

The Bellringer



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JUNE, JULY AND
AUGUST 2007

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 2

Ron's Reception

On Sunday, May 20th we held a surprise reception for Pastor Ron after the service. We managed to surprise him by having the bulletins printed on orange paper and a large number of parishioners wearing some very brightly colored orange clothing to the worship service. Pastor Ron was delighted with the "Orange Support" from the congregation. The Trustees presented Ron with:



Oranges – to keep you healthy during your travels;



A set of clips – to help you hold it all together;



Peppers – to add some spice to your life;



Carrots – to help develop your insight;



Orange gum drops – to sweeten your journey



Caramel kisses – to help you make new friends;



Teddy Bear – just in case you need a hug;



Flowers – to remind you to stop and smell the roses;



Circus peanuts – so like the elephant, you won't forget us;



A Balloon – to fill your sail and speed you on your journey.

The Deacons gave him a Max Lucado book on CD, the Pastoral Relations Committee gave him a pen set, and the Youth gave him a journal to write his memories and thoughts down. It was a wonderful way to show Ron our support and send him off with well wishes for a safe journey and a fruitful sabbatical.



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First Baptist Church of Mansfield
- Established 1809 -
A Word From the Pastor

The following is a direct quote by Dr. Bobby S. Terry in the book *Your Ministry's Next Chapter* by Gary Fenton

“As a pastor, you are not immune to the career struggles of midlife. The pressures of your ministry, the dynamics of your congregation, and the challenges to stay devoted can easily weigh you down. At times like these, the tendency is to slow down, retire, or stop growing.”

I have used Gary Fenton's book, *Your Ministry's Next Chapter*, Restoring the passion of the mid career pastor, to help in planning this sabbatical. I am experiencing much of what he describes. What happens to many pastors at this point of our careers is our ministry boils down to three major areas; pastoral care, preaching, and administration. We develop comfort levels and habits 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 and reading time to focus on the two areas of preaching and administration, or leadership. I want to look closely at the patterns I have developed, strengthen the good ones, and look for new ways to improve my ministry.

My primary goal of this sabbatical, and one that permeates through all of the activities I've scheduled, is renewal. I most want to renew my passion for ministry. I truly desire to hear a renewed call from God in my life and ministry. I not only desire to be renewed, but I also want to be re-energized. I want to come back from this sabbatical with new energy for visiting and preaching, and other aspects of ministry.

My goal is to rediscover my call to serve God with passion and focus. I want to experience ministry outside of the realm of my ordinary ministry. I want to connect with people outside of my usual realm. This can happen on the mission trips. It can also happen at the Biennial, and the World Mission Conference.

I love the First Baptist Church of Mansfield and I truly desire to lead and serve it to my fullest capacity. This Sabbatical will help me to do just that.

Expectantly and Joyfully Submitted,

Paster Ken



Mission trip to Republic of Georgia with ABC International Ministries

May 29—June 12

Seminary Class—Yale Divinity School, New Haven
“Christian Leadership in the Early Church: Wisdom from The Great Tradition”

June 18-June 88

ABC Biennial—National Conference in Washington, DC

June 27-July 5

Taking the long way home—Refreshment for the family soul.

***ABC World Mission Conference**—Green Lake Conference Center at Green Lake, WI

August 4—August 12

Family Vacation

August 13—August 26

First day back at FBCM

August 27

First Sunday

September 2

First Baptist Church of Mansfield
Spring Business Meeting
April 22, 2007
Clerks Minutes

The meeting was convened at 12:45. With 17 members present.
Pastor Ron opened the meeting with prayer.

Announcements made:

Thank you to the Social Committee for lunch.

Minutes were heard from the Annual Meeting, 1/28/07, and from the Special Business Meeting, 4/1/07 (having passed the Motion to endorse Pastor Ron's Sabbatical leave plans).

Motion to accept minutes of Special Business Meeting as read by Laura Austin, seconded by Meredith McMunn, Motion Passed.

