

# The Bellringer



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April & May 2007

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## Church Family Fun Night



Youth Group



Maggie Watson



Pastor Ron & Olivia

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*First Baptist Church of Mansfield*  
*- Established 1809 -*

*A Word From the Pastor*

When the Ledgecrest Garden Shop moved a few months ago, they put a sign up in front of their new place that counts down the weeks until Spring. When they started it said "**9 weeks until Spring**". The first time I saw the sign it was bitter cold and there was snow covering everything. Spring seemed so far away. I thought that seeing that sign everyday would only make it seem to take longer to arrive. I drove by it this morning and it says "**7 days until Spring**". I am wondering where the time went; it seems to have passed so quickly. I still see a pile of snow when I look out my office window, but there are also several robins scattered across the lawn, it is almost 60 degrees outside, and the NCAA basketball tournament begins in a couple of days; as far as I am concerned it's Spring!!

As Spring rapidly approaches, so does the time for my Sabbatical. With the help and support of the Pastoral Relations Committee, I have presented my sabbatical proposal to the Executive Committee. With their help and support it will soon be presented to the church body.

My hope is to be on sabbatical from mid May through mid August. I have several "main events" planned including an American Baptist International Missions experience, the youth mission trip to West Virginia, a seminary class, the Biennial American Baptist convention, a missions conference, and a long list of books to read. I will share more details with you after the Executive Committee has reviewed the proposal and we are ready to present it to the church body in a special business meeting. I share this with you now because May is quickly approaching and I want you to be informed about the status of this sabbatical process.

I also want to ask you to please pray for me and our church family as we go through this time together. Pray for God's guidance and God's renewal. A book that I have used to help in planning this sabbatical time is "Your Ministry's Next Chapter, Restoring the Passion of the Mid Career Pastor" by Gary Fenton. He says that it is common in many pastors at this point of their career for their ministry to boil down to three main areas; pastoral care, preaching and administration. What happens is that we develop patterns, habits, and comfort zones in these areas. While experience is a good thing, we can become stagnant if we are not careful. I want to use my sabbatical time to focus on the areas of preaching and administration. I want to look closely at the patterns and habits I have developed and strengthen the good ones, get rid of the bad ones, and develop some new ones that will improve my ministry.

Please pray for me and with me, and for my family in this time. Pray for God's renewal.

That is my number one goal for this sabbatical time; renewal for me and our ministry together.

Also please pray that God will provide the financial support for this sabbatical time. Again let me say, I need your prayer support.

Please know that I am very thankful for all your support, and for this opportunity of sabbatical time.

God's Blessings.

Pastor Ron



## *Annual Business Meeting*

First Baptist Church of Mansfield  
Annual Business Meeting  
January 28, 2007  
Clerk's Minutes

The meeting was convened at 12:44pm with 34 members present. Pastor Ronald Baker led those present in prayer.

### Written reports:

### Submitted by:

#### **Officers:**

<b>Pastor</b>	Ronald Baker
<b>Clerk</b>	Terry Yanaway
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	John Riesen
<b>Treasurer</b>	Meradith McMunn
<b>Mission Expenses</b>	Lee Salina

#### **Church Boards:**

<b>Executive Board</b>	Brian Reas (moderator) - <i>oral report</i>
<b>Board of Christian Education</b>	Karen Hocking (chairperson)
<b>Board of Deacons</b>	Peter Bradshaw (chairperson)
<b>Board of Trustees</b>	Terry Yanaway (chairperson)

#### **Church Committees:**

<b>Communications Committee</b>	Carol Bigl
<b>Computer Committee</b>	John Riesen
<b>Flower Committee</b>	Alice Spencer
<b>Missions Committee</b>	Doug Whittemore
<b>Memorial Gifts Committee</b>	Patty Geissler
<b>Music Committee</b> -youth choir	Peter Bradshaw Grace Riesen
<b>Nominating Committee</b>	Nils Setterberg, Meradith McMunn
<b>Social Committee</b>	Lee Salina

*Annual Business Meeting continued*

**Stewardship Committee** Joy Erickson

**Ushering Committee** Bill Hocking

**Other reports:**

**Emma Gardiner Missionary** Betty Geissler & Dottie Rose Gilliam

**Society**

**Ladies Aid Society** Laura Austin

**Ladies Aid Treasurer's Report** Lee Salina

**Northeast Association of American Baptist Churches**

Sam and Ginny Shepardson

**WAIM** Sam Shepardson and Tricia Baker

**Sound System Committee** John Riesen

**Old Business:**

- At the Fall Meeting a motion was made by Patty Geissler and seconded by Lee Salina that the following changes to the wording of Article VI, section 1, paragraph a, b., c., d., e., f. and g. and section 2, paragraph b., c. and d. of our constitution be accepted:

Article VI, section 1.

