

United Baptist Church

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Rev. Bruce Stevens, Pastor

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Baptist Hill Notes

Old Enough to Know Better

When he suggested that we could go sliding it seemed harmless enough, but Bob Sloma knew something we did not – this is no ordinary sliding hill. Bob is the Director of **Blueberry Mountain Bible Camp** in western Maine's town of Weld. Scott and I attended an overnight retreat last week at BMBC with five other pastors from sister Conservative Baptist churches in our area for a time of fellowship and refreshment. We had a great time hanging out together, encouraging one another, praying and listening to Dr. Bob Frederick share wisdom of his 80 + years. For recreation we slid down a mountainous half-mile section of the camp road on plastic sleds aptly called *torpedoes*. Our speed was unbelievably fast (Bob had been clocked at over 35 mph by our relay van), so much so that we paid little attention to the zero degree temp. What a rush! We covered the half mile in about 70 seconds – several times. I recorded the most wipeouts (4). The bruises are fading, but the laughter and memory of time shared lingers.

United Baptist is a **Conservative Baptist Church**, one of thirty-some CB churches in Maine. Several pastors in our area (or "Cluster") meet monthly to pray for and encourage each other, for vocational ministry wears out many pastors. Not all pastors are privileged to serve in such stable, loving churches as ours. You are a blessing to us both.

Our **Annual Meeting** was held on January 23rd. The 2008 budget was approved, new officers and board/committee members were voted in and new members were welcomed to our fellowship. Our proposed budget for 2008 is \$295,067.66, an increase of 1.17%; of that amount about \$60,000 is earmarked for missions & evangelism. To meet our budget we need \$5675 a week, which is raised as we each set aside for the Lord a portion of our income to invest in his work. If you want to see a breakdown of the budget, contact the office and we will get you an Annual Report. **Ron Sagner** was voted in as a new deacon; I look forward to serving with him.

Evangelism Outside the Box is the title of a book the deacons and pastors have been studying together. Author Rick Richardson says that people don't join the church the way they used to. Formerly people would hear the gospel, be saved, join the church and then get involved. Not any more. The sequence for people today is more often like this: people get invited to a church function by a friend, they start to get involved in the church, they decide they like the people and they then over time make a commitment to become a Christian. So a person may attend Alpha as a guest, stay on as a helper and then make a commitment. Or start coming to the game nights and church suppers and then a Bible study and then make a profession. I actually see this new sequence happening in our church. It is important that we avoid the following pitfalls: ❶ we press these explorers for a commitment too soon – the Holy Spirit often brings them along gradually; we need to allow the Spirit time to work, ❷ we withhold friendship until they make a commitment; we must genuinely welcome them, ❸ we resist pre-Christians getting involved in church work (helping at VBS or the nursery, etc), ❹ we fail to pray for their salvation. God is bringing new people to us – I can think of no better place for them to explore the Christian faith than from within, exposed to genuine Christians. May God (through you) bring us more!

Invite an unsaved friend to our free sit-down **Valentine Dinner** (roast pork) on Sat., Feb. 9 at 5:30. You **must sign up** though (call the office) so we know how much to cook.

Have you noticed? Attendance is growing again; last week we had 300 (120 in the 1st; 180 in the second, with tons of younger adults attending). Two services do separate us in a sense and make for more work, but it does attract new people. For you who sacrifice to make it happen (nursery, KidMo, sound, ushers, musicians, greeters) – take heart, your labor is not in vain.

“Let your face and hands, like the church clock, always tell how your inner works are going.”

"Just when you think you have all the answers, they change all the questions"?

There is a saying by one of my favorite theologians, either Garfield or Snoopy; I forget which one, which says, "**Just when you think you have all the answers, they change all the questions.**" As we all know, life can be challenging at times! Sometimes life is like shopping at the Hannaford store in Old Town (they are presently renovating the store and constantly moving everything around) but Psalm 33:4 says "For the word of the Lord is right and true; He is faithful in all that he does." Always remember that God is faithful even when life is constantly changing and presenting us with new challenges!

KidMo (our children's ministry) is growing with more and more new children each week. New children include **Alix-Alfonso, Jeff, Malachi, Jadon, Jesse, Joshua** and **Tirzah**.

KidMo Store takes place every fifth week and presently our KidMo store needs prizes. Anyone who would like to donate \$1 - \$5 to help buy prizes may do so by please using a green pew envelope, marking it "KidMo store" and placing it in the offering plate.

