



# The Baptist Window

JANUARY 2012

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

601 Main Street Bennington, VT 05201  
OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM to 3 PM weekdays  
802/442-2105 (ext. 0, Office; ext. 1, Pastor)  
fboffice@sover.net fbpastor@sover.net  
http://www.fbcbennington.org and FACEBOOK

### LAY LEADERSHIP AND CHURCH STAFF

#### Lay Leadership & Boards

Wayne Kachmar, Moderator  
Aleta Bryant-Boutin, Church Clerk  
Byron Spafford, Financial Secretary  
Florence Smith, Historian

#### Board of Deacons

Lisa Flynn - Chair  
Sandy Williams - Sec./Treas.  
Betty Cross, Frances Hunt

#### Board of Trustees

Grace Becker-Wilson, chair;  
Sandy Redding, Byron Spafford

#### Board of Christian Education

Kerry Shermer  
Board of Missions  
Darcy Oakes, Lois Comar,  
Aleta Bryant-Boutin, Susan Kachmar

#### The Church Staff

Rev. Jerrod Hugenot, Coordinating Minister  
Melissa Hepler, Office Manager  
John Harwood, Sexton  
Scott Smedinghoff, Organist  
Alycia Post, Director of Christian Education  
Michelle Fournier, Playroom Supervisor



## A word of blessing for First Baptist in 2012:

*As we enter into our 185th year of ministry and mission, may we resolve to deepen our personal and congregational commitments to live out the gospel and increase our missional endeavors in creative and collaborative ways. May First Baptist continue to be known as “a place for healing, community involvement and spiritual grounding”!*  
—The Rev. Jerrod H. Hugenot, Coordinating Minister

### WHAT A TASTY DONATION!

Thanks to a suggestion from Grace Becker-Wilson, First Baptist applied for and received an “in kind” donation from Green Mountain Coffee (nine bags of coffee and 400 cups) for our Coffee Hour and community events. We are most grateful for this tasty gift to support our mission!



### COMING SOON

#### JANUARY

January 1—First of the year worship service (9:30 AM, Colgate Hall)

January 16—MLK event (UU Fellowship)

January 22—2011 Annual Meeting & Potluck

#### UPCOMING DATES

Late February—Religious education resumes

February 22—Ash Wednesday/Lent begins

April 1-7—Holy Week

**April 8—Easter**

May 18-19—ABCVNH 2012 Annual Meeting (West Dover, VT @ Mt Snow)

## The 2012 Annual Meeting

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2012 @ 10:45 AM

The First Baptist Church of Bennington, VT, will hold its 183rd annual meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2012, beginning at 10:45 AM in Colgate Hall. A potluck will follow immediately afterwards.

***Please note: This annual meeting will hear a special report on proposed bylaws for the congregation. All members are encouraged to attend!***

A notice of warning giving the details of this meeting’s proposed agenda will appear in our Sunday morning bulletins and via e-communication (website, email, social media). A slate of officers and board members will be offered for your consideration as well as the 2012 budget, prepared by the Trustees and our Cabinet.

Copies of the Annual Report and Proposed Bylaws will be available by mid-January, with print copies available at Sunday morning worship or the church office or via download from our church website. If you would like an annual report mailed to you, please contact the church office.



## PASTOR'S NOTES

### New Bylaws to Consider at Annual Meeting!

As we begin 2012, I note that our annual meeting on Sunday, January 22 will be a historic meeting as we consider **new bylaws aiming to modernize our governance structure** to meet the present-day needs of First Baptist as well as State and federal laws governing non-profit corporations.

After legal counsel review is completed, the present and proposed bylaws will be available via the office, and Sunday morning worship. You may request copies via US Mail by contacting the office or by downloading the relevant PDF files via [www.fbcbennington.org](http://www.fbcbennington.org).

As per our current bylaws, if the vote is affirmative on January 22, we will convene a meeting thirty days later to vote a second time to ratify the bylaws.

Questions? Please speak with Wayne Kachmar, Moderator or myself.

### Celebrating Our Interfaith Partnerships

The story of First Baptist in recent years cannot be told without reference and gratitude to the partnerships we cultivate with other congregations affiliated with the Interfaith Council. With such friendly relationships, we collaborate together to help the community as well as provide a common witness to inter-religious cooperation and co-existence.

This month, the Council joins with the Peace Resources Center on the evening of Monday, January 16, 2012, to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and explore ways to live out Dr. King's values in our corner of the "beloved community".

This month also marks the third anniversary of the Bennington Free Clinic

beginning its service to provide healthcare access to uninsured persons. The Bennington Free Clinic offers Thursday night hours as well as occasional Monday mornings and a monthly Women's Health clinic every third Monday evening. When I reflect back on these last 36 months, I am most grateful to note for the hard work of Sue Andrews, Dr. Dundas, and the various medical and community volunteers and donors who have stepped up to serve in this critical time.