The following reports were heard/written:

Officers:

Pastor Ron Baker

Financial Secretary: John Riesen

Treasurer: Meradith McMunn

Boards:

Executive Board: John Riesen

Deacons: Pete Bradshaw

Trustees: Laura Austin for Terry Yanaway

Committees and other reports:

Communications – Nancy Flynn for Carol Bigl

Financial Examining – Report read for Brian Reas and David Stevens

Flower Committee – Martha Davis

Missions – Lee Salina for Doug Whittemore

Music – Pete Bradshaw

Youth Choir – Grace Riesen

Nominating – Meredith McMunn

Social – Lee Salina

Sound System – John Riesen

Emma Gardiner Missionary Society – Dottie Rose Gilliam

Ladies Aid – Nancy Flynn

ABCONN – John Riesen

Old Business:

1. The Safe Church committee is currently formed by: Pastor Ron Baker, Tricia Baker, Susan Figueroa, Jennifer Bradshaw, and Laura Austin. Expecting also to add representative from the Board of Deacons.
2. 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.

The addition to the constitution has been amended to read:

- k. **The Church History Committee:** The Church History Committee shall consist of two (2) or more elected members. The committee shall be responsible for preserving and maintaining the records pertinent to the history of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield, suggest what current documents and artifacts should be preserved and, working with boards and other committees, provide an on-going recognition and celebration of the Church's history.

Motion made by Meradith McMunn to add this corrected wording to the constitution, seconded by Laura Aus-

(Continued from page 3)

tin, Motion tabled until the Fall meeting.

New Business:

1. Motion made by Laura Austin on behalf of the Trustees that \$7000 be allocated to refurbish the Conference Room Floor and that the budget amount for The Secret Place devotionals be increased to \$75. Motion seconded by Meredith McMunn, Motion Passed.
2. Motion made by Meredith McMunn on behalf of the Nominating Committee that Karen Hocking be added to the Nominating Committee to fill the slot terminating in 2009. Motion seconded by Pete Bradshaw, Motion Passed.
3. As Heidi (Greenleaf) Williams has requested a letter of Transfer to the Central Baptist Church of Norwich, but is not on the FBCM member list, Motion made by Charles Woody to have the Deacons investigate the membership issue and direct the Clerk to send an appropriately worded letter of transfer or good wishes.
Motion seconded by Susan Figueroa, Motion Passed.

Minutes read: Motion made and seconded to accept as read, Motion Passed.

Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Figueroa, Clerk

Trustee News

The Trustees have scheduled a large maintenance job for the summer months. The floor in the Conference Room will be repaired, as some of you have noticed there is a large hump in the floor near the kitchen and the Christian Education wing hallway. We have talked at length to a number of contractors about this problem, why it occurred and the best way to repair the floor. The floor will be repaired the second half of July and will require the contractor to remove and replace at least part of the sub-flooring. The Conference Room floor will then be poured the week of August 6th. This takes several days and people will need to stay off the Conference Room floor.

The Sound System Committee has submitted a recommendation to the Trustees to take care of the church's' needs for sound. The system will amplify the speaker at the lectern, the choir, and the piano and will allow the podium microphone to be used for speakers in other parts of the church (Narthex, Conference Room, and

Nursery). The Trustees accepted the recommendation and work will begin soon on installing the new system.

During the last Church Work Day several members cleared the area between the Altnaveigh Inn and the Church. In the next several months John Riesen will be planting a ground cover of Pachysandra in the area. We thank John for his generous offer of Pachysandra and his time in clearing the area and making it much a very pleasant looking area.

Trustees on Lock-up

- June Laura Austin
- July Terry Yanaway
- August Meradith McMunn
- September Guy Myette

From the Board of Deacons

Sabbatical

As you all know, Pastor Ron is off on his sabbatical. This is supposed to be a learning experience for him and for us (the First Baptist Church of Mansfield). Part of that learning experience is learning how to cope without each other. We (Pastor Ron and the Church) are on separate journeys... or "pilgrimages" to use Ron's term in Sunday's message. If you have any pastoral concerns during this sabbatical period, you are urged to call upon the Interim Pastor, your Deacon Shepherd, or the Deacon of the week (see below).



Dr. Wayne Hansen will be the Interim Pastor for the months of June and July. He is currently a professor at Bethel Seminary of the East, frequently teaching in Auburn and Philadelphia. He is a native New Englander, growing up in Maine. He was called to ministry and founded the Beacon Hill Evangelical Free Church and served as its pastor for 18 years. Eventually found his love of teaching. He taught at King's College and has been teaching at Bethel Seminary of the East since 1992. He will be lecturing in Kiev for a week in May and a week in June. His first Sunday with us will be **June 10th**. He and his wife, Melinda, plan on attending the picnic following the service so it will give you an opportunity to meet him.

