



The Bellringer

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Music Ministries Sunday

Music Ministries Sunday was held on May 17, 2009. Since First Baptist Church of Mansfield is celebrating its 200th birthday 2008-2009, highlights of our church's musical history and other historical events of the past two centuries were presented

Congregation joined in singing a hymn in the old-time style of "lining out" on phrase at a time. One of the Congregational hymns was accompanied by a 'cello' representing a bass viol, the first musical instrument played in our church.



During the morning service, recognition was given to all those who have participated in our church's music program. Following the service a delicious coffee hour, including a Happy 200th Birthday Cake was enjoyed by all.

during morning worship. The Youth Choir and others, including some members of the Congregation wore historical costumes from the 1800's.

The Adult Choir and Youth Choir sang anthems composed during the 1800's, and the



First Baptist Church of Mansfield

- *- Established 1809 -*
- *A Word from the Pastor*

As I prepared for this summer edition of the newsletter I looked at the video card in the church camera, and was amazed at all the activities we have photographed in just the past month.

The first event on the card was the car wash and bake sale for camp and mission trip scholarships. I remember waking up on that morning and listening to the rain as I lay in bed and wondered if we should cancel or not. Thankfully we did not, and it turned out to be a good day for a car wash. It was a fun as well as profitable day as there were quite a few workers of all ages and a good number of cars that stopped by for a thorough cleaning. Something I remember about that event is watching James Kloss scrub a car with a sponge in one hand and send a text message on his cell phone in the other hand.

We continued the fundraising efforts with the spaghetti supper for the mission trip in the middle of May. This too was a great success. It took a lot of work, but also was a lot of fun. I am very grateful for those who gave their time and energy, and also those who generously donated supplies and ingredients. And last but certainly not least, thanks to all who came and ate! You were all part of the effort, and we could not have pulled it off without you.

There are some wonderful pictures of music appreciation Sunday when we got dressed up in period outfits, and worshiped together. It was fun to reflect on what it may have been like to attend this church in the past. I felt that the way we sang the hymns that day was very meaningful. The first one, "O Worship the King" was unaccompanied, and the second, "Amazing Grace", was accompanied by the cello, because the first instrument we have record of being used in our church was a similar stringed instrument. Music is such a wonderful gift.

We took the camera along with us when we went to WAIM for our church workday. I invited my Sunday school class to come work and seven of them turned out, along with several others from our church. We work hard to take that mission trip to West Virginia, but we also have mission work to do here in our own backyard. I look forward to getting more involved in the local mission opportunities of WAIM, the Covenant Soup Kitchen, Habitat for Humanity, the Holy Family Shelter, and First Baptist of Willimantic's effort to feed the struggling people in downtown Willimantic, as well as our mission church project here in our own community.

The last pictures on the disk are of the little celebration we had of my 10th anniversary as pastor here. I have truly been blessed to have been called to serve God through this church family.

I am truly grateful.

These activities are just some of what we have been through together lately. There were no pictures of the grand opening of the church's exhibit at the museum. On that same Sunday it was a powerful experience to hear the Rev. Hanna Massad speak of his church in the Gaza Strip, and the struggles of our brothers and sisters in Christ in that part of the world. This past Sunday it was a blessing to celebrate as a church family the baptisms of Becca Figueroa and Charles Woody.

I look forward to our continued journey of following Jesus together. May we share the apostle Paul's thoughts in Philippians 3 : 12 – 14,

"Not that we have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but we press onto take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of us...One thing we do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, we press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Let's press on.



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MANSFIELD

Minutes of the Spring Meeting

Sunday, April 26, 2009

OPENING WORSHIP - Prayer

REPORTS:

Pastor

Brief report on current activities, quite busy with all Church duties.

Financial Secretary, Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer

Report and discussion covered expenses (utilities, plowing, repair, service) vs. income, clarification given on requirements of some investments with regard to specific bequests. Pastor Ron offered thanks to those giving reports for their efforts to clarify information given.

It was noted during the Treasurer's report that the fee for The Roger Williams program was donated by Meradith McMunn. It was also requested that the clerk send a note of Thanks from the church to Mr. Hutchinson for his portrayal.

Trustees, Deacons and Christian Education

TRUSTEES: John Riesen - Work day was well attended; South wall is less of problem than was thought, window has settled, crack has been filled, will continue to monitor; Financial review has been scheduled; Roof of Christian Education wing needs repair, is in the works; Narthex doors to be replaced per Dorothy Lackman Memorial fund, also in the works; Trustees request that, given current status of economy, expenses be delayed or donated as possible even if noted in the budget.

DEACONS: Terry Yanaway – Shepherding list in review and deacons are trying to revitalize this work, membership list also in review.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Susan Figueroa – All activities continuing as planned, May 9 Car Wash/ Bake Sale to benefit camperships and youth mission trip, May 24 Sunday School will create hygiene kits for Church World Service, VBS planned for July 7-9, Youth Group having regular monthly meetings.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Nominating – No report

Note made that Bob Gardiner is moving and replacement would be needed on Trustees. Dottie Rose Gilliam present and acknowledged the request.

Music - Grace Riesen: reviewed upcoming events for Youth Choir, May 2 - Festival of Singing Children and May 17 - Music Ministries Sunday

Financial Examining - John Riesen was requested to hand in written report – per the report the committee found records to be in good order.

Ushering – No report

Request was made that ushers assist with seating, Guy Myette was present and acknowledged the request.