Present language for paragraph a, b., c., d., e., f. and g:

This person shall...

Proposed revisions for paragraph a, b., c., d., e., f. and g:

This Church member shall...

Article VI, section 2.

Present language for paragraph b., c. and d:

This board shall consist of... members.

Proposed revisions for paragraph b., c. and d:

This board shall consist of... members of this Church.

Motion passed.

- A motion was made by Patty Geissler and seconded by John Riesen that the committee investigating membership eligibility continue to work on membership requirements for the nominating committee and chairmanship of committees. Motion passed.

## *Annual Business Meeting*

### New Business:

- A motion was made by Meradith McMunn and seconded by David Stevens to accept the slate of officers published in the annual report as amended by the addition on Beth Hocking and Joy Erickson to the Missions Committee, Patty Geissler to the Memorial Gifts Committee and Jill Stedman-Myette to Social Committee and the deletion of Lena Barry from a Board of Christian Education, Warren Austin and Dana Yanaway from the Missions Committee and Faith Austin from the Social Committee. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Meradith McMunn and seconded by Patty Geissler to accept the proposed 2007 budget as presented. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Terry Yanaway and seconded by Patty Geissler that the Executive Board for a "safe church" committee to report back to the church at the fall business meeting. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Meradith McMunn and seconded by Lee Salina for an amendment to the Constitution under article VI., section 3 to add paragraph k. to read:
  - k. **The Church History Committee.** The Church History Committee shall be responsible for keeping records pertinent to the history of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield and contributing to the ongoing recognition and celebration of the Church's history.

Motion was tabled until the Spring meeting.

### Adjournment:

The minutes of this meeting were read by the clerk, Terry Yanaway. Lee Salina motioned to accept the minutes as read. Tricia Baker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Betty Geissler motioned to adjourn. Grace Riesen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry O. Yanaway

Clerk

**Nominating Committee Report: Boards and Committees 2007****Officers (1 year terms)**

Moderator	John Riesen
Clerk	Susan Figueroa
Treasurer	Meradith McMunn
Assistant Treasurer	Bill Hocking
Financial Secretary	John Riesen
Assistant Financial Secretary	Dana Yanaway
Financial Officer for Missions	Lee Salina

**Board of Christian Education (3 year terms)  
(3 year terms)**

Susan Figueroa (2007)  
 Meredith Lindsey (2007)  
 Karen Hocking (2008)  
 Germaine Mama (2008)  
 Joy Erickson (2009)\*  
 Kim Setterberg (2009)

**Board of Deacons (3 year terms)  
(3 year terms)**

Robert Gadiner (2007)  
 Bill Hocking (2007)  
 David Stevens (2007)  
 Peter Bradshaw (2008)\*  
 Randolph Gilliam (2008)  
 Karen Watson (2008)  
 Frances Nichols (2009)\*  
 Lisa Reas (2009)\*  
 Alice Spencer (2009)\*

**Board of Trustees (3 year terms)**

Patty Geissler (2007)*	Guy Myette (2008)
Terry Yanaway (2007)*	Laura Austin (2009)*
Nancy Flynn (2008)	Nils Setterberg (2009)

\*denotes second full term

**Nominating Committee: (3year terms)**

Meradith McMunn (2007)  
 (pending) (2008)  
 Karen Hocking (2009).