Wayne (as he prefers to be called) will be in the office usually on Wednesday mornings. However, if you need to reach someone immediately (emergency situations), please refer to the Deacon of the Week list below. The Deacon of the Week will also be noted on the answering machine at the church, so you can call the church and leave a message for Lisa Licata, the church secretary, or for Wayne, or listen for the Deacon of the week.

Guest Ministers

Sunday, May 27, 2007—Frank Murdock
 Sunday, June 3, 2007—Youth Sunday
 Sunday, June 10—July 29, 2007—Wayne Hansen
 Sunday, August 5—26, 2007—Curtis Hoffman

<u>Week Beginning</u>	<u>Deacon of the Week</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Sunday, May 20, 2007	Pete Bradshaw	871.3019
Sunday, May 27, 2007	Karen Watson	872.6785
Sunday, June 03, 2007	Bill Hocking	763.3667
Sunday, June 10, 2007	Alice Spencer	429.9618
Sunday, June 17, 2007	Bob Gardiner	423.1411
Sunday, June 24, 2007	Dave Stevens	455.1355
Sunday, July 01, 2007	Randy Gilliam	429.4378
Sunday, July 08, 2007	Lisa Reas	456.9218
Sunday, July 15, 2007	Pete Bradshaw	896.1751
Sunday, July 22, 2007	Randy Gilliam	429.4378
Sunday, July 29, 2007	Bob Gardiner	423.1411
Sunday, August 05, 2007	Frances Nicols	429.1158
Sunday, August 12, 2007	Dave Stevens	455.1355
Sunday, August 19, 2007	Karen Watson	872.6785

Board of Christian Ed News

Sunday School News



June 3rd is the Last day of Sunday School and Christian Education Sunday. The Sunday School will be in charge of the service and the youth Choir will be singing. We will also be giving awards out that morning and hosting the Coffee Hour. Sunday School will resume in September. Church services will begin summer hours on **June 10th**.



OVERLOOK FARM June 3rd After Church

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 June 3rd**. We will leave right after church. All are Welcome to attend. See with your own eyes what our mission dollars are doing.

Camp Wightman



It is time to get ready for Camp. Christian camping in an outdoor setting, takes the experience of the natural world a step further. It makes the connection for campers between the creation and the creator – a creator who not only made the world, but also made each person and calls them to a life of faithfulness and service. It is also a great value with the FBCM trying to give all of our Youth the experience of this enjoyable ministry! Some programs are already full so go on line and register today!

Camp Wightman **Campership Applications are Due June 3, 2007** to Joy Erickson or any member of the Board of Christian Education. We have funds for camperships for many students to attend Camp Wightman this year. Open House at Camp Wightman is **June 30th**. <http://www.campwightman.org>

Emma Gardiner Missionary Society

On Tuesday, June 12, 2007 we will gather at church for a Friendship salad pot-luck luncheon! Please plan to join us for this event! We will be welcoming friends with those who join us. Please phone Lena 429-4431 or Dottie Rose 429-4378 with questions. Remember God is good all the time, come and be a friend to Emma Gardiner! This will be the last gathering til the Fall.

We would like to thank all who have helped us this year complete our quotas for White Cross! We could not have done this without the church family support!

Vacation Bible School June 24 – 29th at 6:15 – 8:30 PM

.Imagine...

- ...a child hearing about God's love for the first time.*
- ...kids and families worshipping in powerful ways.*
- ...families praying for each other.*
- ...adults and teens modeling Jesus' love to children.*
- ...children and families serving each other.*

This summer, let's transform our church into a seaside village. Be a part of the Vacation Bible School at The First Baptist Church of Mansfield **June 24 – 29 from 6:15 – 8:30** each evening. It's our goal to reach 30 or more kids and their families with this program! We're praying this awesome VBS program will touch children's hearts and lives with God's love. Help kids in our community discover that:

- Jesus chooses us.
- Jesus teaches us.
- Jesus heals us.
- Jesus protects us.
- Jesus provides for us.