Communications – No report

Note made that plans for the new photo directory will include acceptance of photos submitted in lieu of new photos taken at scheduled sessions.

Spring Business Meeting Minutes continued

Flower – No report

Missions - Laura Austin reported that the committee has set goals for mission offerings and is planning to promote more mission projects that do not require monetary donations. Laura noted that there would be two motions made during New Business.

Memorial Gifts - Patty Geissler reported that Thank You notes had been sent and noted to that a replacement would be needed for Bob Gardiner on this committee also.

Pastoral Relations - Bill McMunn

Stewardship – No report, meeting scheduled

Church Heritage - Bill McMunn reviewed upcoming event: the opening of the exhibit at the Mansfield Historical Society Museum on May 31. Ethel Larkin has been researching past Pastors and Member records and read a recent letter from Rev. Bill Malcomson who was instrumental in getting our Christian Education Wing built. It was requested that the clerk send a note to Rev. Malcomson in response to his letter.

It was suggested that our lawn sign be used to advertise the Exhibit opening.

Social Committee – No report, Thanks were given for the lunch provided for the meeting.

OTHER COMMITTEES AND GROUPS:

Safe Church Committee - Laura Austin noted that the General Safety Policy would be presented at the next quarterly meeting and that a parent meeting was to be scheduled to review Nursery and Youth practices and policies.

Ladies Aid Society - Patty Geissler noted that there are plans for a tote bag fundraiser, with the bags featuring the FBCM logo, and an anniversary dinner. An additional fundraiser item of FBCM logo notepaper was also suggested.

Emma Gardiner Missionary Society - Dottie Rose Gilliam noted that meetings are regularly held on the first Tuesday of each month. June's meeting includes a Friendship luncheon with the area ABW invited. The EGMS also could use help with bandages for their planned donations.

ABCCONN Delegates – No Report

Windham Area Interfaith Ministry Delegates

Charles Woody noted that the work day was moved to May 30 and that the Soup Kitchen donations have been very regular (Thanks to Morgan Baker's promotion, per Dottie Rose Gilliam).

Pierce Memorial Baptist Home - Bill McMunn noted that they are doing well but are seeing a difference due to reduced Medicaid availability.

Youth Choir – Reported above

Computer – No Report

Sound System – No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS BUSINESS MEETINGS:

Missions Committee Budget Program Line Review

Laura Austin moved that the Mission Budget Program be changed as follows:

Eliminate the Bacone College line item as we no longer have a strong connection

Eliminate the Young Life line item as the last check was returned and there no longer seems to be a viable organization.

Spring Business Meeting Minutes continued

Eliminate Heifer Project line item as the Sunday School generally donates to this program.

Add a \$500 line item for Samaritan's Purse World Medical Mission, designated for Tenwick Hospital in Kenya, as we actively support one of our church members in this missionary work.

Motion seconded by Dana Yanaway.

After some discussion it was moved, seconded, voted on and passed to change item C to the following:

"If the Sunday School is unable to contribute the full \$300 previously designated on the Mission Budget, the Missions Committee will contribute the difference from their budget."

The revised motion was then moved, seconded, voted on and passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion Relative To Replacing The Christian Education Roof

John Riesen moved that the Trustees be authorized to contract with Architectural Artisan LLC (Guy Myette) to replace the shingles on the Christian Education Building with Timberline 50 year architectural shingles. This includes removal and disposal of old roofing materials and application of new materials, cost not to exceed \$12,000.00. Seconded by Ed Austin.

After some discussion regarding details, the motion was voted on and passed.

Motion relative to the doors between the narthex and sanctuary

John Riesen moved that the Trustees be authorized to contract with Hardwood Fine Interiors, Columbia Glass, and Absonite Glassworks to replace the Narthex Doors with new doors with window design approved by Tom Lackman and the Door Committee, cost of which is not to exceed funds in the Dorothy Lackman memorial fund.

Seconded by Ed Austin.

After some discussion, noting that said memorial fund currently has over \$6,000.00 and the Mansfield Historical Society rules are not relevant as this is an interior item, the motion was voted on and passed.

Motion by Missions Committee to assist with local mission

Laura Austin moved that the FBCM commit to serve dinner once per month at the First Baptist Church of Willimantic who provides dinner four times per month for those in need.

Seconded by Dana Yanaway.

After some discussion of requirements (8 persons, mainly cooking and serving, can donate food) the motion was tabled and it was requested that the Missions Committee set up a trial date and present results to the congregation at the Fall Business meeting or a special business meeting as necessary.

Minutes of this meeting read, motion to approve made by Laura Austin, seconded by Ed Austin, voted, motion passed.

Motion made to Adjourn, motion seconded, voted, motion passed, meeting adjourned.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED—VALIANT WOMAN AWARD 2009

It is an honor and privilege each year during May Friendship Day to honor one of our own for her services given through Church Women United, her own church and her community portraying a Valiant Woman. Our recipient, though not a leader, has devoted much of her life serving and doing with and for others. This is a talent she, very quietly, accomplishes almost daily. It is almost impossible to highlight all that she does!

