

THE BELL RINGER

Calling all to gather in His name

JUNE 2021

Volume 7, Issue 6

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

***"He Left Us in Order to Be Nearer
to Us All!"***

"Jesus led them out as far as Bethany...And it came about while He was blessing them, He parted from them." [Luke 24:50-51]

May is filled with events and occasions celebrated in the church. One of them, *Ascension Day*, can fall in either May or June. It marks Jesus' departure from this world and deserves a special place in the hearts

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and minds of Christians. Shrouded in mystery, it describes something beyond description.

Luke is the only Gospel writer to record Jesus' departure from this world, but as a physician, he is well-qualified to do so and he does it twice: in his Gospel and in the Book of Acts. He doesn't use the word "*ascend*," instead he writes: "*carried up*," "*lifted up*" and "*taken up*." Luke isn't telling us about a closure, but rather a new association because the ascended body of Jesus was the same—yet different from the one that was laid in the tomb. It was a "*glorified*" body—fit for both heaven and earth. It's the kind of body we'll be given when Jesus comes again.

In His last hours Jesus told His disciples, "***I go to prepare a place for you. And seeing that I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again...that where I am you may be also!***" [John 14:2-3] Yes, science may tell us where our bodies came from, but only the Ascension can tell us where our bodies are

going and that's to be with Jesus. We aren't fitted for heaven unless Jesus is there.

But most important of all, the Ascension assures us that the *humanity* of Jesus was taken into heaven with Him. Jesus Who ascended is and always will be Jesus: "*conceived by the Holy Spirit...born of the Virgin Mary...suffered under Pontius Pilate...crucified, died and buried...risen again.*" What does all this mean? It means that God knows now, in a way He didn't know before, what it's like to be human. He knows what it means to be tempted as we are tempted. He has had the experience of growing from infancy to youth to adulthood. He knows what it's like to be hungry and tired, loved and scorned, lonely and forsaken. He knows what it's like to be a good person in a bad world. It also means that when Jesus ascended into heaven, He didn't leave the world in the sense He's no longer here. On the contrary, ***He left in order that He might be nearer to us all!***

Jerry Springston
Minister-at-Large

Spirited Moments

Jesus acknowledged that everything He said were God's words. Everything He did was doing what God directed Him to do. Everything He was, was displaying God the Father.

Ian Thomas, Major (Ret.) UK

In place of weakness, the Spirit brings power. In place of ignorance, He brings knowledge...[and] divine wisdom and profound insights from the depths of God's plan.

Chuck Swindoll

If a church is only methodology and organizational technique and clever advertising, it is departing from what God planned it to be. There should always be the element of supernatural direction.

Jim Cymbala

LOL

If you ever testify in court, you might wish you could have been as sharp as this policeman. He was being cross-examined by a defense attorney during a felony trial. The lawyer was trying to undermine the police officer's credibility...

Q: 'Officer --- did you see my client fleeing the scene?'

A: 'No, sir. But I subsequently observed a person matching the description of the offender, running several blocks away.'

Q: 'Officer, who provided this description?'

A: 'The officer who responded to the scene.'

Q: 'A fellow officer provided the description of this so-called offender. Do you trust your fellow officers?'

A: 'Yes, sir. With my life.'

Q: 'With your life? Let me ask you this then officer. Do you have a room where you change your clothes in preparation for your daily duties?'

A: 'Yes sir, we do!'

Q: 'And do you have a locker in the room?'

A: 'Yes, sir, I do.'

Q: 'And do you have a lock on your locker?'

A: 'Yes, sir.'

Q: 'Now, why is it, officer, if you trust your fellow officers with your life, you find it necessary to lock your locker in a room you share with these same officers?'

A: 'You see, sir, we share the building with the court complex, and sometimes lawyers have been known to walk through that room.'

Signs of Faith



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.

John Candage still needs prayers as he recovers from his recent kidney stone surgery.

Joan Pettengill is in need of our prayers as she continues to be a patient at Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor.

Member News



Artist: Kaya Bergin Town: Blue Hill Teacher: Miss Kim Astbury

Did you catch the "Thank You Teachers" page in the May 6 issue of *The Ellsworth American*? Our own Kim Astbury was recognized as the "best teacher!"

Alma Mote reports that her son, Eric, has been seeing something of the world on his first training cruise aboard the *State of Maine*, the Maine Maritime Academy training ship based in Castine. The ship departed Castine on April 19 for the 45-day training cruise along the Eastern Seaboard. During the cruise, the ship made stops in Boston, the Bahamas, Norfolk, VA, New York Harbor and Provincetown, MA. While in the Bahamas, on May 1, officers, students, faculty and crew paused on the sea, near the final resting place of *El Faro* off Crooked Island in the Bahamas. They gathered on the deck to honor the

lost ship and its crew, which included five MMA alumni. On May 23, the *State of Maine* was back in her homeport and that's Eric waving from the rail on the ship's return to Castine. He now awaits his cadet shipping assignment.



