



Rev. Rebecca & Matthew Sommons, Dr. Aidsand & Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins,
Rev. Bob Carpenter & Martha Gale, Rev. Dick & Paula Olmstead
(Rev. Dale & Laurie Edwards can be found inside newsletter)

Photo by Haylee Hess

“SpiritSpark”



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

P.O. Box 1049, 4895 Main St. 802-362-1555 www.fbcmantv.org

fbcmantv@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

JULY 2021

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear Church Family,

What a celebration our 240th Anniversary was! I learned so much about our church family, both in reference to our history and our present. Matt and I were grateful for the chance to sit down with the pastors and their spouses for dinner and hear their memories and insights about their time here. I hope that you had the opportunity to talk with them too. Each person who shared, whether in person or through letters, gave a glimpse into our church's identity through their unique perspective. I sensed a spirit of goodwill that included forgiveness, acceptance, laughter, encouragement, and blessing flowing through all of us, truly a gift from the Holy Spirit.

Not only was it an opportunity to worship with a sanctuary full of people, but also to eat together in celebration for the first time in over a year. You all worked together to create a feast! It was good to see so many people in action, displaying an attitude of teamwork. The cleaning, painting, and flurry of preparation were done with generous hearts sharing their gifts. It reminded me of the effort to get our home "company clean" when I was a young girl. I am delighted that everyone who helped with the preparations also did such a good job of finding our church family's treasures and bringing them out into the light. We plan to display historical pictures and have a place to easily find the other documents in the upstairs music room once the painting is finished.

I pray that our church can continue to be a place of rest for the weary and to serve the soul-filling bread of Jesus Christ to our community. I hope that you also experience these blessings in the way you interact as a vital part of our church family. God has faithfully sustained us as a people in this place. May we continue to shine with His truth and grace.

"God's people will shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom."

Matthew 13:43a

Love in Christ,
Pastor Rebecca

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY THANKS

Our 240th Anniversary is over but the warm feelings generated linger on. Thanks and appreciation to the committee members who stepped forward to share their thoughts which they followed up with work. Rebecca Sommons created the beautiful worship service which successfully incorporated many participants and ideas. Appreciation to the pastors who came: Dick and Paula Olmstead, Betty and Aidsand Wright- Riggins, Bob and Martha Carpenter, Rev. Dale and Laurie Edwards and those who participated by Zoom and message, Joseph Huse, Tom Rice, Steve Jewett, Pat Crough, Debbie Kamm and Rod Birney. Thanks to Ashley Hess, Lisa Hess, Linell Pike, Dottie Beers and Lindy Mylott whose ideas formed the outline of our celebration and John Hess for looking through records about our founding history.

Thank you to Jim and Cathy Comar, and Lisa Towslee with Chris Towslee's help, for taking responsibility for the picnic lunch following the service. The food was generous and desserts were delicious and served so graciously to our guests. So, thanks to all our cooks and bakers. Thanks to those who set up and cleaned up in the exhausting heat.

Barb West, our choir director began finding music for the choir and that was the beginning of choir starting to meet again. The church band worked on a praise song.

Jeremy Crumb made sure that all the technical aspects were carried out.

The Prudential Committee, under the leadership of Lorraine Wilkins, arranged for many repairs and painting of our building so everything was sparkling, including the vestry floor which Mary Martha arranged to have cleaned and waxed. MMF also provided new curtains for the vestry.

Thanks for the beautiful flowers that graced our sanctuary in loving memory of Ray's (and Paula's) daughter.

There were many who contributed to a fund to help accommodate our visiting pastors and entertain them. This labor of love so clearly illustrates the bible verses that talk about the body having many parts and working together for the good of the body. I Cor. 12: 12-21. Verse 27 says "if one part of the body is praised all the other parts share its happiness." Good News Bible

So, thank you to our congregation who demonstrate over and over again the success of teamwork and the resulting camaraderie. May it continue as Rebecca said, "for another 240 years".

~Martha Thompson



Rev. Dale Edwards



Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins



Rev. Bob Carpenter



Rev. Dick Olmstead



Martha Gale



Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins

Thank you, Jeremy Crumb, for capturing these for us from the video recording.