The following is written by her son, Dale concerning her activities:

I was so happy to hear that my mom, Ellie Trainor, was going to be honored for all the wonderful things she has done and continues to do for the community and beyond. I wish I had just a fraction of the energy that my mom has. If there is a charity or worthy cause that needs help, Ellie is there donating her time. She is happiest when she is helping others and never hesitates to do so. As far back as I can remember, my mom has been involved in so many different charities and organizations it's hard to remember them all. The Soup Kitchen, Habitat for Humanity,

W.A.I.M., Mothers and Others, Amarance, the Grange, the Rainbow Girls, and area church fundraiser dinners, are just a few that come to mind.

She also supports the local economy by patronizing the Rt. 32 McDonald's almost every day. Because of her tireless work in the community, Ellie knows almost everyone in the Mansfield/Willimantic area. I'm always amazed at how many people she knows and who know and love her. My cousin Mark has said many times that she should run for Mayor of Willimantic. I think he's right. She would probably win hands down.



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

"An Answer to a Prayer"

When Church Women United was planning for their World Day of Prayer in March of this year, it was noted a cross might be needed! Who could make one or find one to meet our needs!

This photo is to show you what a fine piece of art work was done and appreciated by all and it now rests with in our church sanctuary!

Our prayers were answered thanks to our own GUY MYETTE.



New Church Directory Photos

Starting on Sunday, June 21st and continuing on Sunday, June 28th and Sunday, July 12th, Carol Bigl and Bill McMunn are taking photographs of individuals and family groups for the new Church Directory. Please plan to stay a few minutes after the worship service to pose for your photo. If you cannot be present on one of those days, or for family members who are not in Storrs, or if you prefer not to pose, please let us borrow an existing photo, which we will scan for the directory and return to you. Thanks for helping to make the new directory complete and up-to-date.

The Communications Committee

Ladies Aid Society

We enjoyed another pot luck meeting on March 20th. Work continues on the Church Anniversary Cook book. Please speak with Nancy Flynn if you have any last minute recipes to share. We plan to have another anniversary fundraiser later in the year. We will be selling, what we think, are very attractive and useful tote bags with our church's picture on them. It will be a great way to support the Ladies Aid, celebrate our anniversary and be green! Watch for more announcements...

There will be a **church family fellowship supper on**

Saturday, June 27th at 6 pm. It will be an **Anniversary Strawberry Shortcake Supper.** The evening's meal will feature ham, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls and of course strawberry shortcake. We invite church family and friends to sign up to reserve your spot at the supper....there is a limit of eighty seats! You must sign up to attend. There will be no charge. We will have a good will offering basket available that night if anyone wants to make a donation. There will be opportunities to donate food items, set up, help with food preparation and clean up; please be in touch with Patty Geissler or Nancy Flynn. We hope this will be a fun and

delicious way to reminisce and fellowship together as we celebrate our anniversary.

Looking ahead to the late summer and fall, we are planning an Apple Crisp sale on **Sunday, September 20.** We will have individual servings of delicious apple crisp for sale after the worship service and we will be having a Rada Knife sale in the fall. Rada knives are a wonderful product that you would enjoy having in your kitchen or sharing with someone as a gift. We will share more about these two events later in the year.

Thank You Note to EGMS-ABWM

On behalf of South Providence Neighborhood Ministries. I would like to thank you and your church for allowing Amy and myself the opportunity to speak to your women's group. It was a pleasure to see so many churches represented. The joy it brings us to talk about our mission to organizations and women's fellowships such as yourselves is fulfilling. Please extend a thank you to the Pastor for the additional supplies that he gave us as well as a warm felt thank you to everyone in attendance.

Sincerely,

Yvette Kenner & Amy Thomas

Emma Gardiner Missionary Society (EGMS—ABWM)

The Emma Gardiner Missionary Society —ABW Ministries had a record attendance at their Friendship Luncheon, June 2nd. We enjoyed the delicious luncheon as well as our guests and guest speakers from the South Providence Neighborhood Ministries. We learned about the outreaches of this ministry, the needs of this "mission", and how the requests from "White Cross" are shared. We look forward to resuming our monthly meetings in September.

Perception Programs

Thank-you to all who saved their Shaw's receipts to donate to Perception Programs, Inc. Now it is much easier to donate—no more receipts. Just go to www.shaws.com, click on Community Rewards, click on the Shoppers Login or register with your Shaw's Rewards Card Link, click "Sign Me Up" and enter Perception Program's Community Rewards ID

#49001019927. Then, every time you use your Shaws card, Perception Programs will be credited with 1% of the total you spent.

HYGIENE KITS:

On Memorial Day Sunday the Sunday School put together 19 Hygiene Kits for Church World Service. We did have some extra items which were donated to the South Providence Neighborhood Ministries at the Emma Gardiner

Soup Kitchen

Members of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield have shown their continued generosity and willingness to share with those less fortunate. In the past two month members have contributed 52 boxes of dry cereal and 108 cans of vegetables plus 6 cans of miscellaneous food items. This went a long way toward satisfying the needs of the patrons of the Covenant Soup Kitchen and Pantry. You are each and every one to be commended for

