

United Baptist Church

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Rev. Bruce Stevens, Pastor

November 2007

Baptist Hill Notes

What Would You Ask?

I have been challenging our congregation to ask their unsaved and unchurched family and friends *“If you could ask God one question, what would it be?”* The purpose is two-fold: ❶ to help you initiate a conversation about God that may lead to a profitable discussion, ❷ to be able to invite the questioners to a church service when *“their question”* is being addressed, with the ultimate goal that they will be saved. I will be preaching on the four top questions on Sunday mornings in January. It is not too late to ask your friends “the question” before then. Some challenging questions have been submitted so far. Pray for God to bless this simple exercise.

And that reminds me....Christmas is a good time to invite people to church. Studies show that the number one reason by far why people start coming to church is they were invited personally by someone they knew. Who could you invite?

Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Or not, depending on your love/hatred of the white stuff. When it happens to fall on a Sunday and you wonder whether we will have church, it is likely we will. Our cancellation policy is not based on weather forecasts (which prove to be as reliable as a two-legged stool), but on actual conditions. Unless the weather is extreme we will be having church. When we cancel we will list the cancellation on the local TV/radio stations. If you feel unsafe driving on a snowy Sunday, you have permission to stay home.

Open House. Debbie and I invite you to drop by and see our new home (and see us too!) on Friday, December 7th from 2:30-9:00. We will provide the food and beverages; you provide the company. We plan to have meatballs, baked beans and lots of desserts, so please come for a visit. We would love to see you. Cross the bridge into Milford, take the second right (County Road) and then the first left after the Lewis Libby School (Curtis Lane). We are the last house on the right, on the corner of Oak and Curtis.

A **Deacon’s (and Pastors) Retreat** was held on Sat., Nov. 17 from 8:00-3:00. We had a great time becoming more acquainted with one another and took considerable time both to pray and to discuss how our church is doing. I am grateful for the men who serve as part of the leadership team at our church – they are godly and wise. Other pastors are amazed when I tell them that in the fourteen plus years I have been here, there has never been a clash among deacons or between deacons and pastors. That speaks of the maturity of the men you choose to serve as deacons – Dave Bartlett, Bob Finch (chair), Don Fuller, Ed Huff, Randy Ramp, Dave Ricker.

Christmas Happenings:

- ⇒ Dec. 7 – Open House at the Stevens’ from 2:30-9:00.
- ⇒ Dec. 23 – Christmas Service with extra Christmas music by the choir, Jubilate, etc.
- ⇒ Dec. 23 & 30 – NO Evening Services
- ⇒ Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service from 6:30-7:30.
- ⇒ Dec. 31 – New Year’s Eve. Board games from 6:00-8:30 with a brief service at 8:30 or so.

It is not too late to donate to our **Thanksgiving Offering**, the funds of which will help needy church families (our family members in Christ), several of which are struggling to make ends meet this winter. If you cannot give money, you can pray to the Great Supplier to meet their needs and to cause them to grow in their faith through the hardships they face, for His glory.

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Living with Turkeys

This fall about two dozen wild turkeys have moved into my neighborhood in Milford. One afternoon recently one of these turkeys decided to fly up to the roof of my apartment. I had just arrived home when I heard a loud **THUMP** on the roof. At first I thought maybe a large branch had fallen from a nearby tree so I decided to put on my jacket and go outside to investigate.

As I went around the corner of the building a large turkey flew from the roof to the top of one of the large trees nearby. At the same time, three or four other turkeys took off from the ground and also went up to the top of the trees. I had never seen a turkey fly so fast or so high. I thought I was living through some type of low budget horror film. I am not sure who was more **spooked** – the turkeys or me!!!