As we plan and prepare for Galilee By-the-Sea, our team would cherish your prayers. Pray that God would give us wisdom in planning. Pray for the right staff

members to join our team. And pray that God would begin working in the hearts of the children and families who will come to Galilee By-the-Sea!

To have the best adventure possible, we need lots of volunteers who can give some time, energy, and love to the kids and families who will attend. There is a sign-up sheet in the Conference Room.

See or call Susan Figueroa 456-3753 or Joy Erickson 429-5524 to be a part of this Family Adventure. Bring your "Fishing Nets" with you!

Communications Committee

The church has changed the direct **EMAIL ADDRESS** to **fbc.mansfield@sbcglobal.net** please update your email address book, the old address was **fbc.mansfield@att.net**. The email address for the church office and Pastor Ron remain the same
church_office@fbcmansfieldct.com
pastor_ron@fbcmansfieldct.com.

The Communications Committee has also changed their email to **bellringer@fbcmansfieldct.com** please email your articles, information, suggestions or comments to the new address.

The Communications Committee would like to update our church web page. Please see Carol Bigl with information about your group and photos and

she will put it up on the web.

Get your newsletter on the web! The Communications Committee puts the complete newsletter on the web for all to read, with color photos. If you have an email address and access to the web please consider using the web version. We will email you the link to the **BELLRINGER** for easy access. Send an email to **bellringer@fbcmansfieldct.com** to let us know that you want the **BELLRINGER** delivered to your email address.

BELLRINGER Deadlines for 2007

- September Issue-----September 2
- Oct/Nov Issue-----October 7
- Dec/Jan/Feb Issue -----December 2

Ladies Aid News

The Ladies Aid met on April 2, 2007 and planned events for the year. We will once again be offering the crisp of the month starting on **Sunday, June 17th** with Strawberry Rhubarb Crisp, on **August 26th** we will offer Blueberry and Peach Crisp and in September there will be Apple Crisp for sale. There are plans to host a Fellowship Supper on **Saturday, September 29th at 6:00 pm** serving Beef Stroganoff for all to enjoy. In October we will hold our annual Butter Braid sale with delivery in time for Thanksgiving.

We continue to raise money to help our church community, we donated \$250.00 to Church Women United, and voted to pay the monthly maintenance fee on the church copier for the last six months of 2007.

The Ladies Aid is beginning to collect recipes for a cookbook that will be published in 2009 for the 200th anniversary of our church. If you have recipes that you would like to share please give them to Nancy Flynn or Jill Stedman-Myette.

The next meeting of the Ladies Aid is scheduled for **Sunday, June 3rd at 12:30.**

Music Notes



Adult Choir will resume rehearsals on **Thursday, August 30, 2007** and Youth Choir will resume on **Sunday, September 9, 2007.** We give a BIG thank you to everyone who participated in our music program this past year. We appreciate your sharing of your time and talents. Have a wonderful summer.

A sign-up sheet for **SUMMER MUSIC** is posted on the bulletin board in the Christian Education wing. If you like to sing or play an instrument we need YOU!

Youth Group

The Youth Group has been busy organizing fund raisers for this years Mission trip to Barbour County in West Virginia. There will be 10 youths going and 4 adults. The Car Wash held on May 5th brought in over \$400.00 - Thank you to all who brought their cars to be washed.



A special offering was collected on Sunday, April 22nd during the service. The Youth Group is very appreciative of your overwhelming support. We collected over \$1000.00.

On **Saturday, June 2nd** we will host our 2nd Annual Spaghetti Supper with servings at 5 and 6pm. Guy Myette and Warren Austin are also organizing a 50 mile motorcycle ride before the supper. You can purchase a ticket for a ride and dinner for \$20.00

Also, we are currently running a can and bottle drive to pay for the gas needed to drive to West Virginia. We need at least \$270.00. So please, keep bringing in your bottles!



Spaghetti Supper



Saturday, June 2, 2007
Seatings at 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

At The First Baptist Church of Mansfield
945 Storrs Road—Route 195

Menu: spaghetti, meatballs, tossed salad, garlic bread,
beverages, and dessert

Adults: \$6.00
Children (Under 12): \$3.00
Take-outs are available!