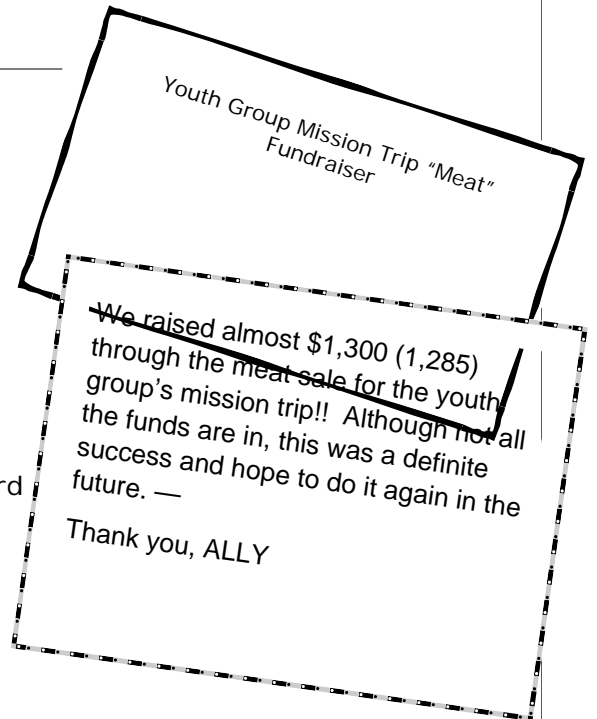


If anyone is interested in bringing a floral arrangement for the summer Sunday Worship Services, please sign

the flower calendar in the Christian Education Wing.

Thank you,

The Flower Committee



Trustees

Notice: From the Trustees to all boards and committees to submit budget requests.

The deadline for submitting budget request this year is **September 27th**. This is earlier than past years and

only shortly after meetings start up in the Fall for those groups that do not meet in the summer, so we are giving you this early notice.

You may want to get your budget together before you break for the summer or plan

an early meeting in the Fall in which to prepare your budget.

Thanks,
John Riesen,
Chair of the Trustees

Church Family News

Dear people of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield. I would like to take the time to send Congratulations and Best Wishes on your 200 Anniversary of the church up on Spring Hill.

Happy Anniversary

Stephen Higley

Dear Friends,

I want to say thank you for the beautiful lily plant you sent for Easter. It is so fragrant . I'll set it out in the garden after blooming.

Our former minister, Rev. Dorr, had good luck planting them outdoors. I've tried several times, but had no luck, but I'm willing to try again.

The Lord was with us and sent a beautiful morning for the Easter Sunrise Service, even though it was cold. And Spring Hill is a beautiful location for the service.

Once again, many thanks for your thoughtfulness.

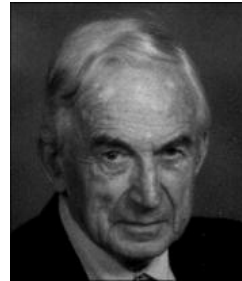
Sincerely,
Florence Palmer

Thank you for all the love and caring kindness that you extended to me when I broke my wrist and through the long road of my recovery. I so appreciated the prayers, cards, and visits. The meals that you shared were delicious and the beautiful Easter plant from the church family was pretty and cheerful. Thank you also to the Bible Study group for coming to my home for our meetings.

In Christian Love,
Betty Geissler

Amanda Keane Pawelski graduated on May 15th from Colorado State University with a MA in English, concentrating in teaching English as a second language to adults. She and her husband Joe are expecting their first child at the end of October—a girl. Their address is 1119 Silver Fir Drive, Loveland, CO, 80538.

OBITUARY



PETERS, Robert Alexander

Robert Alexander Peters, 88, passed away on Thursday (April 9, 2009). A resident of Mansfield for 57 years, he was born on the farm in Sac County, IA, to his parents Julius and Harriett Peters (Willard) on June 10, 1920.

Robert served in the European Theater in World War II in the Third Army and was discharged as the rank of captain. He began his education in a one room school house, and completed it with a Ph.D. in Weed Science from Ohio State University in 1952. Robert served as Professor of Agronomy in the Plant Science Department of the University of Connecticut for 39 years. He married Dorothy Patrick in Raleigh, NC in 1949, who passed away in 2007. He is survived by daughter and son-in-law, Deborah and Thomas Stolar of Salem, NH, daughter Karen M. Peters of Willimantic; and son, Paul W. Peters of Mansfield; three beloved granddaughters, Meghan Stolar of Manhattan, NY, Ada and Kara Peters of Mansfield. His brother, Theodore Peters of Jacksonville, NC passed away in 2006. Robert appreciated and understood the natural world and the mountains of his adopted New England. He enjoyed gardening, skiing, classical music, hiking and worldwide travel. He took two academic sabbaticals, one to The University of California in 1960 and Oxford, England in 1967. He presented research papers in Sau Paulo Brazil in 1965 and Moscow in 1976. He was a member of the first Baptist Church of Mansfield, The Northeast Weed Science Society, and was the major advisor to ten M.S., and three Ph.D. Graduate Students at the University of Connecticut. The family thanks the Staff and Management of the Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation for the loving care of Robert. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 25, at 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Mansfield, Spring Hill Rd., Mansfield. Friends are invited to the burial at the Hillside Cemetery, Spring Hill Road, Mansfield, at 12 Noon. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Peters Family Scholarship Fund, c/o Liberty Bank, 1132 Storrs, Rd, Storrs, CT 06268.

Billy Keane's new address is 17 Pine Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Church Family News/Events

Congratulations to our Graduates!!