Rev. Joseph Huse



Rev. Rebecca Sommons

MARY MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

The women of the Mary Martha Fellowship met on June 13th to put together cookies for the men in our church to celebrate Father's Day a week early. We baked a dozen cookies for each man in our church family.

The Women's Fellowship had arranged for new curtains in the vestry as well as paying for the floor cleaning.

The group also voted to send money for one child to receive lunch bags for 12 weeks at \$160 through The Kids Summer Lunch Program

MMF is now on summer hiatus and will meet again on Sept.12, 2021.

INTERFAITH COUNCIL

Although the Interfaith Council takes a summer break, two of its organizations continue to flourish in the summer.

The Kids Summer Lunch program arranges for food to be purchased, packed and delivered once a week to children from Manchester, Dorset, Danby and Pawlet.

Neighbor to Neighbor began providing rides again and also resumed its monthly programs which began with a trip to Rogerland, beautiful gardens in Arlington, with a picnic lunch provided as well.

Members are continuing to sell tickets for our summer raffle and they are available through our office at 367-7787 and The Northshire Bookstore on Saturday and The Dorset Farmers' Market on Sunday at a cost of \$5 for one and three for \$10. The drawing will take place on July 14th. Neighbor to Neighbor strives to support seniors who wish to remain in their homes.

~Martha Thompson

Rev. Dale and Laurie Edwards



Rev. Rebecca
and Matthew Sommons
(Photo by Haylee Hess)

DIACONATE

The Diaconate will resume serving communion in person on July 4th and coffee hour will take place following the services with simple refreshments, perhaps just beverages, for the summer. Rebecca's series on Parables will continue through the summer. There will be several guest speakers including Theresa Beers Taylor.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

The Prudential Committee met on June 3 in the Vestry. Lorraine, Maurie, Dottie, Ray, Ashley, Lindy, Lisa and Rebecca were in attendance. Rebecca offered the opening prayer and then gave the **Pastor's Report**: As we open up more and more after Covid, the kitchen will once again be used by everyone. We need to decide how to handle food scraps as they are supposed to be composted. Much discussion followed. At least for now, what cannot go in the garbage disposal will be stored in the freezer. We need to generate a list of what can and cannot go in the garbage disposal to be posted in the kitchen. The **minutes** from the May meeting were read and accepted as printed. **Old Business** found discussion about the **Audit** that was conducted. It is now complete and everything is fine. The **church cleaning** is coming along but help is still needed. Maurie and Arden cleaned upstairs. The only thing still needing to be done are the floors upstairs. Joy Hall just needs the floor done and stairways need to be vacuumed. We will delay the cleaning of the sanctuary until the wall is repaired. Vestry floor will be done on June 24th by Abba Floor Care. **Stained glass window Committee**: Joe Mylott and Jim Lincoln have a plan to test one window with insulated glass panel to see if it is a viable option for fixing the outside of the stained glass windows. Lorraine gave an update for the front of the **church painting**. Everyone handling the lead paint is fully certified. Cody Clark will start with the sanctuary wall and move to the Choir Room ceiling. He believes he can have everything done before the 27th. Reopening Committee members reported that the church is completely opened. The **slate on the roof** has been repaired by Total Restore. **New Business**: After discussion of who should be allowed to request invested **funds from the Bank of NH** (letter sparked this discussion), it was decided that the Treasurer, Pastor and the Prudential Chair will be authorized. Motion passed unanimously. Lorraine had cleaned two air filters as the buttons were red signaling they needed attention. **Treasurer's Report**: 2 CE scholarships were moved as mentioned in May minutes. Copy machine is fixed. Still waiting for a new one. Motion was made and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed.

Next meeting at 4pm on Thursday, July 22nd in vestry. Meeting adjourned at 5:18 pm

The outside painting of the front of the church is just about complete. The Choir Room is looking so much better after the ceiling was finally painted and the walls are getting a fresh coat of paint Thanks Maurie for supplying the paint. The floors look great! Thanks also Ray and Judy for covering the cost of the carpet cleaning in the Sanctuary. And last but not least, thanks to Mary and Martha for covering the cost of the Vestry floor cleaning. And NO the pink is not all off, but it is far from what it was!
~Lorraine Wilkins, Chairman

MISSION & OUTREACH Report for July 2021

Each month, the Mission & Outreach Committee selects projects, people, and places for our church to support. We would like to remind you to make your donation specific about where you want it to go. For example: One Great Hour of Sharing, Jeni in Thailand, TL Africa, The Fold or whatever we highlight for that particular month. Write it on your envelope and/or check.

