 fun.



Oh, but wait! You can't have Halloween without Jack-o'-lanterns. Here's Chloe Schildroth deep in the innards of her pumpkin getting it ready for the carving to begin.



LOL



A Thanksgiving Prayer

Thank you, Lord, especially on Thanksgiving, for those gathered around this table today.

We're so grateful for our family and friends and for the opportunity to share with them our love and laughter, as well as this bounty of food.

Bless those who are unable to be here today, but remain close in our hearts. Please shower them with your gifts.

We come to you in humble gratitude for your endless generosity, for good health and meaningful work, and for the love of our family and friends.

With thankful hearts, we praise you God for these many blessings, and most of all for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Lord, help us to be grateful every day and live a life of gratitude.



Amen.

Birthday and Anniversary Greetings



Jackie Butler
Erin Chase
Natalie Astbury
Cory Schildroth
Michael Astbury

Happy Birthday to
November 2 Claire Astbury
November 2 Judson Butler
November 4 Beverly Walls
November 4 Cherry Stanko
November 9 Gail Carter

November 23
November 27
November 27
November 28
November 30

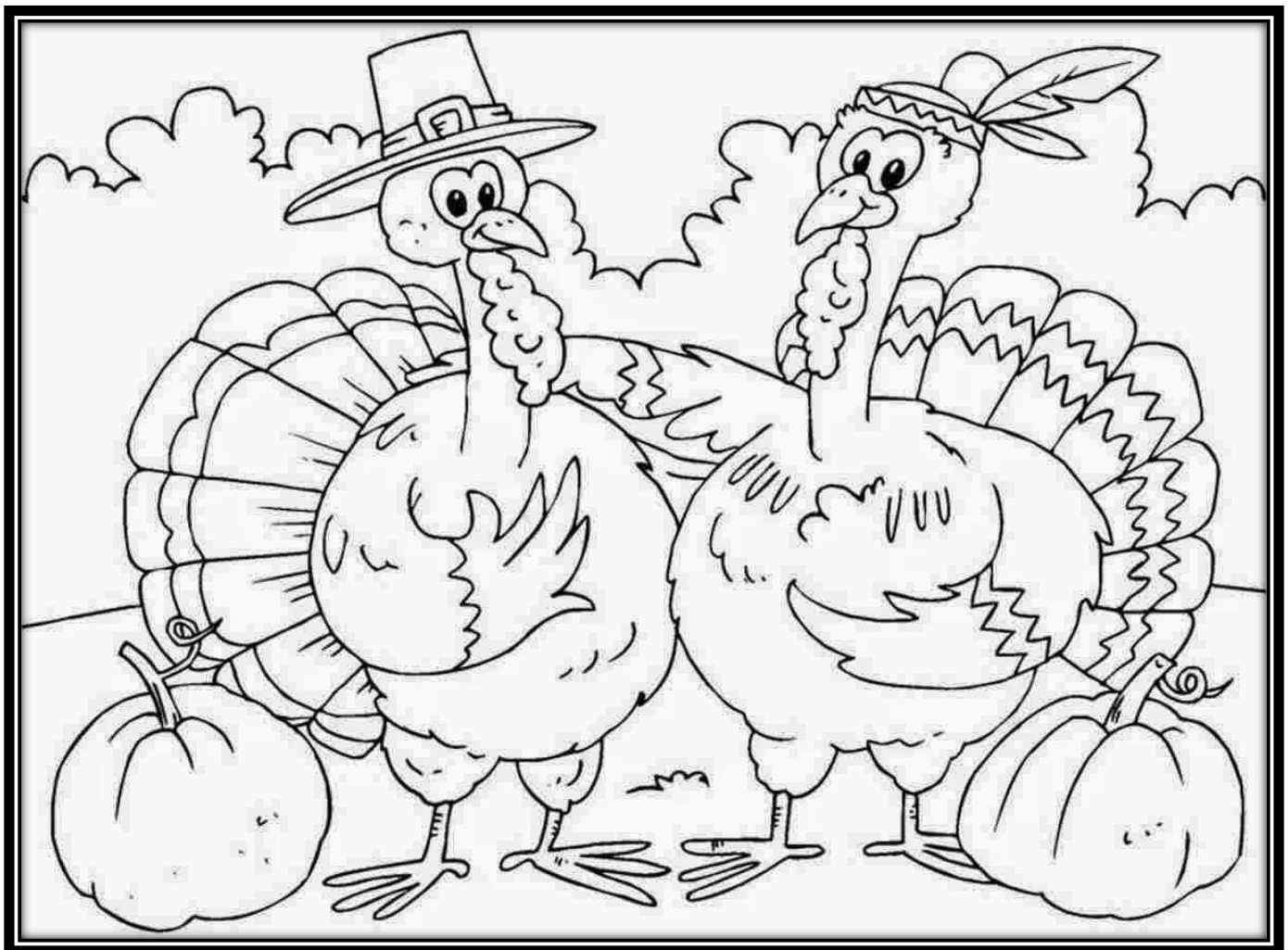
Happy Anniversary to



Are you on our Birthday or Wedding Anniversary list? If not, please let us know by e-mail to fbcbluehill.office@gmail.com so we might celebrate with you!

Kids Korner

Color me!



November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 Women's Bible Study 1 p.m. 	3 	4	5  Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.	6	7
8 	9 Women's Bible Study 1 p.m. 	10 Christian Ed 6:30 p.m.	11 Thank You  VETERANS	12  Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.	13	14
15	16 Women's Bible Study 1 p.m. 	17 Deacons 6:30 p.m.	18	19  Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.	20	21
22 	23 Women's Bible Study 1 p.m. 	24	25	26 	27	28
29	30 Women's Bible Study 1 p.m. 		 Temporarily suspended		<i>God is like...</i> <i>Scotch Tape: You can't see Him, but you know He's there.</i>	

In-person Church Attendance Guidelines

- ✓ If you come, physical distancing must be maintained.
- ✓ Masks must be worn. Please bring a mask with you. Should you not have one, we have a limited supply.
- ✓ Hand sanitizer is available.
- ✓ Attendees assume the risk.

Notes