Masters Degree: Becky Austin

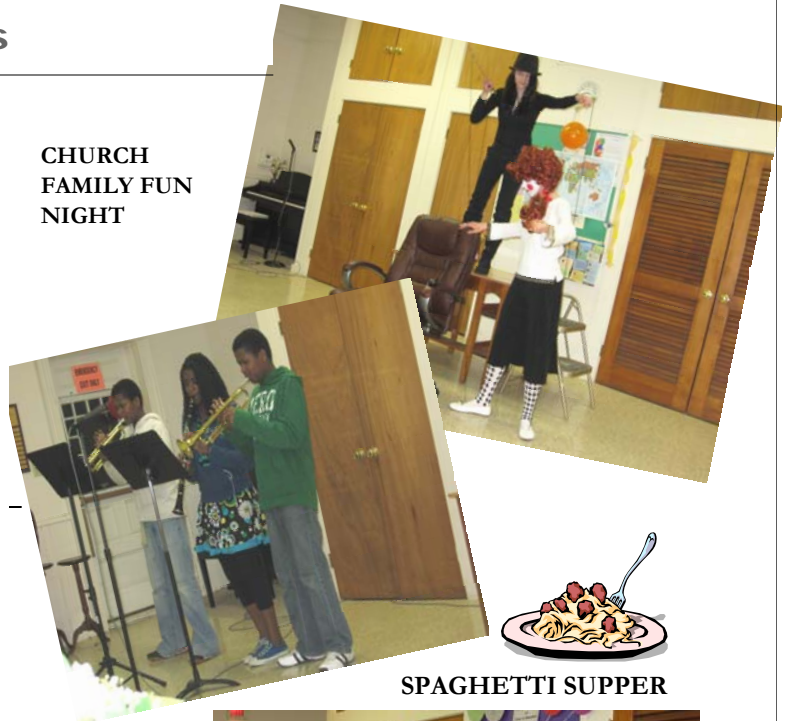
College Graduates: Tom Erickson, Michael Utz, Kari Wolf, John Kloss

Eight Grade Graduates: Ethan Fultan, Gemelath Mama

Third Grade Bible Presentations: Ashley Hooper, Emma Barry, Cheyenne Nichols, Karley Haggan, Anna Barry, Lydia Reeves.

Car Wash and Bake Sale: We raised over \$500 for Camperships and the Youth Mission Trip. Many thanks to all who helped wash and baked yummy items for the sale!

CHURCH FAMILY FUN NIGHT



SPAGHETTI SUPPER



BAPTISMS

June 14, 2009

Charles Woody

Rebecca Figueroa

Harold Everett Mattern's 94th Birthday

On Sunday, May 10th, Harold Everett Mattern was honored after the morning worship service at a Special Coffee Hour to celebrate his birthday. At age 94, he is the most senior member of our congregation.



Born in Chaplin, CT on May 10, 1915, his family moved to Mansfield within a couple of years. His father, August, served as sexton of our church, and his mother, Mabel, attended the first meeting of the Emma Gardiner Missionary Society. Our communion table is dedicated to her memory.

Harold joined our church in 1933. After serving in the Civilian Conservation Corps and the U.S. Army, he married Virginia James of Willimantic and they moved to Voluntown, CT. Their only child, Lee Salina, was born in 1946. During the 1950's the Matterns lived in Willimantic and attended church at the First Baptist Church of Willimantic. During that time he helped to clear land for the new American Baptist Camp Wightman in North Stonington, CT. When Harold's career with the State Park and Forest Commission (now known as the Dept. of Environmental Protection) caused the family to move to Willington in 1961, they joined the Federated Church of Willington. He rejoined our church in the early 1980's.

He has resided with his daughter, Lee, for the past 4 years after living for 40 years on the

Natchaug State Forest in Eastford. He attends Day Care at Woodlake in Tolland, CT on Tuesdays and Fridays, which he very much enjoys. He also makes use of the Companions and Homemakers services and has a "standing appointment" every Wednesday for lunch and errands.

Special thanks to Pastor Ron Baker, Prescott Spencer, Ron Nichols, Ed Austin and his sister-in-law, Hazel Rubins, who often provide rides to doctor's appointments and church or take him out to lunch. This is very helpful to both Harold and Lee!

Harold has 2 granddaughters, Lisa Reas and Wendy Edwards, 1 grandson-in-law, Brian Reas, and 2 great-grandsons, Brendan Everett Reas and Kevin James Reas.

On Wednesday, April 8th, Harold received his 60-year pin from the Masons at a special awards program in North Windham, CT.



*The sun rises and the sun goes down,
and hurries to the place where it
rises. The wind blows to the south,
and goes around to the north; round
and round goes the wind, and on its
circuits the wind returns."*

Ecclesiastes 1:5-6

NRSV

Have you noticed all the rain we have had recently? Well, the roof over the Christian Ed wind sure has. Days of sun beating down and winter's storms have all taken their toll on the shingles. Before the rains start to pour in—the Trustees will replace the old with new shingles and add a ridge vent to make it more comfortable in summer's heat. We can use your help in paying of this. Part

of the ministry at the First Baptist Church of Mansfield is to take care of our building so it will be standing 200 years from now. Please consider prayerfully how you can be a steward for God and help cover the expenses for the new roof. All donations can go into the regular offerings with "Christian Ed Roof" indicated on them.

"For the Lord God is a son and shield;
He bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does the Lord withhold from those
who walk uprightly.
O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in
you."

Psalm 84:11-12 NRSV

Sunday School

Our last day of Sunday School was June 7th and the close of the year was celebrated by our classes participating in our Worship Service. Our Kinder class, led by Karen Watson, greeted everyone at the door, our Middler Class, led by Susan Figueroa, read the Call to Worship. Pastor Ron's Junior High Class helped with ushering and the Children's Moment, while our High School class, led by Rose and Brian Nilson, sang us through the responsive "reading". The anthem was sung with great spirit by Jessica Figueroa from the high School Class. Please greet and thank our teachers for their work in leading our children closer to Jesus this year.