*Proceeds from this supper will benefit the
Church Youth Group's Mission Trip to
Barbour County in West Virginia this summer.*



Photos from 2006 Youth Mission Trip to West Virginia

COME AND HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

Church Picnic

The picnic will be held on **June 10th** after the service. ***(Remember that June 10 is the first Sunday of the summer schedule. No Sunday School and the service will start at 10:00)*** The picnic will once again be held at June Norcross Webster Boy Scout Camp located on Route 44 in Ashford.

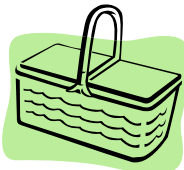
Directions to the camp: Go north on Rt 195, go through UConn Campus, until you get to Rt 44 (about 3 miles). Turn right onto Rt 44 and head east about 6 miles. J.N. Webster is on the right about a mile past the Rt 89 intersection.

Once inside the camp, follow the Main Dirt Road to the parking area.

Last year there was some confusion because the front gate wasn't open. It should be open this time, but if it is not, the road through the Camp Ranger's work shop empties out on the Main Dirt Road.

What to Bring:

Bathing suits and towels (if you choose to swim)

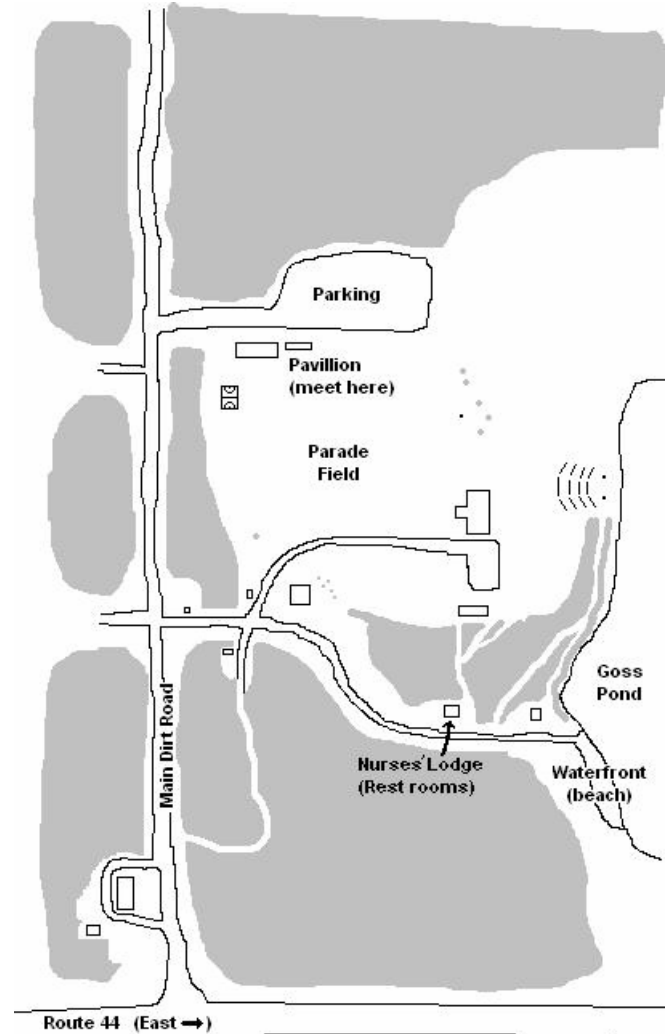


Basket balls (there is a basket ball court)

Football, soccer balls, baseballs and glove, Frisbee...etc. The parade field is large enough for several small games or a large game.

There is a pavilion but you may want to bring a popup canopy to provide some protection from sun (or rain!)

Salad or fruit or vegetable. The Social Committee and Christian Ed are taking care of meats and drinks. More details on this will follow.



American Baptist Women's Ministries of Connecticut

American Baptist Women's Ministries of Connecticut will be meeting on June 2, 2007 at the First Baptist Church of West Hartford for the Annual 80th Conference. This year's theme will be "...and he will lift you up." Worship, song, fellowship and bible study are but a few of the activities that make this a great day to be among the friends of American Baptist Women! We will car pool. If you have cancelled or non cancelled stamps, this is an on going project for this group and we will be taking them along. Another project will be collecting pre-school books (approximately up to age 4) which will be sent to the Weirton Children's Christian Center in West Virginia.