Wayne Clarke has left for two months of training to prepare for his nine month mission trip to India. Yes, his destination has changed but everything else is on track. So far, he has raised nearly \$9,000 of his goal of \$10,000. He would like to thank the church family and all the individuals who have given towards his trip.

Ashley Stover is also raising support for her upcoming mission trip to Wales on March 14-22. She will be part of a mission team from Gordon College. Ashley needs to raise \$1,450 by March 6. If you would like to give towards her trip please mark your check "Ashley Stover – mission trip" when giving.

Mark your calendars! Three fellowship events are coming up in the next two months. The first is the **Valentines Dinner** on Saturday, February 9th at 5:30 p.m. The kitchen committee will provide a great meal plus there will be entertainment - UBC's version of "The Newly Wed Game." You won't want to miss it!

Then on Saturday, March 1 at 5:30 p.m. we will have a **Movie and Dessert Night**. We plan to show the movie "*The Ultimate Gift*." This is an excellent movie for all ages! We want this to be an outreach night so make sure to invite your friends and neighbors. We will share the gospel message at the end of the movie and then conclude the evening with ice cream sundaes.

Fellowship Fun Fair will take place on Saturday, March 29 at 5:30 p.m. The evening will include a pot-luck meal and then the Fun Fair throughout the building. We anticipate several dozen people displaying their hobbies throughout the building. Contact Shirley Chinn if you would like to take part.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Ted Wegerdt
4	Monique Duff
7	Ellie Crouch Aaron Shorey ♦ Free Indeed Alberta McCrossin
10	Doug Palmetter ♦ CCC
11	Ed Kennedy
12	Zachry Fox
16	Heidi Crouse Howard Clements
17	Robert Carr
18	Jean Bond
19	Dierdre Vadas Rev. Edward Keazirian
25	Heidi Gallant
26	Joshua Chinn Mariah Vadas
27	Bob Turner ♦ Navigators, MA
28	Sue Hermansen Christopher Johnson Krissy Stevens Wanda Avery

Keep Looking Up !

A Note from the Youth Pastor

On Sunday, January 20 we hosted a pizza party for the youth of UBC and discussed some ideas for the upcoming year. We had fourteen in attendance. The teens had fun together and shared many good thoughts and ideas.

One common theme that came up was how busy they all were on different nights; we will continue to keep in contact with our teens to see how we can serve them in the most effective way possible. The teens expressed that they would be able to reach their friends better if we had a newer TV that we could show sports games on and hook a video game machine up to. We are currently using a TV that was given to us when Rena Howell moved out of her apartment. It has served us well for two years but is in need of replacement. The same is true of our furniture.

Thank you for our Christmas gift. We will be using some of it to catch up on some bills and enjoying some of it as well.

We hope to see many of you at our open house on February 2. We live 7.5 miles from the intersection of Bennoch Road and 116. Call if you need further directions.

Shawn

WINTER BLOOD DRIVE

February 16, 2008 ✧ 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Our goal for this blood drive is to collect 30 units of blood for the Eastern Maine Medical Center Blood Donor Program, which serves our families and friends in the State of Maine.

Please prayerfully consider if you can donate and **sign up** on the poster sheet on the table in the lobby. PLEASE INVITE a family member, friend or work associate to come with you. With a congregation of our size, 30 units should be attainable.

Here are a few of the general guidelines for donating blood:

- ✓ You must weigh at least 110 lbs.
- ✓ You must be 17 or older.
- ✓ If you are over 75, you are required to obtain a signed permission slip from your doctor!
- ✓ You must be feeling healthy and well on the day of donation (no active cold, flu, or on antibiotics).
- ✓ You need to bring a photo ID, as it is essential to donating.

There are many circumstances where a person can donate when you may not think they could!

If you have specific question, please see John Ward at church or you may call him at home at 827-7731.

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

* Three books written by Karen Kingsbury:
On Every Side
Just Beyond the Clouds
A Thousand Tomorrows

* A series called *Four Seasons* by Catherine Palmer and Gary Chapman:

Book #1	<i>Summer Breeze</i>
Book #2	<i>It Happens Every Spring</i>
Book #3	<i>Falling For You Again</i>

* *The Grand Weaver* by Ravi Zacharias.

* *So, You Want to Be Like Christ* by Charles Swindoll.

* A series called *Uncommon Heroes* by Dee Henderson:

Book #1	<i>True Devotion</i>
Book #2	<i>True Valor</i>
Book #3	<i>True Honor</i>
Book #4	<i>True Courage</i>

* A series called *The Bridges of Webster County* by Wanda Brunstetter:

Book #1	<i>Going Home</i>
Book #2	<i>On Her Own</i>