Don't forget to thank our stalwart adult class leaders! Tricia Baker has been leading Parenting and Sabbath classes closer to God's path, and Doug Whittemore and John Riesen have been keeping our Adult class secure in the Word for several years now.

Have a wonderful summer and come back refreshed in the Fall. **September 13th is Rally Day!**



Step Back in History
VBS July 7 – 9, 2009
6:00 – 8:30 PM

We will be traveling back in time but not out of the country this year. Mansfield, CT 1809 is our destination to see how God Started a Church!

We have high hopes for our program this year and hope to expand attendance with your help. Invite a friend and bring all the kids!

This is a family style program and the entire family is invited to join us in exploring an 1800's village with shops, projects, games and drama! For safety's sake, children under 6 will not be permitted to remain without a parent. We may be able to provide nursery care, but hope that, as whole families are participating, this will not be necessary.

Please contact Susan Figueroa or any member of the Board of Christian Education for further details.



STEEPLE CHASE BIKE TOUR

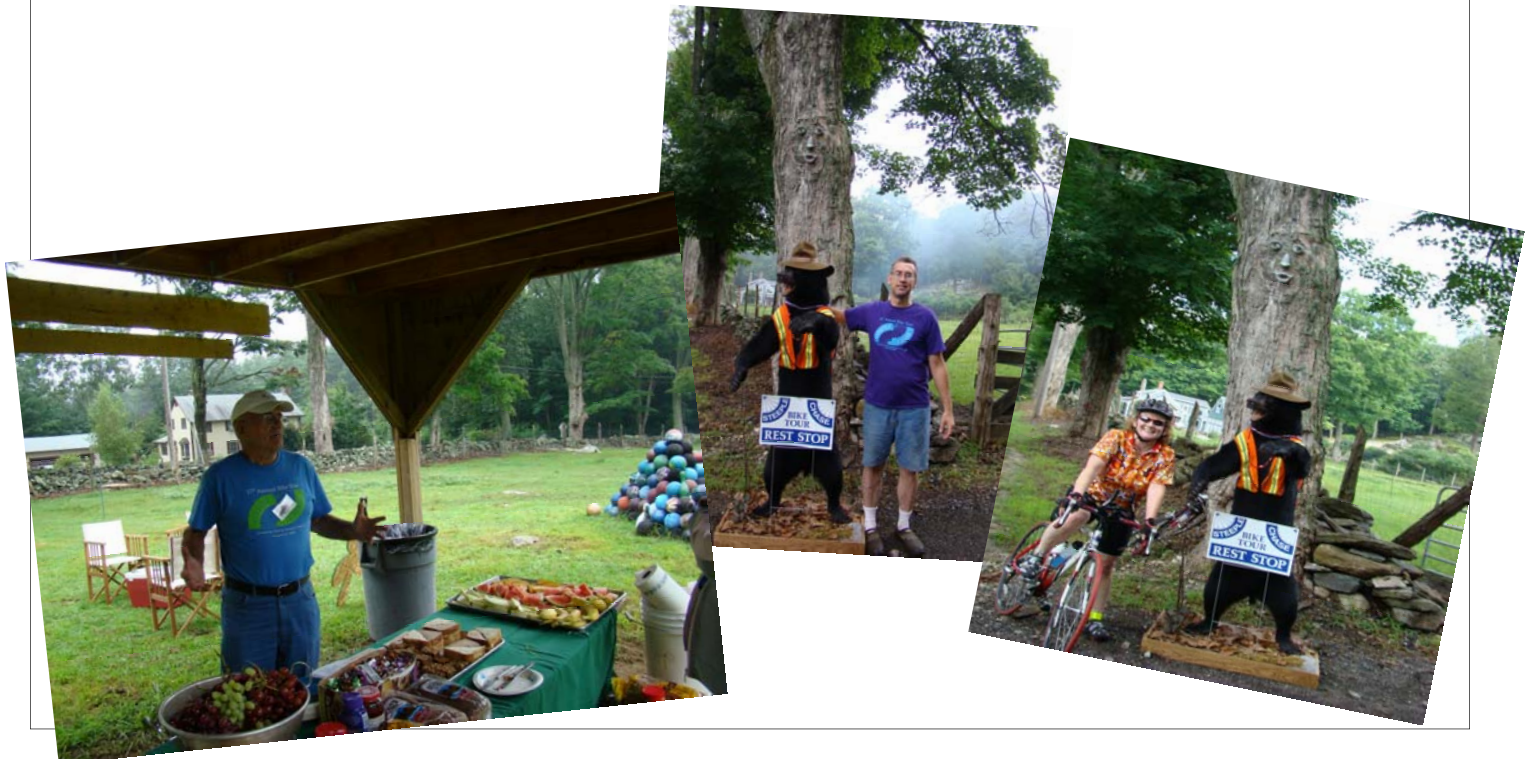


EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL STEEPLE CHASE BIKE TOUR FUND-RAISER Saturday, August 15, 2009

Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM) and Perception Programs Inc. are sponsoring their Annual Fund Raiser with a goal of \$75,000 dollars. Bike tours of 100 miles, 62.5 (metric century), 50 mile, 35 mile and 20 mile rides through scenic Northeastern Connecticut are planned. Rest stops at area churches (some historic) with all kinds of food prepared by WAIM's faith communities will be awaiting riders.