If you decide to make your donation to the GENERAL mission offering instead of to a specific cause (as stated above), 50% of your donation will go to United Mission Basic (UMB) National and the other 50% will go to the FBC Mission & Outreach committee and they will distribute it to our town, country, state, as well as to national & world outreach projects, as they determine. More information about this will be coming in August with a video to explain.

On July 11, 2021, Scott Rancourt will be doing a power point presentation in person about The Fold for Christian Elevation Academy which helps at risk teenagers. I am looking forward to this!

The final tally for the Global 6K walk for water was \$1,165.00 and included 23 participants - walkers, donations, town folks, grandchildren and sponsors. Well done to all, Good and Faithful Servants.

A donation was made to Daily Bread for some Compassion Booklets this summer.

We received prizes for the July 30th Town Street Fair of pens, flashlights, and fans to give to the children.

Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday July 28 at 3:00 in the Vestry.



Submitted by Linell Pike secretary God Bless You All



The choir with some of our past pastors singing "*Love Grows Here*" with us.
(photo by Haylee Hess)

OUR CHURCH IS PRIVILEGED TO BE ABLE TO OFFER

OUR FACILITY TO THE FOLLOWING AA GROUPS EACH WEEK.

Breakfast with Your Higher Power Group: Mon-Fri from 7:30-8:30 am (open group)

Equinox Group: Mon – Fri from Noon to 1:00 (open group)

Primary Purpose Group: Sunday 7:30 -8:30 pm (closed group)

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Pastor Rebecca's e-mail address: rebeccasommons@gmail.com

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

Church office Phone: (802) 362-1555

Pastor Rebecca continues to remain open and eager to meet with church family. These get-togethers have taken a different look as they have moved away from set office hours.

She has, instead, met on an as needed basis. She is happy to meet with you in person, over the phone, or through zoom. When the weather is good, she often meets people outside and talks while taking a walk. She is open to any ideas you may have.

Pastor Rebecca's phone number and email are included here. Feel free to reach out to her anytime throughout the week. (802) 688-3024 rebeccasommons@gmail.com

CHURCH EVENTS

Sunday, July 4: Communion

Sunday, July 4: Invitation to watch the fireworks together by gathering on the grass by the buses at MEMS around 9 pm. Weather-permitting, the fireworks display will take place at 9:30 pm.

Tuesday, July 6: Prayer Group at 7 pm via zoom

Wednesday, July 7: Seeking God together 11 am

Thursday, July 8: Choir Rehearsal 7pm

Sunday, July 11: Special Mission Moment Presentation in church by Scott Rancourt from the FOLD

Tuesday, July 13: Prayer Group at 7 pm via zoom

Tuesday, July 13: Christian Ed. Meeting at 8 pm via zoom

Wednesday, July 14: Deacon Meeting at 7 pm in the vestry

(Pastor Rebecca will be in Minnesota from July 15 - 20th)

Sunday, July 18: Rev. Dr. Theresa Taylor preaching in church

Tuesday, July 20: Prayer Group at 7 pm via zoom

Wednesday, July 21: Seeking God Together 11 am

Thursday, July 22: Prudential Meeting in the vestry at 4 pm

Thursday, July 22: Choir Rehearsal 7pm

Saturday July 24: Church Picnic at the Dana Thompson Recreation Park from 4-7 pm (pavilion 1)

Tuesday, July 27: Prayer Group at 7 pm via zoom

Wednesday, July 28: Missions Meeting in the vestry at 3 pm

Friday, July 30: Street Fest (6-9 pm) Our church vestry will be open as a comfort station for people with snacks and crafts for children.

FLOWERS

July 4: The Squires Family / Angie Coolidge

Bruce Fielding / Jean Fielding

July 11: Glenna & Russ Taxter / Maxie Chapin

July 18: Bryan Richheimer / mother Ruth Kinkel

July 25: Lois Squires & Family / Phil Squires



Photo by Haylee Hess

