

United Baptist Church

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Rev. Bruce Stevens, Pastor

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Baptist Hill Notes

“Pray and Keep Your Powder Dry”

I don't know the source of the quote but it speaks to me of two things: ❶ **Pray**, because unless God is involved in our work, it will come to nothing. “*Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain*” (Psalm 127:1), ❷ **Hard work**. The builders **do** build; the watchmen **do** watch. The Lord's work is done through God but He uses our efforts. I believe that of the two (prayer & work), we as a church are weaker in the area of prayer. For that reason we will be focusing on prayer in 2008, using the theme, “*Prayer moves the Hand that moves the world.*” Scott and I will teach on prayer periodically and we will be urging you to pray more – as a church, as families, as individuals.

“**Black gold.**” That was one of the terms for oil used on the old TV show *The Beverly Hillbillies*. With home heating oil and vehicle fuel well over \$3.00 a gallon we can see why Jed Clampett indeed struck it rich. **The Deacon's Fund** at the church has been replenished by your kind giving to help those in the church who are struggling to make ends meet due to the high cost of fuel (and did you notice the hike in grocery prices of late?). If you or someone you know from the church is in need, please contact one of the pastors or deacons so we can help. All assistance is handled confidentially. We won't know you need help unless you tell us.

Our church's new **Child and Worker Protection Policy** is going to be gradually implemented this year. It is a sad testimony of the times that a church needs a policy to protect children who are entrusted to us during our programs – and we need a policy to protect our teachers and workers from false allegations. Over 75% of churches have some screening process in place for those working with children. We are joining that number. We have a policy in place and we will be doing criminal background checks on every adult who works with children, starting with the pastors and deacons. The cost of the background check will be paid by the church (\$5.00, thanks to our Insurance Company) and the results will be available only to the Pastors and Deacons. If you are working with children we will contact you when your name is submitted for a check. If you have any questions, please speak to a deacon or a pastor. A copy of the policy will be on the Bulletin Board for you to read. If you wish us to email you a copy, we will be glad to do so.

Church Finances are low, so if you need to purchase something for the church, please check with either Scott or me first to see if the funds are available. Pray. Give if you are able.

Thank you for the **Christmas gift** of money. I used mine to put towards a snow blower and to pay my hockey expenses (ice time once a week). I thank God for your kindness to me.

Reminder – I try to block out a few hours each morning to work on sermons, prayer meeting, etc. so if you wish to meet/call me, Vickie or I will ask if you could wait until after 10:30. Study time for teaching/preaching and prayer is a high priority for any pastor, and when you think of it, you benefit by having a pastor who has prepared adequately. Of course if you need to see me or talk to me prior to 10:30, it will happen.

Veterans' Home. If you could give a 6-7 minute devotional on a Sunday afternoon once or twice a year, we could use your help. Our church leads a 30 minute service once a month at the Maine Veteran's Home on Hogan Road and we need people who will give a talk at each meeting. Call the office if you want to know more or if you can help. What a good way to thank a veteran for serving our country!

“*I wish people would think less about windfalls and plant more apple trees.*” (Spurgeon)

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Return Service Requested

Connect, Grow, Serve, Share

You may have noticed the words “connect,” “grow,” and “serve” in the bulletin each week during the last nine months. Each week we announce opportunities to connect with God and other Christians, as well as opportunities to grow your faith plus opportunities to serve in the local church and community. Soon we will also add opportunities to “share” your faith with others.

These four words correspond with the four basic introductory classes that have been offered at UBC since 2001 – commonly known as CLASS 101 – 401. These introductory classes will be offered again in the coming weeks. Here are the details:

CLASS 101 – CONNECT will take place on Sunday, January 27 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The focus of this three hour seminar is to help people discover the importance of having a relationship with Jesus Christ and the importance of being connected to a local church. The CLASS 101 notebook has been updated and expanded recently. If you have questions about Christianity, baptism, or UBC then this class is for you. Please sign up with Pastor Scott by January 23rd. Childcare is available upon request.

CLASS 201 – GROW will take place on Sunday, February 10 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This seminar helps people discover four basic habits that will allow them to grow in their relationship with Christ and other people. Please sign up with Pastor Scott by February 6th.

CLASS 301 – SERVE will be held on Sunday, March 16th from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. This seminar helps people discover their S.H.A.P.E. for ministry in the local church.

A number of fellowship events are planned for this winter and spring. I want to mention one of these events that will be taking place on Saturday, March 29th called the **Fellowship Fun Fair**. This event will include a pot-luck supper plus the church building will be transformed with people displaying their hobbies. Very much like a 4 H Club would display items at an old fashioned country fair. Do you have a favorite hobby or special interest? It might be woodworking, knitting, canning, photography, stamps, cooking, etc. This will be a great way to get to know each other. **Shirley Chinn** will be the coordinator for this event. Please contact her at 433-0760 if you would like to take part.

Finally, **Dick and Dot Rowe** have several winter sports items available for elementary aged children. These free items include sport shoes sizes 2.5, 3, 3-4, 4.5 and 5y, plus several pairs of shin guards. They also have a pair of white ice skates size 3 and a black pair of ice skates size 2.5 or 3. They also have small ski boots and skis. Please contact the Rowe's at 866-2026 for more information.

Enjoy the snow!

Thank You

Quian and Yo Ping Sun would like to thank everyone for the baby shower gifts. **Catherine Chen Sun** arrived on December 23, 2007. She weighed 6 pounds 10 ounces.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Lorie Turner
♦ Navigators, MA
- 5 Joyce Raychard ♦NEBC
Travis Vicary
- 6 Evie Kidder
Annie Shorey ♦Free Indeed
- 7 Paulyne Mitchell
- 9 John Dykstra
Susan Morin
- 14 Andy Spohrer
- 15 Deanna Lander
Arlene Holmes
- 16 Knud A. Hermanse
Leah Brill
- 17 Deborah Baleston
♦ CBHMS, N.J.
Amber Hudson
David Bartlett
- 18 Fred Stoddard
- 19 Louis LeBlanc
Zachariah Bartlett
- 20 Warren Brown
Ethel Jenkins
- 21 Gil Viitala
Nancy Spohrer
- 24 Lynnette Beal
- 25 Cathy Fox
Laura Shorey
- 26 Gloria Martin
- 27 Donna Sagner
Bonnie Knox
- 28 Dick Carlow
- 29 Janice King
Linda Perry
- 30 Luke Bartlett
- 31 Victor Morin