After the Clinic began, the Interfaith Council turned over the 501c3 non-profit corporation to a free-standing board. The organization is called the Greater Bennington Interfaith Community Services, Inc., (GBICS) with Sue Andrews serving as Executive Director and the GBICS board led by representatives from area congregations, service agencies, and other community stakeholders. The Food & Fuel Fund (started in the early 1970s) and the newer programs of the Free Clinic (2009) and The Kitchen Cupboard (2011) are all key players in meeting the basic human needs of our community.

I am pleased to note that the Mission Board has proposed an increase in funding to GBICS for the 2012 budget year. The mission board hopes you will join them in their affirmation of GBICS, as the organization serves our core values of missional work especially within our local community. We are most blessed to have this sort of interfaith witness and work as part of our ministry and mission.

Grace and Peace,

The Rev. Jerrod H. Huguenot  
Coordinating Minister



## RMMO 2012 OFFERING

From its beginning, the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) has been described as a “People Offering”—given by people for people, rather than for denominational programs, resources, budgets, benefits and buildings. The RMMO provides you with a tangible way by which to honor, say “thank you” and provide financial assistance to the retired American Baptist ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses who supported you in times of need, guided you on your spiritual journey and provided inspiration. The Ministers & Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB) administers this offering as part of its ministry and mission.

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering  
RMMO *connects generations*



Contributions to the RMMO in 2010 totaled \$1,288,585. Of this amount, \$563,514 was made available to meet immediate emergency and special financial needs. The balance of the receipts was distributed by MMBB on behalf of American Baptists in the form of “Thank You” checks to 3,322 retired American Baptist ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses. The average check was \$217.61. Thank You check recipients and others who received financial assistance in 2010 were overwhelmed by the generosity of American Baptist congregations in the midst of these difficult economic times.

Please consider a RMMO donation as we *Remember with Love and Give with Gratitude* to those who have dedicated their lives to Christian ministry. Please make a generous contribution to the RMMO, received during the Sundays of January. Our goal for First Baptist contributions is \$500. Your gift helps remember faithful denominational servants and their loved ones, including our retired clergy and their loved ones: **Rev. Robert & Joy Spencer, Evelyn Sarah LaBombard, and Jerry and Bea Miller**, as well as **Mabel Paddock**, who served with her late husband, the Rev. Royal Paddock on the mission field and in churches.



*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was also a member of MMBB, speaking at the Riverside Church (NYC) on April 4, 1967*

### *2012 Martin Luther King Jr Day Celebration*

Monday, January 16, 2012

**6:30 pm** Candlelight Vigil and Song (BYO candle)

at the Four Corners in Bennington

**7:00 pm** Gathering at the Unitarian Universal Meetinghouse (108 School St.) for fellowship, great desserts, warm beverages and an inspiring movie...

#### *A Force More Powerful*

An award-winning documentary which explores the history of nonviolent conflict and how nonviolent power has overcome oppression and authoritarian rule all around the world.



## **ABCVNH UPDATE**

*On January 17, the ABCVNH Region welcomes our new regional executive minister, the Rev. Dale Edwards. The interim executive minister, the Rev. Dr. Louis George shares these parting words:*

Having the privilege of serving the Region for a second time has been enjoyable as well as a great privilege. I commend the Executive Search Committee for doing a commendable job in their quest to bring forward the best possible candidate for our new Executive Leadership. I was thrilled to hear of the level of enthusiasm present when their candidate, Reverend Dale Edwards, was presented to both the Board of Trustees and then the delegates from our ABC/VNH Churches. You have made a great choice as Dale will bring a fresh vision and a deep compassion for the work of our churches and of our pastoral and lay leadership. My final day on the job will be Sunday, January 15. Thank you for the opportunity of serving you once again.

Several significant ministries within our Region have shown signs of great vision, growth and effective-ness during my time with you. The three All Things New action groups, "The Reign of God," "Training and Support of Leaders," and "Networking and Communications" have involved countless lay and professional leaders from our churches in learning, envisioning and action ministries. All of this has been undergirded by a strong prayer ministry that is coordinated by Rev. Carolyn Clarke.

A new set of By-Laws and Rules of Procedure have been drawn up under the hard work and direction of Steven Jewett and have been approved by you. These new By-Laws not only bring our formal structure up to where we are now functioning, but also set the stage for new and expanded ministries within our Region.

Sentinel Ministries has taken on new life and vitality as they have seen strong growth in their

camping and conference outreach opportunities. Sentinel is now operating in the black financially and showing great promise for expanded ministries in and through and beyond our Region. The Gove Hill Management Team is having great success in increasing the visibility, usage and facility management of the Retreat Center. They are well within the target area of becoming a financially viable Center that offers unique retreat and renewal opportunities for pastors and laity alike. Much appreciation is due to the Sentinel Ministries Board and their director, Rev. Kevin Van Brunt, and to the Gove Hill Management Team and the work of the Resident Directors Bill and Bernice Clark.

The Region's Finance and Budget Committee is doing a remarkable job in this time of economic stress in their work of overseeing the management of the investments and trusts of our Region as well as several of our churches whose endowments have been entrusted to them.