These turkeys have been the talk of the neighborhood. (I only hope they are still around after Thanksgiving!) Since it looks they have decided to stay in the neighborhood I thought I should do some research to find out about my new neighbors. I was amazed with what I discovered about wild turkeys:

- ✦ During flight wild turkeys can reach a speed of **50 miles per hour**. (I believe it)
- ✦ Wild turkeys can grow to be **four feet tall**.
- ✦ Turkeys like to eat **early in the morning** and **late in the afternoon**.
- ✦ Turkeys like to eat seeds, snakes, frogs but **80%** of their diet is made up of grass.
- ✦ At night, they like to roost on **tree limbs overlooking water**.
- ✦ Turkeys can easily become accustomed to being around **humans**.

I only wish I knew as much about my “**human**” neighbors as I do about my “turkey” neighbors. I have discovered over the years that my human neighbors like to keep to themselves. Pray that I can find a way to get to know my “human” neighbors better in the weeks and months to come!

Someone recently reminded me about the **SPACEPETS Questions** that I shared a few years ago. These questions can be quite helpful in Bible study. Here are the questions again. After reading a passage of Scripture ask one or more of the questions:

Is there any...

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sin to confess? | Prayer to pray? |
| Promise to claim? | Error to avoid? |
| Attitude to change? | Truth to believe? |
| Command to keep? | Something to thank God for? |
| Example to follow? | |

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **Christmas Music Festival** - Sunday, December 2nd at 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Service** - Monday, December 24 at 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ **New Years Celebration** - Monday, December 31 – 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

(Please note there will be **no evening service** on December 23 or December 30)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|---|
| 2 | Josie Robichaud
Austin Robichaud
Bob Laverdiere |
| 4 | Zachary Applebee
Rebekah Vadas |
| 5 | Dot Rowe
Lisa Morin |
| 12 | Robert LaBree |
| 15 | Janet Barclay
◆ IVCF |
| 16 | Warren Rand |
| 17 | Virginia Beal |
| 18 | Debbie Ramp |
| 19 | Kay L. Gagnon |
| 20 | Gerri Dumond |
| 21 | Omar Reyes |
| 22 | Tanisha Vadas |
| 23 | Saundra Sherbourne
Brandon Silk
Ted Perrin |
| 24 | Scott Brill
◆ IVCF |
| 27 | Phyllis Dunton |

A Thanksgiving Note from the Youth Pastor

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays, next to Christmas and Easter of course. It is a time set aside to enjoy good food (unless you burn it) and good fellowship.

In the life of King David, he went through some very difficult times, and yet he was able to give thanks to God for being God and working out his plan in all circumstances.

Often times we don't understand the reasons that we go through difficult times, whether it be relational, financial, medical, or any number of different ways; yet we are called to give our cares to the one who sees the beginning from the end, and loves us through it all. We, like David cannot possibly know what tomorrow will bring, but we do know that we can be thankful in the valley as well as on the mountain top.

As for our teens, some are in the valley, some are on the mountain. Our seniors are looking at graduation and the fear and excitement that will bring. Our middle school teens are dealing with everything that the teen-age years bring. God calls us to love them too, and to take them and love them where they are at, and be the hands and feet of Christ to them.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Shawn

New Nursery Workers Welcome!

Nursery workers the new schedule is being prepared.

If you are interested in joining the rotation schedule or need to change your rotation schedule please contact a nursery committee member.

Nursery Committee: Linda Perry, Carlene Ricker, Grace Briggs and Vickie Kennedy.

A New Crib for the Infant Nursery - A recent safety inspection by the church's insurance company brought about a recommendation to have a portable crib in the infant nursery. The purpose is to enable nursery workers to place all infants in the crib in the event there is a need to evacuate the building. The crib is on casters and can be rolled out of the nursery to the side door (parking lot side of the building) and down the ramp. This will provide for a quick & organized evacuation when time is of the essence in these situations.

Angel Tree Program

Angel Tree is a program of Prison Fellowship which reaches out to the children of men and women who are in prison. UBC is participating in this outreach. The Angel tree will be on display in the church lobby beginning Sunday, Nov. 25th. Please contact Katherine Perrin if you have questions (827-3042). Your gifts will need to be turned in by December 9th.