



A photo from the Manchester Historical Society - probably from the early 1930's.

# **"SpiritSpark"**

**The First Baptist Church of  
Manchester Center, VT**

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**Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons**

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**FEBRUARY 2018**

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## **A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA**

Dear Church Family,

I don't know about you, but by the last week in January, I'm really looking forward to turning the calendar page to February. Part of the reason is that February's holiday celebrates love, my favorite thing. Yet, I won't be preaching a series of messages on love during the month of February. We'll be continuing our study of prophets in the Old Testament and learning how to be prophetic people here and now.

Prophets are often called to speak hard truths to people, sharing God's perspective and feelings about the way they are acting. It doesn't seem very loving at first glance, and it is not the way I enjoy showing love for the people in my life. I'd rather give them notes of encouragement, sweet things to eat, hugs, gifts, or surprises. But sometimes the thing that is most needed is hearing a hard truth that invites them to turn back toward God's heart.

(continued on next page)

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul wrote about both prophecy and love. Here are some of the verses that shed light on the connection between them.

*<sup>2</sup> Suppose I have the gift of prophecy. Suppose I can understand all the secret things of God and know everything about him. And suppose I have enough faith to move mountains. If I don't have love, I am nothing at all... <sup>4</sup> Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor other people. It does not look out for its own interests. It does not easily become angry. It does not keep track of other people's wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love is not happy with evil. But it is full of joy when the truth is spoken. <sup>7</sup> It always protects. It always trusts. It always hopes. It never gives up. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But prophecy will pass away...<sup>9</sup> What we know now is not complete. What we prophesy now is not perfect. <sup>10</sup> But when what is complete comes, the things that are not complete will pass away... What I know now is not complete. But someday I will know completely, just as God knows me completely. <sup>13</sup> The three most important things to have are faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love.*

Love is clearly the most important thing. It will never end, but rather come to its full strength and clarity when we are in God's presence for eternity. To reflect God's loving heart, prophecy must be grounded in the patient, kind, humble, caring, forgiving, protecting, hopeful love Paul describes. With this foundation, we can prayerfully address people who are struggling with evil by speaking truth in love. We can also listen and respond lovingly when people come to us with concern about our own struggles. We're all in this together, helping each other to grow to be more Christ-like until the day we will see him face-to-face.

With love,

*Pastor Rebecca Sommons*

Beginning this February, we will be offering a class for people interested in learning more about baptism. We plan to meet at the church every other Wednesday from 4:30 to 5:15 pm. Our topics for discussion will come from the book *Baptism Ahead: A Road Map for Young Disciples*, written by Wallace R. Smith. If you would like to have a copy of the book, we can order one for you, but it is not necessary to read the book to participate in the class. Children who participate will also use a workbook called *Baptism: A Study Wordbook for Kids* written by Richard E. Todd.

More information can be found on the bulletin board in vestry or see Pastor Rebecca.

## **ABC/VNH ANNUAL GATHERING – MARCH 2-3, 2018**

The Annual ABC/VNH Gathering will take place at the Fireside Inn & Suites in West Lebanon, NH, beginning at 10:30am. Workshops will be available on Friday and Saturday mornings with keynote speakers each evening. The workshops include topics such as the abolition of trafficking, “Fresh Expressions”, and church revitalization. There is no cost for these programs and lunch is included. The worship team for the gathering will be comprised of pastors from around the region.

You will find more information on the bulletin board in the vestry. If you have questions or interest in attending, let Pastor Rebecca know.

### **Christian Ed Corner**

The adult Sunday School class, led by Jeremy Crumb, is currently studying the book of Ezekiel.

Video guides are being used for discussion on the main theme of each book. Together, the group will select their next book by the end of January.

The youth snowshoe/sledding trip to Dottie and Bryan’s was cancelled due to lack of snow, but will be rescheduled.

The next Christian Ed meeting is Thursday, February 8th at 5:30 p.m., where members going off the committee (Maurie Hill) and continuing members (Holly O’Brien, Linell Pike, and Jenny Russell) will welcome new members, Cheryl Hess, Annabelle Liu, and Annie Crumb.

Thanks!

Maurie

### **Missions Committee**

The Mission Committee received a wonderful letter from FBC’s ‘adopted’ child, Leon Nyakunhwa who lives in Zimbabwe, Africa. With the help of a tutor, he shared information about his daily life and included a photo of himself.

Leon became our World Vision sponsored child in January of 2002. We make a monthly donation of \$35 to lift him out of poverty and to share God’s hope for a brighter future.

Check out the bulletin board in the vestry to read about Leon’s world and see a picture of him.

Missions Committee: Dottie Sundquist, Martha Thompson, Barbara West, Jeff Llinebeck and Carolyn Kerson

## Mary Martha Fellowship

At the January meeting Mary Martha Fellowship a slate of officers was welcomed. This includes Judy Koch and Lisa Towslee as co -presidents, Lois Squires as treasurer, Martha Thompson as secretary and also flower chair, Barbara West as devotions and Love Gift chair, Linda Hulett continuing with the Sunshine Committee, Glenna Taxter as kitchen chair, Lindy Mylott and Cathy Comar as White Cross chairs.