Appreciation is expressed to the staff and contract workers who have enhanced the ministry of the Region so effectively: Janet McFaul, our Administrative Assistant; Larry Warren, our Manager of Finances; Malcolm Hamblett, our Director of Communication and Technology; Linda Bolton, James F. Smith and Bruce Bishop, our Placement Resource Personnel Team; Bill and Bernice Clark, our Resident Directors at Gove Hill and Joy Choquette, our Gove Hill Marketing Consultant; and Kevin Van Brunt, the Executive Director of Sentinel Ministries along with his staff. In addition, appreciation is expressed to our Region Officers and the members of all our Boards and Committees. All of these have been a great team with whom to work. Our new Region Minister, Dale Edwards, will be fortunate to inherit all of these faithful servants. Please be assured of our continued prayers and support as I again try to make a success out of retirement. Blessings.

**Lou George, Interim Executive Minister**



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1—Jane Corriveau  
 January 1—Bertha Greenawalt  
 January 3—Darlene Oldham  
 January 4—Deb Smith  
 January 9—Darcy Oakes  
 January 11—Rhonda Harmon  
 January 12—Bob “Buck” Boutin  
 January 17—John Harwood III  
 January 18—Kaitlyn Rockwell  
 January 20—Carolyn Peckham  
 January 24—Wayne Kachmar  
 January 27—Alycia Post  
 January 28—Evelyn Lindsay  
 January 29—Leslie Johnson

### THE KITCHEN

#### CUPBOARD

The Food Distribution Center Project  
 of the Greater Bennington Interfaith Community Services, Inc.

800 GAGE STREET, BENNINGTON, VT

OPEN: Tuesdays: 5:30-8:30 PM  
 and Saturdays: 2:00-5:00 PM

Volunteer opportunities abound!

CONTACT: Sue Andrews 802/379-0149  
 Sue.Andrews@comcast.net



**American  
RedCross**

*The Next Blood Mobile will be held  
 at First Baptist on Wed. Feb. 15, 2012  
 (11:30 am-5:00 pm)*

*Register for advance appointments  
 via [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
 or 1-800-RED-CROSS*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Our Congratulations to:** Gerry Watson welcomes his new great-granddaughter Savianna Bushee, born in December 2011.

### For Our Congregants at Home or in Area Care Homes

#### For Those With Ongoing Prayer Needs

Aleta Bryant-Boutin, Deanna Oakes, Gladys Paddock, Gracie Sherwood, Haley, Harriet Gaines, Sara LaBombard, and our congregants not able to attend due to health reasons. **Please see weekly bulletin for updates.**

#### For Those Serving Our Country:

Adam Kenyon--Grandson of Allyn and Richard Lindsey  
 Bradley Cooper—Wife Jamie, nephew of Greg Lewis  
 Harlen Capen—Cousin Rhonda Harmon  
 Geoff Dufur—Cathy Shepard, Mother-in law (Coast Guard)  
 Heath Harwood—John & Joanne Harwood, parents  
 Benjamin Hunt—Dick & Fran Hunt, grandparents  
 Barrett Reed—Wilma Vose, great-grandmother  
 Christopher McSherry - Nephew of Jean Hoag & Grace Becker-Wilson

UPDATES TO OUR SERVICE LISTING ARE WELCOME!

### HELP WITH FOOD NEEDS IN OUR COMMUNITY:

#### HIS PANTRY

@ Sacred Heart/St Francis

Bring donations to church office anytime!

Especially needed: Tuna, Canned Pasta, Toilet Paper,  
 Shampoo and other toiletries, pancake mix, syrup, cake  
 mixes, baked beans and/or pork and beans

#### DOVE PROJECT

for the Bennington AIDS Project

(Bring your donations by the church office anytime!)

### BENNINGTON FREE CLINIC

@ First Baptist Church Thursday evenings 6 to 9 PM

**447-3700**

*Appointments encouraged. Walk-ins welcome!*

---

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

601 Main Street

Bennington, VT 05201

*"A place for healing, community involvement, and spiritual grounding"*

 <b>BENNINGTON</b> CHANNELS 15, 16 & 17	<b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b>
	Rebroadcast on CAT-TV (Comcast, channel 15)
	Sun. 9:30am
	Mon./Fri. 3:30am
	Tues./Thurs. 9:30pm
Wed./Sat. 3:30pm	



### A Call to Prayer and Fasting for the ABCVNH Region

Tuesday, **January 17, 2012**, is the first day that the Rev. Dale Edwards will be serving as Region Minister for ABC/VNH. **All Things New** is calling the Region to a day of prayer and fasting on that day. You are encouraged to do that wherever you are; and, if you are able, to come to **Gove Hill** or **Camp Sentinel** to do it with others. Both centers will be open from 9:00 – 3:00 for guided prayer with a soup and bread lunch provided for those who cannot fast. Participants are encouraged to bring outdoor equipment if they wish to enjoy the solitude of the fields and woods. The fireplaces will be there to warm. Bring a freewill offering to cover costs.

If you are planning to come to Gove Hill, please notify Bill or Bernice Clark at (802)-785-4000 or [govehill@abcvnh.org](mailto:govehill@abcvnh.org).

## The Baptist Window



**JANUARY 2012**

---