**Committees and Delegates (1 year terms)**

**Music Committee:** Peter Bradshaw, Farida Mama, Bill McMunn,  
 Grace Riesen, Allyson Viel

**Flower Committee:** Martha Davis, Sarah Hocking, Beverly Hamel

**Missions Committee:** Trisha Baker, David Kloss, Doug Whittemore, Beth Hocking, Joy Erickson

**Communications Committee:** Kim Setterberg, Bill McMunn, Nancy Flynn, Lena Barry, Carol Bigl

**Financial Examining Committee:** David Stevens, Brian Reas

**Memorial Gifts Committee:** Robert Gardiner, Betty Geissler, Meredith Lindsey, Patty Geissler

**Social Committee:** Bonnie Buscaglia, Stacey Fulton, Michele Gagne

Lee Salina, Jill Stedman-Myette

**Stewardship Committee:** Edward Austin, Walter Palmer

**Delegates to ABCCONN:** Laura Austin, Warren Austin

**Delegates to Northeast Association:** Bob Bauer, Sue Bauer

**Delegates to WAIM:** Ron Baker, Charles Woody, Charlie Robinson, (alternate)

**Pastoral Relations Committee:** Lena Barry, Bill McMunn, Allyson Viel, Doug Whittemore



Join our Church on a visit to Overlook Farm in Massachusetts, a resource center for Heifer International. Participants will view a video of Heifer's work. A hayride (weather dependant) and walking tour will take us through Overlook Farm's gardens, livestock barn and Global Village to be introduced to the role of agriculture and education in community development, the importance of community gardens and food systems, and sustainable agricultural practices. We will be visiting **Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup>**. We will leave right after church. All are Welcome to attend. See with your own eyes what are missions dollars are doing

## Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is off to a good start in 2007. All members were present at our first meeting of the year on February 25. We warmly welcomed Nils Setterberg back to the board and look forward to working with him. Our elected officers for the year are Terry Yanaway, chair, Nancy Flynn, secretary and Meradith McMunn, treasurer. Laura Austin, Patty Geissler, and Guy Myette comprise the rest of the board.

We have set the date for the annual Spring Work Day. Please join us on Saturday, March 31 to tackle work day projects. Some of the projects on our list are basement cleaning, Sunday school room cleaning, choir room cleaning, sweeping of the parking lot, washing the sanctuary chandeliers, painting in the conference room, a bell inspection and cleaning the yard. Regarding the basement cleaning, if you or your group have items in the basement please have them labeled and stored neatly. The basement has become extremely cluttered and we will be straightening up and making trips to the dump with items that are not labeled or spoken for. We hope to have a warm, sunny day and lots of helping hands. Refreshments will be provided for workers. There are ways that everyone can help, big and small, short or tall...on March 31<sup>st</sup> we want to see you all!

We know that the days will be getting longer and warmer but we all need to continue to be aware of our electricity usage in our church home. With rates going up we are asking everyone to be responsible. Please turn off lights when you leave a room and make sure that the heat is turned down when you leave the rooms in the Christian education wing. The thermostats are clearly marked with a red spot for on and a blue spot for off. Help us to conserve.

We are happy to see that our parking lot has been very crowded on Sunday mornings. Please take care in parking and make sure that your vehicle is not taking up more space than necessary and please be careful not to block access to our handicapped entrance at the rear of the building. Thank you for your cooperation.

We are looking for a couple of items that are missing from our church home. Did you borrow two music stands? If you have these items or know where they might be please return them or speak to a trustee.

The following dates have been set for this year:

- 3/31 Spring Work Day
- 4/1 Trustees Meeting
- 4/22 Spring Church Business Meeting
- 4/29 Trustees Meeting
- 5/20 Trustees Meeting
- 10/28 Fall Church Business Meeting

## Board of Trustees continued

Please mark your calendars.

Each month a trustee is responsible for closing up our church home after the Sunday service. They must see that lights and heat are off, set up the conference room for the Weight Watchers meeting, collect and remove garbage and lock all the doors. The trustee responsible for the March lock up is Laura Austin and Nancy Flynn will be responsible for the month of April.

The Board meets each month and we have many projects under discussion and in the works. Please speak with one of the members of the board if you have comments, questions or concerns.

Last, but certainly not least, we must give a hearty and sincere thank you to John Riesen for his service to the Board of Trustees. John recently completed six years of service. He was a very active member who took on projects and responsibility willingly. He served as secretary for most of those years. We will miss his good nature and steady voice of reason at our meetings.

