

THE BELL RINGER

Calling all to gather in His name

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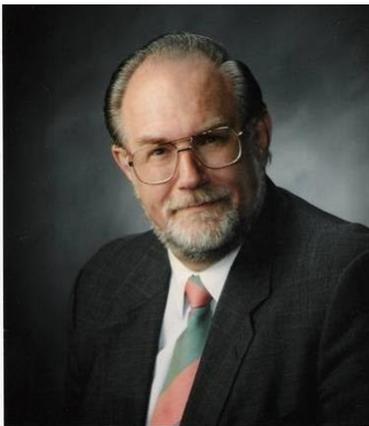


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Greetings in Jesus' Name

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 Pulpit



The Rev. W. Lyman (Terry) Phillips is Chancellor of Grace Evangelical College & Seminary in Bangor, Maine, and currently serves as our Interim Pastor. Rev. Phillips received his Master of Divinity degree from Yale University Divinity School in 1969.

William Shakespeare's famous play *Hamlet* includes a thought-provoking situation that speaks to every one of us who looks to the grace of God and trusts His promises. Hamlet is Prince of Denmark, though his father has died. The successor king, Claudius, has an advisor named Polonius, who is the father of a son named Laertes. Early in the play, Laertes is taking leave of Denmark to travel to Paris, and Polonius offers him a basket of advice. Polonius is prone to offering advice, such as "Clothes make the man" and similar statements, and here he tells Laertes, *"This above all: to thine own self be true, /*

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And it must follow, as the night the day, / Thou canst not then be false to any man."

Having offered this advice, and *apparently* comfortable with Laertes' departure, Polonius subsequently sends one of his servants to go to Paris and spy on Laertes and report back as to whether he is indulging in any local vices in the far country.

It's immediately appropriate for us to take a second look at Polonius' advice and think, in the environment of human life as we know it: Is Polonius offering truth? Is it correct that if we are "true to [our own] self[ves]" that we can "not then be false to any man"?

There's a troublesome trap here, brothers and sisters: a trap that argues importantly against today's culture and what it tells us over and over: You can be whatever you want to be; do whatever you want to do. The trap was set before Eve by the serpent when, in Genesis 3, he asked Eve the leading question, "Did God actually say, 'you shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" When she said it was all okay but "the tree in the midst of the garden," the serpent said God was lying to her: "You will not surely die, for God knows that when you eat of the fruit of that tree,

you will become like God..." Eve examined her thoughts and the possibilities for her, and she ate, being true to herself, but *untrue [unfaithful] to God!* Polonius' advice, just like the serpent's, is not just mistaken. It's a lie. Being true to ourselves first not only sets others on the sidelines; it also leaves God out of the consideration!

No wonder God, speaking through the Apostle Paul at the beginning of Romans 12, tells us: *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [that is, our whole selves] as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."* (Romans 12:1-2)

Living for God and trusting His Grace and desiring the promise of His kingdom is bigger and even outside the box in terms of our usual thought (this writer included). Let's pray and work and pay attention and listen together that we will daily/hourly be closer and more open to His desires for every one of us, both individually and together. His creation isn't just a matter of "...to thine own self be true!"

Our Deacons

Jon Woodward
Michael Astbury
Joan Pettengill
Sharrie Curtis
Chris Guy
Jackie Butler
Darin Gray

Please feel free to get in touch with any of our Deacons if you have concerns or require assistance.

Joan Pettengill reports that at the August meeting of our Deacons, the future of the monthly Good Neighbor Supper was discussed. Joan is cutting back on her time commitment for the suppers, although she will continue to create a menu for each supper and make out a grocery list of needed items. She also will be away for the months of January, February and March, 2016. If we are to continue, Joan asks that folks step up and make a commitment to participate in the various tasks needed to put on a successful Good Neighbor Supper.

Specifically, beginning in October, Joan is looking for people to: travel to Sam's Club in Bangor to purchase food and other supper supplies each month, as well as store groceries in their refrigerators as long as necessary prior to each supper; cook the food and prepare it for serving; set up Fellowship Hall before and dismantle it after each supper. In addition, waiters and waitresses are needed as well as a post-supper kitchen cleanup crew. Some of our congregation have gotten quite good at multi-tasking when it comes to our Good Neighbor Suppers, so when that sign-up sheet comes around, be generous with your time and talents!

Our monthly Good Neighbor Supper is an important (some say, vital) contribution to the peninsula community. It is one way to fulfill our pledge to be a vibrant and essential fixture here in Blue Hill. As well as being a worthy Christian outreach program, any donations received at the suppers go to the community's fuel assistance program, which aids so many of our less fortunate peninsula neighbors.

Children's Ministry

"Train a child in the way he should go..." Prov. 22:6

Sunday School teachers for the 2015-16 year are:

Pre-K and Kindergarten	Carrie Clifford
Grades 1 and 2	Vacant
Grades 3 and 4	Sharrie Curtis
Grades 5 and 6	Allison Charles
Grades 7 and 8	Sue Fenders
Grades 9 through 12	Danner Curtis



We had a very successful Vacation Bible School, thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who pitched in to help where needed. There were 30 kids throughout the week who laughed, played and experienced our Church Family. Thank you to the many folks who donated food, and money for food,

to feed the children and adults that week. On average, we fed about 50 people a night!



After a wonderful summer that seems to have gone by way too fast, we will resume Sunday School classes (children and adults) on September 13. Currently, we are looking to add a new class for grades 1 and 2, but we have not yet had a teacher step forward to volunteer. We also would like to create a substitute teacher list this year. If you are interested in either job, please contact Sunday School Superintendent Jennifer Gray at 326-8037.