Grab a bike and ride or find someone to ride and sponsor that person if that isn't possible we have a least two (2) people connected to the church that plan to participate and you can support them. There are other ways you can help as well. Bake some goodies for our Rest Stop (Bassett's Bridge Road) or plan to spend some time there the day of the rider.. Contact David Stevens or Ally Austin if you can help with that aspect we can use SAG Wagon Drivers as well. Brochures are available on the church bulletin board.

Be in touch with Ed Austin (423-6705) with any questions.



Wonderful Times!



Heritage Committee

*200th Anniversary Exhibit
at the
Mansfield Historical
Society Museum*

The special exhibit on the Church's 200th Anniversary opened on Sunday, May 31st, a beautiful sunny day with a large crowd in attendance. The exhibit is open from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. every Thursday and Sunday through September 27th. The Mansfield Historical Society Museum is located in the former Mansfield Town Office Building across Route 195 from the Church. When you go, be sure to pick up a free copy of the Exhibit Guide, which identifies the objects and photos on display.

Many visitors to the exhibit have already contributed im-

portant information to our historical knowledge about the Church. Since the exhibit opened, we have obtained photographs of two former FBCM pastors who were not in the opening day display and updated the exhibit with them. We are hoping that readers of the Bellringer will be able to add still more.

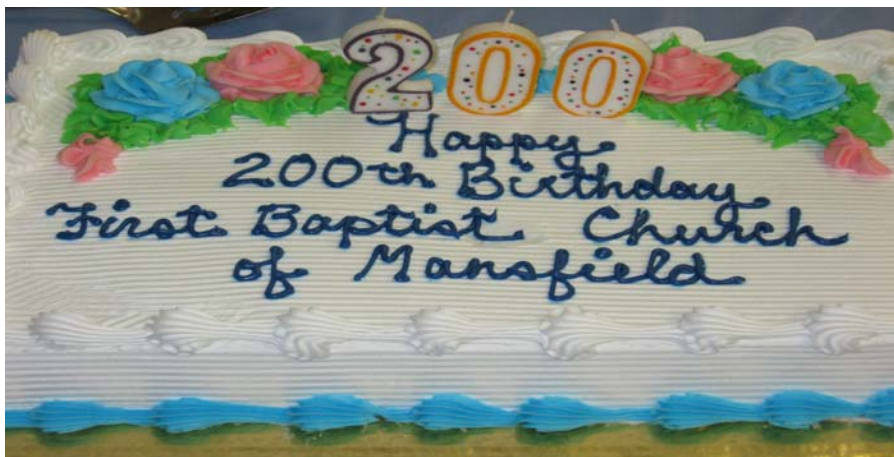
On the following pages are photos and captions from the exhibit. The Heritage Committee would be very pleased to learn of photos or drawings of other FBCM pastors who are not already included. Possible sources are photos of weddings or other events that you may have in your family albums.

If you can add photos or information to our collection, please contact a Heritage

Committee member. We can scan your photo and return the original to you.

The Heritage Committee

Nancy Flynn, Meradith McMunn, Bill McMunn



Pastors



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)



(6)



(7)



(8)



(9)



(10)



(11)



(12)



(13)



(14)



(15)



(16)



(17)



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Pastors pictured in the Exhibit are:

(1) Ronald L. Baker, the present pastor, taught for five years in a Native American school in Arizona before his post-graduate seminary training.

(2) Donald "Doc" Buckley, Ph.D., served as interim pastor, shown with his wife Thelma and their dog.

(3) William J. Keane is now Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Branford, Connecticut. While in Mansfield he developed programs in suicide prevention and counseling for suicide survivors.

(4) Alex Elsesser, interim pastor, shown with his wife. He played the musical saw to illustrate his sermons.

(5) Lawrence Whitlock, D.Min., an avid model railroader and ham radio operator, who had worked as a commercial printer before studying for the ministry.

(6) Ted Essebagers, who served twice as interim pastor, shown with his wife Doris. They were both missionaries in India for many years.

(7) Vernon "Pete" Hood, pastor during the American Bicentennial celebration in 1976.

(8) Franklin Murdock, pastor during the time of social unrest in the late 1960s.

(9) William L. Malcolmson, Ph.D. Fresh from graduate study of theology at Princeton University, he spearheaded the campaign to build the 1965 Christian Education wing, then went on to become a professor of theology in California.

(10) Arthur Dorr, pastor during the Church's 150th Anniversary in 1959.

(11) Albert H. Capista, active in working with Baptist students at the University of Connecticut.

(12) Willard E. Thomen, the last of the pastors shared with the Mansfield Center Congregational Church, who encouraged both churches to become independent again.

(13) Donald H. Rhoades, Ph.D., served both churches while earning a Ph.D. at Yale. He went on to become a Professor of Religion at the University of Southern California and the Claremont School of Theology.

(14) Richard H. Ritter was a teacher in China before serving both the Mansfield Center and Spring Hill churches. From Mansfield he went to the First Congregational Church in Southington, Connecticut.

(15) George Ackerly also served as pastor of both the Mansfield Center and Spring Hill churches.

(16) T. Hawthorne and Florence Jones, both ordained ministers, served both the Mansfield Center and Spring Hill churches.