## *Daffodil Days 2007—American Cancer Society*

*You did it! We surpassed all previous years for ordering daffodils, Bear and Bunch and gifts of hope! Thank you all for your support. Daffodils will be delivered between March 19th and March 23rd.*

*If you have questions or comments, please phone Lena at 429-4431.*

## American Baptist Women's Ministries

On February 11, 2007, seventy five folks from throughout Connecticut joined together for the Mid-winter Celebration at the Putnam Baptist Church. The weather which was a big factor in 2006 was perfect!

This was a great celebration of friendships renewed, fellowship in song and through worship, our guest speaker Judy Albee who spoke and showed photos of women and children throughout the world in poverty, and a time of tea and refreshment!

We were very pleased to have thirteen in attendance from First Baptist Church of Mansfield. Once again a big thank you to Ed Austin for driving his van for car pooling.

Our ABW ministry programs continue in April. On **Saturday, April 14th** the Northeast Association welcomes the Travelcade! This even will be held at the Woodstock Baptist Church beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a pot-luck supper! We will car pool, phone Betty Geissler for information.

The guest speaker will be the Rev. Michelle Bradley from the Church of Hope in South Dakota. She will speak to us about her service in that state women's prison. "Women incarcerated and how they could return to the community". SAVE this date.

The 80th Annual American Baptist Women's Ministries of Connecticut Conference will be held at the First Baptist Church of West Hartford on **Saturday, June 2, 2007**. "And He Will Lift You Up" - special guest speaker will be Jan DeWitt.

## Church Family Fun Night

A great time was enjoyed at Church Family Fun Night on Friday evening, March 2nd. Each year the American Baptist Women's Ministries organization has an area of the world for special mission study. This year's focus is the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which was tied in with our Church Family Fun Night to bring an awareness of our American Baptist Missionaries serving in Africa. Participating in this year's Fun Night were:

Ed Austin—Master of Ceremony  
Jess Figueroa & Gwen Toti—Song  
Grace Riesen—Mission Moment  
Samantha & Susan Figueroa—Skit  
Erickson Family—Song  
Maggie Watson—Kid Jokes  
Will Fazzina—Song  
Youth Choir & Friends—"Siyahamba" African Song  
Laura Austin—Mission Moment  
Germaine Mama—African Songs  
Ron & Trisha Baker—Drama  
Susan Figueroa—Favorite Short Poems  
Allyson Viel & Grace Riesen—Piano Duet  
John Riesen—Stories  
Olivia & Pastor Ron Baker—Violin & Guitar Duet

Lee Salina and Jill Myette helped with the potluck preparations as well as others who provided desserts, beverages and additional food. John Riesen and Prescott Spencer set up the conference room in preparation for the evening's program. We even had guests from Central Baptist Church in Hartford and Poquonock Bridge Baptist Church.

A great big thank you to everyone who was part of the evening.

Grace Riesen





## Obituaries

### MILITARY NEWS

#### PVT KENDALL BARRY

Son of Richard & Janice Barry,  
Ashford, CT

Successfully completed  
Army Basic & Combat Engineer Training  
Co B, 35 Engineer Battalion,  
1st Engineer Brigade  
at Fort Leonard Wood, MO  
Stationed—Camp Casey, South Korea

Deployed—Iraq

### Church Family News



Frank Estys, a cancer survivor, sends this message to First Baptist Church Family:

“In the recent past all things done for me have been greatly appreciated, including concerns for me from the church Congregation.”