The Mary and Martha Fellowship wishes to thank Lorraine Wilkins for her many years serving as our energetic and creative president and most particularly reinvigorating the group by making the meeting time more accessible to many.

Thank You Lorraine. We are glad you'll still be around.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

## The Kitchen

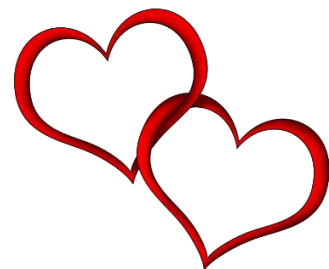
For many years the Mary Martha Fellowship has been saving money in a special CD for renovating the kitchen. Recently we hit the \$10,000 mark and then received a wonderful anonymous gift of \$11,000. It was time to call in the specialists.

Initially we were saving for a commercial dishwasher but quickly realized a dishwasher would have the snowball effect of needing updates on other things such as our electric connections. A committee was formed; Lorraine Wilkins, Jim Comar, Barbara West and Martha Thompson. This committee met recently with Scott Healey, a kitchen designer, and he took measurements, read our wish list and made several recommendations. He incorporated these in a plan he submitted for our approval.

We have realized that this project may need to be done in stages and Mr. Healey took this into consideration when creating the drawing.

Watch this space for more news about the kitchen project.

Lorraine, Jim, Barb and Martha



## Lasagne Anyone?

Our February church supper is slated for the 24th with a new taste on the table!

Lasagne! Dottie Sundquist is leading the charge and you will soon hear requests for cooks to prepare the culinary delight as well as accompaniments.

The menu includes a variety of lasagnes, tossed salad and garlic bread followed by a brownie or cream puff sundae. Yum!



## FBC Tee Shirt Sale!

Order your light blue FBC tee shirt in time for the  
**February 24th lasagne church supper!**

**Youth** Small/Medium/Large -\$7.50

**Adult** Small/Medium/Large - \$7.50

**Adult** XXL - \$9.00

**Adult** XXXL - \$10.40

Dottie will accept orders and payment on  
Sunday, February 4th or 11th.

The order will be placed on Monday, February 12th.

## **MEN'S GROUP**

The MEN'S GROUP (F.O.C.U.S.) is meeting on Saturday, February 10th at 8:00 am in the vestry!

Come for pancakes, sausage, coffee, and fellowship! Contact Jim Johnson for more information!



## **GOOD NEWS!**

We have uploaded a few of our church services to our church web site [www.fbcmanvt.org](http://www.fbcmanvt.org). More services will be added.

You can also view our church services by going to [www.gnat-tv.org](http://www.gnat-tv.org). When you get to Gnat's web page, click on WATCH. This will give you a drop down window where you will see "YouTube Channel". Clicking on this will take you to a page with "PLAY LIST" which brings you to a page with several videos. Look for FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH. Clicking on the picture will bring up a list on the right side which includes our church services. The top one will start playing first. If you want to watch a different date, just click on the date you would like to watch. You will notice that there are several other videos further down the page. This cannot be controlled by us so there may be videos from other churches and on other topics. We are in the preliminary stages of setting this up and working on making it more easily accessible and with less distractions.

We would like to thank Ronan O'Brien, Jeff Linebeck and Steve Dunning for their help with the recording of the services as well as Gnat service for all the assistance they have provided and continue to provide.

If you have any thoughts or ideas after watching some of the services, please let us know.

Russ Taxter



**If anyone is interested in learning how to video record our services and help out with the recording, please let me know.**

**Russ Taxter 362-2667**



## **BASKET PARTY**

The Mary & Martha Fellowship will be holding their annual basket party on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the VFW Hall. We need donations of baskets, food and help. If you'd like to help out in any way, please contact Lorraine at 645-9525. You will also find a sign-up sheet in the vestry. Anyone in the church can help!

## **OUR CHURCH IS PRIVILEGED TO BE ABLE TO OFFER**

## **OUR FACILITY TO THE FOLLOWING AA GROUPS EACH WEEK.**

Equinox Group: Mon-Fri from Noon to 1:00 pm

Thursday Morning Men's Group: Thursday 7:30-8:30 am

Primary Purpose Group: Sunday 7:30-8:30 pm

## **IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Church Office Hours 9:30-12:30 AM on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Pastor Rebecca's e-mail address: [rebeccasommons@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccasommons@gmail.com)

Pastor Rebecca's cell phone: (802) 688-3024

Church office Phone: (802) 362-1555

Parsonage Phone: (802) 362-5335

Please call to request a meeting or visit outside of regular church office hours.

## **FLOWERS**

Feb. 4: Dottie Sundquist

Feb. 11: Barb & Jim West

Feb. 18 Cheryl Hess

Feb. 25: Anna Ennis

## **CHILD CARE PROVIDERS**

Feb. 4: Glenna & Annie

Feb. 11: Maurie & Anna

Feb. 18: Cathy & Lindy

Feb. 25: Holly & Ronan

