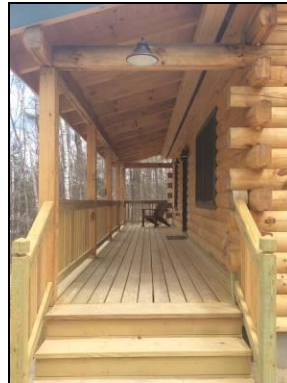


God Stuff Happenings in Our Churches – June 2016

Dedication of New Wixson Ministry Cabin at Camp Sentinel

It was a beautiful spring day on April 30 for the dedication of the new Wixson Ministry Cabin. Many were present, including Georgie Wixson (widow of Rev. Ray Wixson, after whom the cabin is named) and a couple members of her family. Kevin Van Brunt, executive director of Camp Sentinel, and Peter Bolster, a member of the camp's board spoke, as did Steve Hammond and Malcolm Hamblett, present and immediate past president of the Ministers Council. We concluded by laying hands on the cabin and praying over it for the pastors, missionaries & their family members who will use the cabin over the years for rest and renewal.



Trusting in God

From the editor: Many of you attending the ABCVNH Annual Gathering last month saw Rev. Dr. Stephanie Allen (pastor of Memorial Baptist Church, Middlebury) with her infant son, Soren. Stephanie and her husband Mitch brought Soren home after he had spent his first 4 months of life in the hospital. Stephanie has been open with her congregation about the health challenges they are dealing with regarding Soren. Through it all she and her family have been trusting God. I invite you to read her article in the May edition of "The Church Bell." It is a testimony of what trusting in God looks like. I hope you are blessed by the article.

www.memorialbaptistvt.org/uploads/2/3/6/2/23628842/may_2016_church_bell.pdf

MISSIONS

- The membership committee of **First Baptist Church, Keene**, assembled and delivered 27 May baskets on May 1st to members in the area who are homebound.

CHURCH NEWS

- **Rev. Marshall Davis**, pastor of the Community Church of Sandwich, will be retiring at the end of July.
- The choir and bell choir of **Melvin Village Community Church** have been invited to sing and play the National Anthem at the Manchester Fisher Cats minor league baseball game on Monday, September 5.

- Congratulations to **Scott and Toni Manning**, pastor and associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Sanbornton, and to **David Denis**, pastor of United Baptist Church, Concord, who passed their ordination councils last month. David will be ordained on Sunday, June 12 at 4:00 p.m. Scott and Toni will be ordained on Sunday, August 14.

About 170 people gathered for the 2017 Annual Gathering of the American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire which was held May 20-21 at Centerpoint Community Church in Salem, NH. Our theme was "Empowered by the Spirit." Mrs. Akum Longchar, our Friday evening preacher, and Dr. Jim Singleton, our Saturday speaker, gave encouraging talks on the theme.

Al Hall was reelected as Region treasurer. Olga Tines, Jim Leonard and David O'Brien were reelected to a second 3-year term as Region trustees, and Stephanie Allen, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church, Middlebury, was elected to a 2-year term to fill a vacancy on the board. It was announced that Janet McFaul, our administrative assistant was retiring for a second time and that Malcolm Hamblett, Assistant to the Region Minister, has resigned, both effective mid-June.

The Region welcomed the following pastors to our Region: **Marion Aldridge**, Interim, Trinity Baptist Church, Hanover, NH (Jan. 2016); **Andrew Barnes**, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Belmont, NH (July 2015); **Gerard Birney**, Interim, First Baptist Church, Manchester Center, VT (Aug. 2015); **T. Scott Griffin**, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Newton Junction, NH (May 2016); **Rubin Jennings**, Pastor, Community Baptist Church, Plainfield, NH (July 2015); **Rick Pinella**, Interim, First Baptist Church, Lebanon, NH (Dec. 2015); **Tyler Smith**, Pastor, Georgia Plain Baptist Church, Georgia, VT (Sept. 2015); **Roger Spinney**, Interim, First Baptist Church, Etna, NH (Oct. 2015); **Jamie Spriggs**, Pastor, Melvin Village Community Church, Melvin Village, NH (May 2016); **Steven White**, Pastor of Student Ministries, First Baptist Church, Hampton Falls, NH (Oct. 2015); **Lynn Wickberg**, Interim, United Church of Strafford, Strafford, VT (Aug. 2015); **Robert Wieggers**, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Bennington, VT (Dec.); and **Russell Willis**, Interim, United Church of Colchester, VT (Nov. 2015).

The following pastors were recognized for their 5 year anniversaries of ordination:

Ordained in 2016: **Patti Stratton** – First Baptist Church, Rutland; **Grant Winnes** – First Baptist Church, Hampton Falls

5 year anniversary: Donna Colletti-Lowre – Peacham, VT

10 year anniversary: Larry Detweiler – Community Church of Huntington and First Baptist Church, Starksboro; **Charles Glidewell** – First Baptist Church, New London; **John Hastings** – First Baptist Church, Brentwood; **Doug LaPlante** – Wilmington Baptist Church; **Harold Muzzey, Jr.** – Third Baptist Church, Center Strafford, NH

15 year anniversary: Deborah Blaisdell – Bradford, NH; **Bill Simmons** – First Baptist Church, St. Albans; **Robert Warren** – Antrim, retired

20 year anniversary: Tom Charlton – First Baptist Church, Chester, VT; **Norma Drosky** – Jamaica Community Church; **Sean Dunker-Bendigo** – The Madison Church; **Jarbas Filho** – Comunidade Batista dos Milagres, Nashua; **Robert Fisher** – First Baptist Church, Wolfeboro Falls; **Luann Ketcham** – Wolfeboro, retired; **Paul Lemire** – United Church of Lyndeborough; **Ernie Madden** – First Freewill Baptist Church, Ashland; **Karen Mendes** – First Baptist Church, Burlington; **Jon Stratton** – First Baptist Church, Rutland

25 year anniversary: Jim Barnes – Gilmanton Iron Works, retired; **Henry Fleming, Sr.** – Bradford, retired; **Peter Howe** – Hillsborough; **Chris McMicken** – Mountain View Church, Sanbornton; **Scott Secrest** – Manchester; **Deanna Swilling**, First Baptist Church, Exeter

30 year anniversary: David Crosby – Claremont; **Dale Edwards** – Region Minister; **Carol Snow-Asher** – Hill, NH

35 year anniversary: Charlie Boucher – Antrim Baptist Church

40 year anniversary: Robb Dix – Rochester; **Ken Lawrence** – First Baptist Church, Hampton Falls

55 year anniversary: Bob Sargeant – North Danville Baptist Church; **John Young** – Boscawen, retired

70 year anniversary – posthumously: **Philip Chase**, who died earlier this year at the age of 93.

Pictures from the Annual Gathering.



Dale Edwards and Isabel Rivera bring greetings to open the Annual Gathering on Friday afternoon.



Jim Singleton was our Saturday speaker



Worship was an important part of our time together.



New pastors to the Region were welcomed by Steve Hammond, president of the Ministers Council.



The worship team from Centerpoint Community Church led us in worship on Friday evening.