#### Pat Peters, Dorothy Lucille Peters (Patrick)

MANSFIELD—Pat Peters, Dorothy Lucille Peters (Patrick), 84, passed away in peace on the warm winter morning of Friday, January 5, 2007, after a lifetime marked by accomplishments, courage, struggles and joy. Dorothy, known to her friends as Pat, began her life in Orangeburg, SC, on February 27, 1922, with her parents Loyless Pinkney Patrick and Marie Patrick. Dorothy loved the south of her youth and was the first of her family to take the initiative to attend college. She graduated from Meredith College in Raleigh, NC with a B.A. in musical performance. Pat boldly left the south when she married Robert Alexander Peters in 1949 and ultimately settle in Storrs, CT, where together they built a home and created a family. She supported her husband in his productive career, as a PH.D. agronomic researcher and educator at the University of Connecticut for 38 years. Dorothy loved music, homemaking her Christian faith and her family and friends. Dorothy was a member of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield, where she served as choral director for many years. She was an accomplished vocalist and was a vocal soloist in numerous local musical performances. She raised three children and gave uncompromised commitment to her husband. Three grandchildren continue her legacy of grace, courage and commitment. Dorothy is survived by her husband, Robert Peters of Storrs, CT; her daughter and son-in-law, Deborah and Thomas Stolar of Salem, NH; her daughter, Karen Peters of Willimantic, CT; her son, Paul Peters and Kathy Spielman of Storrs, CT; her granddaughters, Meghan Stolar of Salem, NH and Kara and Ada Peters of Storrs, CT. The family thanks the staff and management of the Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation for the loving care of Dorothy. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Mansfield, Rt. 195, Mansfield, CT. Friends are invited to the burial at the Hillside Cemetery, Spring Hill Road, Mansfield, at 12:30 p.m. 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.

## *Church Event*



YOU'RE INVITED  
TO AN EVENING OF MUSIC, GOOD FOOD  
GREAT FELLOWSHIP AND  
THE EASTER STORY

Join us at the  
Jerusalem Marketplace Musical Dinner Theater

Saturday March 24, 2007

5:30 PM

First Baptist Church of Mansfield  
At the corner of route 195 and Spring Hill Road



Adults \$10, Children \$5

The funds we raise will be used for this years Vacation Bible School, our Youth Mission Trip and Camp Wightman Scholarships

**April Birthdays**

April 2—Susan Figueroa  
 April 4—Bruce Bradshaw  
 April 4—Ronald Nichols  
 April 15—Brian Reas  
 April 16—Virginia  
           Shepardson  
 April 17—Dante Salina  
 April 25—Althea Ward  
 April 30—Samantha  
           Gardiner



# April 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Trustees Mtg. 12:30	2	3 EGMS 2:00 Church	4	5 Maundy Thursday	6 Good Friday	7
8 Easter	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 12:30-4:30 DAR Mtg	18	19	20	21
22 Spring Business Mtg.	23	24	25	26	27	28 Youth Choir Festival @ Rockville
29 Trustess Mtg. 12:30	30				Deacon: <b>Pete Bradshaw</b> Trustee:	

**May Birthdays**

May 1—Alvin William Kwame  
           Blankson  
 May 10—Kristin Gardiner  
 May 10—Harold Mattern  
 May 13—David Flower  
 May 13—Amanda Keane  
 May 13—Dorothy Lackman  
 May 15—Alice Spencer  
 May 16—Robert Bauer  
 May 17—Bill McMunn  
 May 21—Nils Setterberg  
 May 22—David Kloss  
 May 30—Shirley Corcoran  
 May 30—Lisa Reas

# May 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Deacon: <b>Bill Hocking</b> Trustee:			2	3 Nat'l Day of Prayer	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Pastor Ron's Sabbatical					
20 Trustees Mtg. 12:30	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



## Dates to Remember

- |          |  |          |                             |
|----------|--|----------|-----------------------------|
| April 1  | Trustees Meeting 12:30 p.m.                        | May 14—> | Pastor Ron's Sabbatical     |
| April 3  | EGMS Meeting 2:00 p.m. in Church                   | May 20   | Trustees Meeting 12:30 p.m. |
| April 5  | Maundy Thursday                                    |          |                             |
| April 6  | Good Friday  |          |                             |
| April 8  | Easter   |          |                             |
| April 17 | 12:30-4:40 DAR Mtg. & Good Citizen-<br>ship Awards |          |                             |
| April 22 | Spring Business Meeting                            |          |                             |
| April 28 | Youth Choir Festival @ Rockville                   |          |                             |
| April 29 | Trustees Meeting 12:30 p.m.                        |          |                             |
| May 3    | National Day of Prayer                             |          |                             |



### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MANSFIELD

945 Storrs Road, Storrs, CT 06268

**Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.**

**Church School—9:30 a.m.**

**Youth Choir Rehearsal, Sun.—9:00 a.m.**



An American Baptist Church