Church Family News

A Special Note to My Church Family,

Thank you for your love and your cards at the passing of my son John.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John will live in our hearts.

Betty Geissler

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1. There are so many seasons in our lives. Thank you to all our church family for being with us and helping us through such a difficult season in our lives. We so appreciated all the prayers, cards, calls, visits, and especially the loved. We are grateful to all of you who did so much to help provide John's family and friends with two wonderful opportunities to remember him and celebrate how special his life was. So many visitors mentioned to us how beautiful our church is and how warm and gracious our church family is. Thank you for everything!

Patty, Kristin and Alyssa

Douglas Barry, son of Lena and Phil Barry, was recently voted in and will serve on the UCONN Alumni Board of Directors!

Grandma Lena Barry along with Emma and Anna will be attending grandparents camp at Camp Wightman June 24th—June 27th! Sean and Nikki Barry will be attending Middler! Camp on June 1st—June 7th.

We take great joy in announcing the marriage of Danielle Austin and Anthony Muller. The service was performed by Pastor Ron, followed by a day of love and fellowship. Their address is: 44 Edwards Road, Hampton, CT 06247.

Amanda Keane and Joseph Pawelski were married on May 25th in Rochester, NY. They will be moving to Colorado where Amanda will be attending the University of Colorado's Graduate School.

Amanda Keane graduated from Nazareth College on May 12th with a BA in English. She also was inducted into Sigma Tau Delta and received Nazareth's Marilyn Brown Fitzgerald Award for Excellence in the Study of Literature.

Billy Keane's new address is:

*507 North 61st Street,
Seattle, WA 98103.*

He will be there until November 2007.

Brian and Lisa Reas had a baby boy on May 23, 2007. He weighed 8lbs 15oz and was 22 inches long.

A letter has come from Pete & Sue Hood passing on their "Hello" to their friends at the First Baptist Church of Mansfield. They have retired from the church in Trumanburg, NY and taken a pastoral position in Ohio. They were very happy at their former church but they — "both had begun to feel a strong pull towards children and grandchildren in Ohio". They would love to hear from you! Their new address is:

*Pastor and Mrs. Vernon Pete Hood
3260 Magnolia Drive
Troy, Ohio 45373*

Church Secretary will be on vacation the week of August 6th through August 10th. She will return on Wednesday August 15th.

Obituaries

MOORE, Raymond A., 89, of Mansfield died on Monday, (March 26, 2007) at the Mansfield Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation. Ray was born in Bridgeport where he found his wife of 60 years, Barbara and worked until retirement from his business in 1985. He was a tool and die maker, teacher, gardener, mechanic, political leader, advocate for the elderly, builder, bird carver, salesman, singer, leader, police commissioner, worker for his church, fisherman, flirt, husband, lover, brother, uncle, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend. Ray started his career as a Tool and Die maker at GE in Bridgeport and then developed a new business, Clinton Equipment Sales, Inc. selling industrial supplies where he worked until retirement. He moved his family to Trumbull in the mid-fifties where he served on the Republican town committee and as its chairman for ten years, and also served on many town building committees, the Police Commission and its chair, the Board of directors of the Bridgeport Savings and Loan Bank, served on AARP's Legislative committee, appointed to the State Commission on Aging, and served many committees of the Trumbull Congregational Church. He followed his daughter, Dr. Pamela Moore, to Storrs in 1995 after she joined a practice in Mansfield. There he joined the First Baptist Church, the Democratic Town Committee, the Board of Directors of Senior Housing, the Mansfield Commission on Aging, and the Building Committee for the Community Center. Ray loved people, he loved to help and lead when needed and loved to work hard. He loved his family and friends and basked in and boasted of the success of his children and grand children. Ray was predeceased by his wife, Barbara; is survived by his partner, Hazel Rubins, and his children, Roger and Elisabeth Moore of Grand Junction, CO, Robert and Diane Moore of Durham, and Dr. Pamela Moore and David Morse of Woodstock. He also leaves his beloved grand children, Catharine Cook and husband, Bill; Brittany Moore; Adam Moore and wife, Melissa and their four children, Madeleine, Isabel, Ingrid, and Robert; Sarah

Overton and husband, Darin and their two children, Seth and Claire; Bridget Poturnicki and husband, Adam and their child, Mia; Marc Taney and wife, Laura; Nicole Taney, Michele Taney, and Brian Taney. Memorial Services will be held at the First Baptist Church of Mansfield, Route 195 in Mansfield Center, on Friday April 13, at 1 p.m. with a reception in the Church Hall immediately following. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in his name to the American Lung Association or the First Baptist Church of Mansfield.



