

# United Baptist Church

86 Middle St.

Old Town, ME 04468

(207) 827-2024

Fax: (207) 827-2403

Email: [ubc\\_oldtown@verizon.net](mailto:ubc_oldtown@verizon.net)

Web Site: [www.unitedbaptistoldtown.org](http://www.unitedbaptistoldtown.org)

Rev. Bruce Stevens, Pastor

**October 2007**

# Baptist Hill Notes

## **A Rose and A Pumpkin**

I used an object lesson this past Sunday, challenging a volunteer to open a budding rose. The lesson was if we do not have the skill to open a flower why do we think we are smart enough to unwrap our lives without God's help? Here is a poem that says it better:

It is only a tiny rosebud – a flower of God's design;  
But I cannot unfold the petals with these clumsy hands of mine.  
The secret of unfolding flowers is not know to such as I –  
The flower God opens so sweetly, in my hands would fade and die.  
If I cannot unfold a rosebud, this flower of God's design,  
Then how can I think I have wisdom to unfold this life of mine?  
So I'll trust in Him for His leading each moment of every day,  
And I'll look to Him for His guidance each step of the pilgrim way.  
For the pathway that lies before me my heavenly Father knows –  
I'll trust Him to unfold the moment just as He unfolds the rose.

The message is simple, but not unlike that of Jesus, when in the Sermon on the Mount he taught spiritual lessons using the beauty of lilies and the carefree life of birds. We honor God by trusting Him with the unfolding of our lives.

**Events and Duties.** It is God's place to govern the things that happen to us (the 'events') while it is our place to focus on our duties that result from the events God brings into our lives. We get into trouble when we want to know why certain things happen to us and what it is the point, rather than determining what I should be doing in the event. It is that trust factor again.

**Glen Borie**, a church member who recently moved down to the mid-Atlantic coast, sent me this little reading about a **pumpkin**, again using a simple object of nature to teach a spiritual lesson:

Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside and scoops out all the yucky stuff-- including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for all the world to see.

### **Coming Events:**

- Oct. 19-21 – Women's Retreat.
- Nov. 3 (Sat) – Pot Luck supper followed by fun playing board games.
- Nov. 4 (Sun) – Baptism at 6:30.
- Nov. 10 (Sat) – New Mercy Me Concert in the evening.
- Nov. 11 (Sun) – Recognition of Veterans in the AM and UMO Students reporting on their mission to Kentucky this summer.

**Lighthouse Christian Coffeehouse and Café.** This new gathering place for Christians is located at 453 Wilson St. in Brewer at the Twin City Motor Inn. It is open from 3:00-11:00 Wed. through Fri. and 1:00-11:00 on Saturdays. If you check it out can you let me know about your experience?

For the King,

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### Driving Many Miles

In this issue of the Baptist Hill Notes I had planned to give a full report about my trip to **Stand In the Gap 2007** in Washington D.C. Well, as you know, I only made it as far as Portland. The charter bus broke down and I was unable to attend the event. I was very disappointed but as Bruce said on Sunday morning "We need to trust God to unfold the moments of our life. Events are God's responsibility and how we respond is our responsibility. When we meddle with events and question why God does this or that, we are meddling in God's business." I realize that God knows best and He has my best interest at heart! Lord willing, I hope to attend Stand In the Gap 2017.

I was able to travel with Bruce and Shawn to the annual meeting of the **Conservative Baptist Mission Northeast** on October 1-3 at the Word of Life Conference Center in upstate New York. The keynote speaker was **Rev. Martin Giese** of Park Rapids, MN. He brought several excellent points about reaching our unsaved community. He stated, "First, be alert to the needs of people around you. When people realize that we understand their need, they will allow us to move the focus from temporal to eternal." Excellent point! He also stated, "It is highly unlikely that we will reach people in the same way as we reached the last generation." That is a very interesting thought! Most likely true! He concluded by saying, "If what we are doing to meet their need and reach them is not working, it is highly unlikely that doing more of it will help." Good point!

### Family Matters

United Baptist Church is a family so we operate on the basis of relationships and not rules. At UBC we do not have a thick book of rules and regulations. The following items are simple family reminders:

- ❶ The heating season is upon us. Please remember to turn back the thermostat and turn off all lights before leaving the church building when your group is meeting during the week.
- ❷ Please be aware that a number of people have strong allergies to perfume and cologne. Please consider limiting or refraining from using perfume and cologne in consideration of those sitting around you in a worship service.
- ❸ Please be aware that several children in our church have strong allergies to peanuts. Please be aware of this when preparing your favorite dish or dessert for a church supper or fellowship event.

"Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble." 1 Peter 3:8

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

3	Katie McPhail Shellee Dykstra
8	Orissa O'Keefe
10	Ruth Powless Burns Avery
11	Francis Carr
12	Lauralee Flanders Chris Davis
14	Peter Dykstra
17	Ashely Nadeau Beth Chadbourne
18	Tom Jenkins
19	Al Henderson
23	Clay Kirby
24	Kasey Mores Harvey Holmes
25	Ann Wengrzynek
26	Nadia Shirley Pastor Shawn Fuller
27	David Ricker Fran Palmeter, CCC Zac Palmeter, CCC

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### **WOMEN'S BREAKFAST**

Join us for breakfast Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. Guest speaker will be Roberta Johnson. She will be speaking about her Missions trip to Africa this past summer.