You may recall that last month I reminisced about the once popular tradition of making May baskets to give away on May Day (May 1). I'm delighted to report this is not a forgotten custom. Patty Clapp sent in this photo along with a notation that she has passed along the tradition to daughters Sarah and Lydia. Aren't they beautiful?



We've heard from our friends Paul and Ginger Doyle. As you know, the Doyles had a tough time of it this past year with the loss of their beloved canine companion, Jada, and Ginger's cancer diagnosis. We now know that following treatment this spring, Ginger is cancer-free. AND... a new canine companion has joined the Doyles. Meet Loretta!



Pat Astbury celebrated a special birthday last month with all eight – yes, eight! – grandchildren attending. Congratulations, Pat, and warmest wishes for many more!



Our annual Memorial Day worship service was held on Sunday, May 30. Following the service, we gathered at the flagpole outside the chapel building for the raising of the colors by our veterans, Bruce Candage and Hank Fenders, and a prayer from Pastor Jerry. Immediately after the flag-raising, the gathered congregation, led by Pastor Jerry, sang "God Bless America," not once, but twice!



For the first time in recent memory, there was no Memorial Day parade in Blue Hill last year, due, of course, to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, we were blessed to have the coronavirus restrictions lifted just in time for the Blue Hill Memorial Day parade. The weather may have been less than perfect for parade participants and spectators, but you'd

never know it looking at the crowd of folks who showed up this year! And that fella with the big smile on his face in the top photo is our own Minister-at-Large Jerry Springston marching in the parade. Along with representing First Baptist Church of Blue Hill by proudly marching in the parade, Pastor Springston was called upon to deliver the customary prayer to all attendees at the conclusion of the parade in Seaside Cemetery. Well done, Jerry! Many thanks to Mike Astbury and Hank Fenders for providing these photos.



dates to Remember

Now that our beloved church is fully reopened, it's time to look forward to some of our favorite things we've missed over the past year or so. Here we go...



Beginning June 6, we'll again have a coffee hour immediately following our worship service on every Communion Sunday. Refreshments and beverages will be available, so please plan to stay and enjoy this time of fellowship with our church family.



Remember those wonderful church family picnics we had in the past? Well, we're getting back to celebrating our church family and our freedom from COVID-19 restrictions with a picnic/cookout in July. The date for this celebration is July 11, following the conclusion of our worship service on that day. We'll be setting up tables, chairs, grills and more on the back lawn of the parsonage. If you have lawn chairs, please throw them in your vehicle and bring them to share. We'll be serving customary cookout food – hotdogs, hamburgers, sausages, etc. – provided by the church. Side salads, chips, beverages, desserts and so forth may be solicited. If you have a special cookout dish you like to prepare, please let Jackie Butler know you'll be bringing it to the cookout. If the weather on July 11 is less than favorable, we'll plan to move inside to Fellowship Hall.

CONGRATULATIONS!! WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR 2021 GRADUATES!



William Charles is the son of Ken and Allison Charles and is graduating from the REACH school in Bucksport. William has been accepted at the University of Maine Machias where he will be studying marine biology.



Keegan Butler is the son of Jason Butler and Jada Hastings. Following graduation from George Stevens Academy, Keegan will be attending Woodbury University in Burbank, California.



Huldah Gadsby, daughter of Kevin and Kathleen Gadsby, is graduating from Blue Hill Consolidated School and plans on attending George Stevens Academy in the fall.



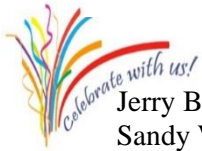
Mya Schildroth is the daughter of Cory and Shelly Schildroth. Following her graduation from Blue Hill Consolidated School, Mya will join the freshman class at George Stevens Academy this fall.



Kylie Chase is the daughter of Jon and Erin Butler Chase. After graduating from George Stevens Academy, Kylie will be traveling to Georgia to seek employment.