(17) Roy G. Pavy, D.D., served both churches for one year, then went on to the First Congregational church in Southington, Connecticut.

(18) A letter from Harry H. Powell, written on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary in 1959, recalling church members from his time in Mansfield 40 years earlier.

(19) Leonard Smith, twice pastor of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield and author of a historical narrative of the Church published on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary in 1909. This account was later updated by Church organist and historian Ethel Freeman and re-published with her additions in the Church's 1953 Manual.

(20) Benjamin F. Hedden, whose name is written on the Mansfield Historical Society's "Autograph Quilt," displayed against the east wall of the main room in the exhibit.

(21) Henry Bromley, who left Mansfield to establish Sunday Schools and churches in Brooklyn, New York, and who returned in 1887 on the 50th anniversary of his installation, to deliver a historical sermon in the present (1875) meeting house, recalling conditions in the first meeting house in the 1830s.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP SPAGHETTI SUPPER

The aroma of delicious spaghetti sauce was wafting through the church very early on Saturday, May 16. The annual Youth Mission Trip Spaghetti Supper was about to take place. Once again it was a very successful fund raiser for the Servant's Heart Mission Trip that a group of youth and leaders will be taking in late July.



The youth began planning the supper month's earlier under the direction of Morgan Baker and Patty Geissler. There was a fun session of meatball making that produced mouth watering meatballs for the sauce. We solicited local businesses for supper ingredients and were very appreciative of generous donations from Mountain Dairy, Big Y and Shaws.

The youth, their families and the church family all generously donated and worked hard to make the supper the success that it was.

We are happy to report that we served 92 people that evening and with many generous donations the total profit from the supper was \$1,322.00. That will certainly provide needed funds for the group's transportation.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our supper fundraiser.

Sincerely,

Morgan, Patty and the Mission Trip Youth and Leaders

June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Change in Service time 10:00</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 <i>Father's Day</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27 <i>Ladies Aid Strawberry Supper</i>
28	29	30				



Happy Birthday!

- June 1—Pete Bradshaw
- June 2—Evan Fulton
- June 4—Thomas Lackman
- June 4—Ethel Larkin
- June 4—Jennifer Whittemore
- June 7—Lyrica Yanaway
- June 8—James Kloss
- June 10—Karen Hocking
- June 11—Bonnie Buscaglia
- June 11—Millie Larkins
- June 12—Frank Whitehead
- June 13—Michele Gagne
- June 13—Brendan Reas
- June 15—Meradith McMunn
- June 16—Faith Austin
- June 16—Guy Myette
- June 18—Lee Salina
- June 19—Karen Watson
- June 22—Pastor Ron Baker
- June 23—Quinn Yanaway
- June 25—Wendy Edwards
- June 28—Ryan Quigley

July 2009

Happy Birthday!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Church Secretary Vacation	3 Church Secretary Vacation	4
5	6	7 VBS—6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	8	9	10	11
12	13 Church Secretary, Lisa Licata, on vacation	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
← Youth Mission Trip to West Virginia →						
26 →	27	28	29	30	31	

- July 1—Andrew Gardiner
- July 4—Martha Davis
- July 7—Dana Yanaway
- July 8—Kristin Geissler
- July 8—Tyler Nilson
- July 8—Ellie Trainor
- July 15—Kendall Barry
- July 16—Joy Erickson
- July 18—Erin Flynn
- July 19—Jill Stedman-Myette
- July 22—Nicholas Donato
- July 25—Warren Austin
- July 27—Stephen Donato
- July 29—David Barry



August 2009

Happy Birthday!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Safety Committee Mtg.	12	13	14	15 WAIM Steeple Chase
16	17	18	19	20	21 Church Secretary Vacation	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Church Secretary Vacation	29
30	31					

- Aug 4—Rachel Sherman
- Aug 6—Sam Shepardson
- Aug 10—Emily Grace Bigl
- Aug 15—Laurie Gilman
- Aug 17—Elizabeth Hocking
- Aug 18—Ethan Fulton
- Aug 18—John Riesen
- Aug 21—Olivia Baker
- Aug 21—Julie Nicholson
- Aug 21—Dick Smith
- Aug 23—David Stevens
- Aug 23—Emily Whitehead
- Aug 24—Susan Bauer
- Aug 25—Wendy Parker
- Aug 26—Amanda Gardiner
- Aug 26—Rahim Samuel Mama
- Aug 26—Raman Emanuel Mama
- Aug 27—Jenette Kloss
- Aug 29—Chris Beaulieu
- Aug 29—Bob Gardiner
- Aug 30—Kim Setterberg



Dates to Remember

June 14—Change in Service time to 10:00

June 21—Father's Day

June 27—Ladies Aid Strawberry Supper

July 7-9—VBS 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

July 19-26—Youth Mission Trip to West Virginia

August 11—Safety Committee Meeting

August 15—WAIM Steeple Chase

September 7—Labor Day

September 12—ABW Ministries State Retreat

September 12—Fall Work Day

September 13—First Day of Sunday School

September 13—Rally Day

September 13—Change in Worship time to 10:45

September 13—Newsletter Deadline

September 20—Ladies Aid Apple Crisp Sale

September 27—All Church Planning Meeting



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MANSFIELD

945 Storrs Road, Storrs, CT 06268

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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Summer Hours

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Vacation Bible School

July 8 through July 10

6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



An American Baptist Church