WELLS, Clara A. (Orr) Clara A. (Orr) Wells, 83, of Mansfield Center, beloved wife of Franklin J. Wells, died April 5, 2007 at Florida Ormond Memorial Hospital. Clara was born in Bridgewater, CT., August 9, 1923,

daughter of Walter and Jennie (Johnson) Orr. In addition to her husband of 59 years, she is survived by a son, Thomas W. Wells and his wife Michelle of Mansfield; and three daughters: Barbara Zivitski and her husband James of Holly Hill, FL.; Dr. Jennie Wells and her husband Michael Haworth of London, Ontario; Dr. Nancy Wells of Ithaca NY; twelve grandchildren and one great granddaughter. She also leaves her sister, J. Isabelle Douglas of Manchester, NH, and was predeceased by her sister, Emily Whitney. Clara was a registered nurse, a graduate of Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing, she also attended Eastern Connecticut State University. She worked for many years as a nurse with Mansfield Public Health and with Natchaug Valley Visiting Nursing Association. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield, a volunteer for the American Red Cross Blood mobiles, and a long-time member and secretary of the Mansfield Community Club. There will be a memorial service at the First Baptist Church of Mansfield on Saturday, May 19 at 11 a.m. Burial will follow the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church of Mansfield.



Geissler, John S. John S. Geissler, 49, passed away on Wednesday (April 25, 2007) after a short battle with cancer during which he always displayed a positive attitude, good humor and courage. He was

born in Putnam on November 14, 1957. He grew up in Storrs and enjoyed the last 21 years of his life living in beautiful Union. He graduated from E.O. Smith High School, H.H. Ellis Technical School and Eastern Connecticut State University. John was a licensed aircraft mechanic and worked at Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford for 28 years. He served on the Planning and Zoning Board in Union for many years and faithfully attended the First Baptist Church of Mansfield. John loved family, friends and fun and was always there to lend a helping hand. He leaves his three best girls, wife Patricia A. Geissler and daughters Kristin and Alyssa all of Union. He was pre-deceased by his father Lawrence Geissler, Sr.; and leaves his mother, Elizabeth Geissler of Storrs; a brother, Lawrence Geissler, Jr. and his wife Janet of Rockville; and three sisters, Bonnie Buscaglia and her husband David of Coventry, Jean Ostrander and her husband Dick of Bremerton, WA, and Susan Fowler and her husband Peter of Middleboro, MA. He also leaves Patty's parents Philip and Lena Barry of Storrs; and brothers David Barry and his friend Lori of Ellington, Douglas Barry and his wife Pamela of San Francisco, CA, and Daniel Barry and his wife Cathy of Andover. John had 16 nieces and nephews who looked up to him and had fun with him. He will be deeply missed by family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. His family will receive friends on Saturday, April 28, 5-8 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Mansfield, 945 Storrs Rd., Storrs. A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, May 11 at 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Mansfield, 945 Storrs Rd., Storrs. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The John S. Geissler Memorial Fund for the benefit of his children,

New Alliance Bank, 596 Middle Tpke., Storrs, CT 06268, attn: Carol Martin or to the Union School Association Scholarship Foundation, 128 Webster Rd., Union, CT 06070.