New this fall, once a month, we plan to have the children take part in the Sunday worship service as well as singing the prelude music. We will have only 14 Sundays to work on our Christmas programs so we will be starting right in on those. Also, we will try to have some family game nights throughout the year.

We are so very proud of our Sunday School children and the efforts they make to learn about Jesus and become good Christians. Your support of these kids is very much appreciated.

Jennifer Gray
Sunday School Superintendent

Junior Church Activities

Nancy Bates would like everyone to know that she has received the yearly packet from Operation Christmas Child.

She also has a new CD which will be shown as we get closer to the season. Boxes are available in the vestibule and we will try to keep a limited supply of those there until we are ready to officially open the project.

An important reminder might be that school supplies are on sale now - great buys - and a wonderful time to buy those crayons, paper, pencils, etc. for your shoebox.

Please Pray for

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for everyone.” I Timothy 2:1

Our Special Missionaries:

David and Robin Watters in Papua New Guinea
Debbie Mulneix in the Philippines
Sue Hegarty in Costa Rica
Pieter and Nora Kalkman in Europe
Bill and Ann Clemmer in South Sudan
Tim and Patty Long in Mexico
Kit Ripley in Thailand
Naraa in Mongolia
Bill and Fran Atchison in Waterville

Our Church Family and Activities:

ABCOM and East Association
Deacons’ Benevolence Work
Emmaus Center Meal Service
Children’s Sunday School
Junior Church and Youth Worship
Ministry Teams
Pulpit Search Committee

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Do you know the difference between Heaven and Hell? Here’s a humorous way to tell:

	Heaven	Hell
Cooks	The French	The English
Organizers	The Swiss	The Italians
Romancers	The Italians	The Swiss
Mechanics	The Germans	The French

News from Our Trustees

Many of you may have noticed that our parsonage is now occupied. Over the summer, Jon Woodward was approached by representatives from George Stevens Academy who were interested in leasing from the church our parsonage for use as dormitory space for six international students plus one adult overseer. The term of the lease would be for several months, or until GSA completes renovation of the permanent dormitory space recently purchased on Tenney Hill. After Advisory Board approval, our Trustees went to work, making the parsonage suitable for use as a temporary high school dormitory. By all accounts, they did a terrific job and GSA is pleased with the result.

Over the summer, our Trustees and volunteers have been very busy working on the renovation project that will provide us with a new handicap-accessible bath and a nursery space at the front of the church. Everyone knows a “picture is worth a thousand words” so take a look for yourself:




to Sharrie Curtis for providing these photos of our construction crew, affectionately known as “The Bang-ups.”

Our Missions Team

The Missions Team of First Baptist Church is made up of five members of the Church family who meet once a month to discuss how to do what Jesus asks us to do - how to best help those in need both in our neighborhoods and out on the mission fields around the world.

At the present time, our Church supports nine single and/or family missionaries, both locally and around the world, each one in a different month of the year. There also are six other organizations we support with annual offerings, including: United Missions, America for Christ, Baptist Youth Camp, One Great Hour of Sharing, World Missions, and Retired Ministers and Missionaries.

The missionaries our church supports for the months of August and September, respectively, are Kit Ripley and Pieter and Nora Kalkman. Kit Ripley ministers for the Lord in northern Thailand. She works with tribal minority girls who have been or are at risk of becoming victims of labor exploitation. She works teaching classes in therapeutic art and personal budgeting, guest relations and administration. She also provides pastoral care and leadership. You may recall Kit and her associate Wan were guests of First Baptist Church last year. The Kalkmans are Missionaries of International Ministries, ABC/USA, stationed in Prague, Czech Republic. Please continue to keep our missionaries in your prayers.

For those ladies who may be interested, there is a Ladies Bible Study at the South Blue Hill Baptist Church every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 10:30, with a coffee hour from 8:30 to 9:30. The study is led by June (Carter) Allen and we spend the hour singing a few hymns, doing Bible sword drills and getting familiar with where all the books are found, and our lesson, which varies weekly. Please come and join us!

Lastly, thank you all for your prayers that the Missions Team can continue to do the work the Lord has for us!

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Guy

Spirited Moments

Compliments of Paul Zierk

"We should read God's Word not for what we can get out of it, not for what it will do for us, but for what it will teach us to do for our God."

Charles "Chuck" Wendell Colson

Sympathies and Concerns

Do you have a prayer request? Please send your request to fbcbbluehill.office@gmail.com.



Birthday and Anniversary Greetings

Happy Birthday to

Barry Curtis	August 1	Allison Charles	September 3
Mya Schildroth	August 1	Linwood Carter	September 13
Alex Bibout	August 3	Ruth Hutchins	September 22
Keira Stearns	August 19	Jonathan Fenders	September 26
Chris Guy	August 20	Wade Clifford	September 28
Kim Astbury	August 31	Rob Clapp	September 30
Aidan Stearns	August 31		

Happy Anniversary to

Jon and Sandy Woodward - 44!	September 5	Mike and Jessica Astbury	September 5
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Are you on our Birthday or Wedding Anniversary list? If not, please let us know by e-mail to fbcbbluehill.office@gmail.com so we may celebrate with you!

The Offering Plate



Through June, 2015	
Offerings received	\$46,000.00
Offerings needed	\$63,000.00
SHORTFALL	\$17,000.00

Kids Korner

A four-year old was heard praying, "...and forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

Color me!



And last, but not least, is our monthly *Church Bulletin Bloopers* ~

“The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals.”