Birthday and Anniversary Greetings



Jerry Butler
Sandy Woodward
Gavin Mote
Sue Curtis

June 8
June 8
June 13
June 14

Happy Birthday to

Mira Carter
Robin Hughey
Dewey Curtis

June 16
June 16
June 27



Happy Anniversary to

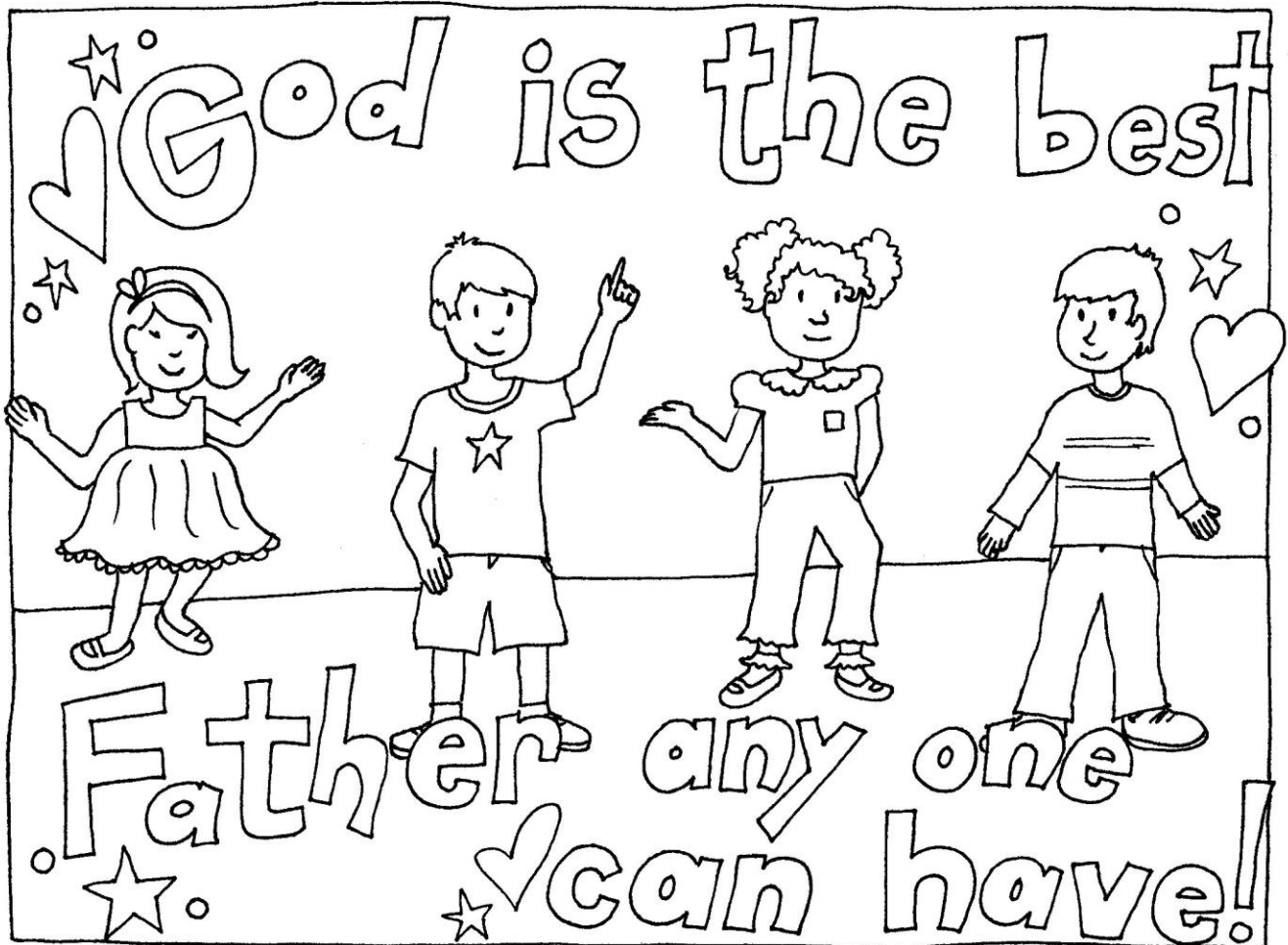
Mike and Pat Astbury

June 3

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!



June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL</p> <p>Returns in the Fall</p>		1	2	3  <p>Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p>	4 	5
6  <p>Fellowship hour</p>	7  <p>Bible STUDY Join us!</p> <p>Women 1 p.m.</p> <p>Men 4:30 p.m.</p>	8	9	10  <p>Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p>	11	12
13	14  <p>Bible STUDY Join us!</p> <p>Women 1 p.m.</p> <p>Men 4:30 p.m.</p>	15	16	17  <p>Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p>	18	19
20  <p>HAPPY Father's DAY</p>	21  <p>Bible STUDY Join us!</p> <p>Women 1 p.m.</p> <p>Men 4:30 p.m.</p>	22	23	24  <p>Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p>	25	26
27	28  <p>Bible STUDY Join us!</p> <p>Women 1 p.m.</p> <p>Men 4:30 p.m.</p>	29	30		<i>Somebody once figured out that we have 35 million laws trying to enforce 10 commandments.</i>	

Notes