Grace (Rankin) Robarge of Willimantic, passed away on May 16, 2007 at the Haven Health Center of Willimantic, where she received excellent care for the past two years. She was born in Hartford, July 19, 1926. She retired from Standard Register of Tolland in 1988, after

twenty five years of service. After retiring, she moved to "The Villages", Lady Lake, FL with her companion of many years, Harry Barney. While in Florida, she volunteered her services at local nursing homes as a clown. She was also a member of "The Villages" Cheerleading group. She loved animals and wildlife. She once rescued a pelican and nursed it back to health. Grace was a member of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield. In addition to her companion, she leaves her sons, Thomas of Tolland and Scott of Willington, her daughter and son in law Linda and Richard Smith of Windham, her brother Robert Rankin and sister Betsy Belanger both of Surfside Beach, SC, a sister Roberta Long of Mansfield along with several nephews and nieces. There are no calling hours. A graveside service will take place on June 16, 2007 at 12:00pm in Hillside Cemetery, Spring Hill Rd., Storrs. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Haven Health Center of Willimantic, 595 Valley St. Willimantic, CT. 06226 or to First Baptist Church of Mansfield, 945 Storrs Rd., Storrs, CT. 06268. For online memorial guestbook, please visit www.potterfh.com.



June 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Deacon: - Randy Gilliam Trustee: - Laura Austin					1	2 Youth Dinner ABWM State
3 Last Day of Sunday School Ladies Aid Mtg 12:30 pm Sun. School Overlook Farm	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Church Picnic 10:00 Summer Hours	11	12 11:30 EGMS Friendship Luncheon	13	14	15	16 graveside service Grace Robarge Youth Choir Ptoluck 5:45 & Bowling
17 Father's Day	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
VBS-"GALILEE BY THE SEA" (24th-29th) 6:15-8:30pm Biennel AB—Washington, DC						

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- June 1 Pete Bradshaw
- June 2 Evan Fulton
- June 4 Tom Lackman
- June 4 Ethel Larkin
- June 7 Lyrica Yanaway
- June 8 James Kloss
- June 10 Karen Hocking
- June 10 Robert Peters
- 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 24 Jennifer Whittemore
- June 25 Wendy Edwards
- June 28 Ryan Quigley

July 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Biennel AB—Washington, DC						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO WEST VIRGINIA (22nd-28th)						
29	30	31				
				Deacon: - Karen Watson Trustee: - Terry Yanaway		

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- July 1 Andy 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



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- Aug. 4 Rachel Sherman
- Aug. 6 Sam Shepardson
- Aug. 10 Emily Grace Bigl
- Aug. 15 Laurie Gilman
- Aug. 17 Beth 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 Mama
- Aug. 26 Raman Mama
- Aug. 27 Jenette Kloss
- Aug. 29 Chris Beaulieu
- Aug. 29 Bob Gardiner
- Aug. 30 Kim Setterberg

August 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Deacon: - Alice Spencer Trustee: - Meradith McMunn			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Conference Room Floor Work Church Secretary- Lisa Licata on vacation						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Ron Back!	28	29	30	31	



Steeple Chase Bike Tour Fundraiser Saturday, August 18, 2007

is to raise over \$60,000 dollars.

Now its our turn to get out the riders and support them with our prayers and financial support. Other important ways to help include; helping the day of the tour by manning the Holy Cow Shelter on Bassetts Bridge Road, supplying food for the rest stop, Driving a S.A.G. Wagon, welcoming riders back in and checking them off the list ensuring their safe return. Please check with Ed Austin as to how you can help.

Dear Friends and members of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield, please keep in mind this important fundraiser for WAIM and Perception Programs Inc. Much planning and work has already gone into this event with over \$18,000 dollars already raised through support of the business community in sponsorships. Our goal



Dates to Remember

June 2	Youth Dinner	June 24—29	VBS—"Galilee by the Sea" 6:15—8:30 pm
June 2	ABWM State Conf. 8:30-4:00	June 29-July 2	Biennel AB—Washington, DC
June 3	Last Day of Sunday School	July 22—28	Youth Mission Trip, WV
June 3	Ladies Aid Mtg. 12:30 pm	Aug 6-9	Conference Room Floor Work
June 3	Sunday School to Overlook Farm	Aug 6-10	Church Secretary on Vacation
June 10	Church Picnic		
June 10	Summer Hours (10:00 am) Begin		
June 12	EGMS 11:30 Friendship Luncheon		
June 16	Graveside Service for Grace Robarge		
June 16	Youth Choir Potluck at 5:45 with Bowling		
June 17	Father's Day		



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MANSFIELD

945 Storrs Road, Storrs, CT 06268

Summer Hours
Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Vacation Bible School
June 24th through June 29th
6:15 to 8:30 pm



An American Baptist Church